Volunteers from the U.S. and Canada attended the Third Annual Citizens Climate Lobby International Conference in Washington, D.C. Lynate visited the offices of the Kansas congressional delegation to make the case for a progressive, revenue-neutral tax on carbon. Legislation for such a tax has been introduced in the U.S. House as the Save Our Climate Act (H.R. 3242)

For Lynate, the Group Leader for the Lawrence Group of CCL, the visits on Capitol Hill left her hopeful that the U.S. could start reducing greenhouse gas emissions before it’s too late:

“There is nothing more critical now for us as citizens on the

See Carbon on page 9

inside

Voting the Party of Earth .......................... pg 3
Seaboard Weakens Groundwater Protection ....... pg 4
Sierra Club Joins Friends of Kaw on Float Trip .. pg 7
Chapter Proposes Carbon Resolution to Nat'l ..... pg 8
From Superbugs to Super Foods ........................ pg 14
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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.
Voting the Party of Earth

By Bob Sommer

“I am not an atheist but an earthiest. Be true to the earth.” –Edward Abbey

The Kansas Chapter’s Political Committee undertook an aggressive strategy in this year’s Primary Elections. Faced with the prospect of seeing the State Senate go the way of the House and fall to right-wing extremists, we chose to defend those moderate Republicans who stood with us on important issues like the proposed Holcomb II coal-fired power plant.

Among many endorsements we made – and are still making, as of this writing – four moderate Republican senators who faced primary challenges from the right-wing of their own party were fast-tracked for support by the Sierra Club. To describe these primary challenges in so few words risks understating what this means, so let me be clear. These four senators, as well as other Republican moderates in the legislature (to say nothing of all of the Democrats who find themselves in the crosshairs), have been targeted by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Americans for Prosperity, and members of the Republican Party itself for removal. In one primary race alone, over $300,000 – including, you can be sure, hefty donations from the Koch brothers – was committed to removing just one moderate Republican senator. Make no mistake – oil and gas interests, agri-business, cattle-growers, corn-growers, and just about anyone else to whom our water, air, soil, and wildlife are nothing more than “resources” to be plundered, burned, polluted, and consumed want these moderate Republicans out.

The tactic we adopted to protect them was simple, direct, and inexpensive. It was also well within the bounds of Kansas’s election laws: we encouraged our members to participate in the Republican primary. For some that meant registering as Republicans in order to vote for these incumbents. For others, it just meant voting, for many Sierrans already belong to the Republican Party. With enough members heading for the voting booth or requesting advance ballots, we stood a great chance of success. Sierra Club volunteers made hundreds of phone calls in the target districts. We also sent snail mail and email to members, detailing the political challenge and how they could participate in the primaries.

The overwhelming response of members receiving these calls and letters was positive and appreciative. Some did not realize this primary was so important. Others needed guidance on the mechanics of registration. Phone bank volunteers reported many anecdotes of gracious and cheerful conversations with members. My email lit up too, mostly from members who applauded this effort.

But not all.

Some members didn’t feel comfortable enrolling as Republicans if their loyalties were with the Democratic Party. Others questioned the

See Party of Earth on page 11

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Seaboard Foods Weakens Groundwater Protection at Huge New Hog Factory

By Craig Volland, CAFO Chair

Editor’s Update: On July 27, we found in the permit file a letter from Seaboard to KDHE dated June 6 (two days after our press release) saying they decided to go ahead and install plastic liners, but it is only for erosion control. They emphasized that their decision was coincidental and was not in response to the Sierra Club’s complaint. This letter has been posted to our website.

We say . . . Whatever . . . the environment wins. They still need to explain why their engineers didn’t anticipate this problem since they have been producing million of hogs in western Kansas and Oklahoma for almost 20 years now. Most likely they are saying it’s only about erosion control because, if they called it a double liner (plastic over compacted soil), they would have to undergo quality control procedures as part of their permit obligations. By calling it erosion control they avoid that requirement. In any event, it is hard to believe that they found it cheaper to install a High Density Polyethylene liner over the whole surface area of these huge lagoons rather than haul in some rock for only the berms.

From 1998 to 2002 researchers at Kansas State University studied the fate of hog manure held in large, open-air impoundments called anaerobic lagoons serving large hog confinements. They found that, in many cases after 25 years, a massive plume of nitrogen compounds will have formed under these lagoons. If not properly removed, these compounds would likely move down to contaminate the aquifer. They recommended that hog producers consider installing plastic liners that would greatly attenuate seepage and reduce the cost of cleanup.

Seaboard Foods, Inc., of Merriam, Kansas is the largest hog producer in Kansas and the second largest pork producer in the U.S. In 1998, to address the concerns of local citizens in western Oklahoma and Kansas, the company instituted a policy of installing plastic lagoon liners in their wastewater lagoons. They also wrote closure plans specifically committing to sample for contamination of soils under their lagoons at time of closure.

Without explanation, however, Seaboard abandoned this policy when they applied last year for a permit to build their new Ladder Creek hog confinement operation in Greeley County. Ladder Creek will be the largest hog factory in Kansas, housing up to 264,000 hogs in various growth stages. The operation will host ten lagoons of 8 to 11 acres each arranged over 6 square miles. In terms of biological wastes produced, it will be like building a new Wichita in far western Kansas.

It will sit right over the Greeley County’s drinking water aquifer. According to data from the Kansas Geological Survey, the Ogallala aquifer in that location has been depleted by over 60% since predevelopment.

KDHE approved the permit application over the objection of the Sierra Club. We noted that if Seaboard and similar operators are confident that their compacted soil liners will be good enough, then they should be more than willing to commit in writing to a detailed & enforceable plan for cleanup at the time of closure.

KDHE backed Seaboard, so in June the Chapter filed a petition for rulemaking calling for stronger regulations to ensure that soil contamination at large hog confinements in Kansas is cleaned up after the operations are abandoned. On behalf of the Chapter, Duane Schrag also sent a letter of objection to the Division of Water Resources. Seaboard has applied for five new temporary water well permits to initially fill their lagoons and support construction even though existing water rights at that location already exceed the annual recharge rate by 20 times. Seaboard had already bought some existing water rights that could serve this purpose.

The petition and related documents may be reviewed at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/GreeleyCountyHogFactory/GreeleyCountyHogFactory.html

Aug - Sept 2012
Chapter Conservation Retreat

Hike in the Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve

By David Kirkbride, Outings Chair

Chapter ExCom members, conservation chairs, and interested members participated in a hike and bus tour in the Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve on June 24 following the Chapter Conservation Retreat in the Flint Hills on June 23. The hike on the 3.8 mile Three Pasture Trail started at 8:00 a.m. and included beautiful views of the tallgrass prairie as well as a sighting of the 22 bison, including several calves, which now inhabit the Preserve. The Three Pasture Trail is a small section of the 40 miles of hiking trails available at Tallgrass.

The morning was beautiful as the hike began with temperatures in the upper 70s. A steady breeze kept the hikers refreshed throughout the hike with temperatures at the end climbing toward 90.

Following the hike and prior to a narrated bus tour of the Preserve, the hikers had the opportunity to enjoy the new Visitor Center which had just opened.

The hikers included Duane Schrag, Flint Hills Chapter Delegate; Robin Black; Ellie & Don Skokan, long-time Southwind activists; Yvonne Cather, Chapter Conservation Co-chair; and Dave Kirkbride, Chapter ExCom member and Outings Chair.

The location of the Conservation Retreat was the Walk In Peace Ranch near Matfield Green.

Both Ellie Skokan and Craig Volland succumbed to temporary cases of horizontalitis.

Craig Volland oversees the “Blessing of the Camera” at the Native American Circle on top of the hill. Participating were David Kirkbride, Duane Schrag, and Don & Ellie Skokan.

More Photos on page 13
11th Annual Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues
Presents
“Just the Fracks: What is Hydraulic Fracturing”

Thursday, October 4, 2012
Village Presbyterian Church 6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

5:30 pm   Appetizers & Exhibits by Local Environmental Organizations
6:00 pm   Supper of Locally Grown Foods Catered by Blue Bird Bistro
7:00 pm   Guest Speakers: Joe Spease (WindSoHy), Rep. Marci Francisco,
          Paul Johnson (Kansas Rural Center), and Rex Buchanan (Kansas Geological Survey).
          Moderator: James Joerke (Johnson County)
8:30 pm   Adjournment

Advance reservations are necessary and available after September 1st. A $20 donation is requested; $10 for students. Send check payable to KNRC/Community Forum, 7301 Mission Rd., Suite 248, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Receipt of your check confirms your reservation.

Sponsored by the Kansas Natural Resource Council and the Prairie Village Environmental Committee. Hosted by the Environmental Action Committee of Village Presbyterian Church.

Contact: Margaret Goldstein, 913-722-4141
         Linda Smith, 913-381-7686

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Book Signing

Jim Mason, Naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center and Sierra Club member, has a new book coming out this fall. His first book Wichita’s Riverside Parks came out in April 2011 and was done through Arcadia Publications. It chronicled how Wichita has used the area along the rivers for recreation over the years.

His second book is in the Arcadia Postcard History Series and is simply titled Wichita. It features 206 antique picture postcard views of our town from a century ago and reveals the stories they tell. Jim will give an illustrated presentation on the book and autograph copies afterwards.

The premier event for the new book will be at 7:00 PM, Thursday evening, September 13 at Watermark Books & Café, 4701 East Douglas, Wichita.
Sierra Club Joins Friends of Kaw on Float Trip

By Paul Post and Richard Voss

On June 23rd, with ominous rain clouds passing to the north, a group of about 45 Sierrans from Kanza Group and Thomas Hart Benton Group (Missouri) charged into the Kaw River above DeSoto, Kansas, in canoes and kayaks. The flotilla was valiantly led by Laura Calwell and her guides from Friends of the Kaw.

Fortunately, recent rains made the riverbed mostly water, instead of mostly sand which it was the previous week. The current was flowing nicely, making the 5-mile run relatively easy. Cloud cover kept the temperature much cooler than it might have been.

We pulled up on a sandbar for an FOK luncheon grilled over an open fire -- gourmet hotdogs and marshmallow flambe. Laura talked with us about environmental issues on the Kaw and how pollution is affecting water quality. We were treated with a nice close up view of a bald eagle tending its nest over the same sandbar.

After lunch, another nearby raincloud created a breezy downwind run for the homestretch to the Cedar Creek access ramp. It was what sailors call a sleigh ride, although it resulted in our only casualty -- one flipped canoe. No harm was done, and we agreed not to release any details to Mom, who waited trustfully back home.

It was a great turnout and family members of all ages had a good time. Thanks to Bill Nichols of THB, who worked with Laura to fill the available canoes and get as many participants as we could accommodate.

Friends of the Kaw has been instrumental in conserving the Kansas River -- from pushing for more recreational access points to fighting additional sand-dredging permits. We thank Laura and her people for the good work they do to protect water quality in Kansas and for showing us a great time on the river. For more information, see www.kansasriver.org.

If you missed this trip, more are planned during the summer by FOK. Check future trips out at http://www.kansasriver.org/river-access.
Kansas Chapter Proposes Resolution to National Council of Club Leaders for U.S. Adoption of a Carbon Fee and Dividend

The below is the text of the Chapter Proposed Resolution:

The Council of Club Leaders requests the Board of Directors to support enactment by Congress of a Carbon Fee and Dividend (CFD), legislation which would place a fee on carbon emissions and return the proceeds to the American people as a dividend.

This method of addressing carbon is supported by many environmental leaders, including Dr. James Hansen, Bill McKibben, and Lester Brown. CFD is actively promoted by the Citizens Climate Lobby. Sierra Club members want to be engaged now and are looking for direction. CFD is possibly our best strategy to reach a reasonable, workable, and effective legislative compromise that can be approved by “both sides of the aisle.”

Climate change is a significant threat to the sustainability of life as we know it. The CFD will support and strengthen all of the Club’s ongoing energy and climate change programs and campaigns. See the Club’s Strategic Brief: “But to win on climate change, we'll have to help strengthen the movement. We will become a stronger organization as we build a movement that is larger than the Sierra Club and capable of winning on climate change.” See video from Craig Wolfe group, “Soular,” on climate change called “Stand Up” at: http://www.soular.co/MusicVideo.html The song and video ask, “Why are we not doing something about it.”

Carbon Fee and Dividend Explanation:
- A direct fee is placed on carbon-based fuels at the source (well, mine, port of entry)
- That fee increases steadily each year so that clean energy is cheaper than fossil fuels within a decade
- All of the carbon fee revenue is returned to all Americans equitably
- With the “carbon dividend” 70 percent of all households would receive more than they would pay for the increased cost of energy
- A predictably increasing carbon price will send a clear market signal which will unleash entrepreneurs and investors in the new clean-energy economy
- 4.5 million jobs would be created with the implementation of such legislation

Pros for Carbon Fee and Dividend:
- Has bipartisan appeal
- Republicans are able to honor their Norquist pledge and still vote for this new tax since the collected fee goes back to American households rather than increases the size of our government
- Significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Is simple and transparent
- Creates 4.5 million new jobs
- Reduces our dependence on foreign oil
- Clean energy will be cheaper than fossil fuels within a decade
- With the “carbon dividend” 70 percent of all households would receive more than they would pay for the increased cost of energy
- A predictably increasing carbon price will send a clear market signal which will unleash entrepreneurs and investors in the new clean-energy economy
- Club is in the process of developing a new strategy to target climate change and energy

Cons for Carbon Fee and Dividend:
- Uncertainty surrounds the viability of any carbon reducing legislation in today’s political climate. However, the carbon fee and dividend strategy will lay essential groundwork to establish relationships with pro and con legislators, enabling carbon legislation to be more quickly passed.

This Resolution was originally passed, in a similar form, by the Kansas Chapter ExCom on January 28, 2012. The Washington, D.C. Chapter Board unanimously recommended a similar resolution on July 3rd. With a few changes, the Kansas Resolution was adopted by both Chapters.
Carbon, continued from page 1

planet.” Lynate says. “Our recent days talking about climate change with our legislators encourages me to fight all the more. We must convince our leaders that each day we postpone addressing our carbon and climate change issue, we make our solution more difficult to obtain. We may already be seeing our climate change. There is no time to waste.”

At a packed reception held at the end of their first lobbying day, Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA), co-sponsor of the Save Our Climate Act, told volunteers, “This is about future generations more than it is about us, because things are going to get worse if we don’t dramatically alter the political and legislative trends of this country.”

Former Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC), who introduced a carbon tax bill in the previous Congress but lost his bid for re-election, spoke to an appreciative crowd about making the case for a carbon tax: “What you’re here to do is to help people in Congress to see that there are people willing to see the true costs [of fossil fuels]… The conservatives can get into this thing if we can show that this is about free enterprise and accountability. It’s about fixing market distortions so that true costs are accounted for.”

A few days before CCL’s conference, Inglis launched his Energy & Enterprise Initiative to talk about the conservative rationale for a revenue-neutral carbon tax. An introductory video on the Initiative’s home page features former Reagan economist Art Laffer.

CCL Executive Director Mark Reynolds came away from the week of lobbying buoyed by the prospects for a carbon tax in the next Congress.

“We’ve had some great conversations on the Hill this week with a number of Republican offices, which makes me optimistic that we can get a bi-partisan bill introduced early in the next Congress. The big topic of the moment right now is the fiscal cliff, but the climate cliff will make that look like a picnic if we don’t put a price on carbon soon.”

More information is available at www.citizensclimatelobby.org. To become involved in the local efforts, contact Citizens Climate Lobby Group Leaders Lynate Pettengill in Lawrence at lynatepettengill@yahoo.com or Craig Wolfe in Kansas City at info@kansas.sierraclub.org.

2012 Southwind Banquet Thanks

Stuart Bolt

This year’s banquet was terrific and everyone had a great time with our speaker and entertainment. We wish to thank all those responsible for making this event a huge success.

We wish to specially thank our speaker and entertainment, Robin Macy. She is curator of the Bartlett Arboretum and former Dixie Chick. Everyone loved her program and songs, including a new song about John Muir.

We also wish to thank the following donors for our bucket auction:

- Wichita State University
- The Coleman Company
- Pilgrim Ranch at Cottonwood Falls: Flint Hills Adventure
- Emma Chase Café at Cottonwood Falls
- Caffe Moderne
- Frank Ruff
- Ron Morris
- Don & Ellie Skokan
- Yvonne Cather
- Jane Byrnes
- Bicycle Pedaler
- Backwoods
- First Gear
- Heartland Bicycle
- Jim Griggs
- Neil Marcus
- Dave & Mary Kirkbride
- We wish to thank all the banquet volunteers:
  - Yvonne Cather
  - Bruce Fuelling
  - Dave & Mary Kirkbride
  - Ellie Skokan
  - Tom & Grace Kneil
  - Deborah Gafvert
  - Ron Morris
  - Yvonne Cather

Finally, I wish to thank the Fundraising Committee Members that helped plan our auction/banquet:

- Dave & Mary Kirkbride
- Deborah Gafvert
- Ron Morris
- Jane Byrnes
- Yvonne Cather
Reel Power Redux

By Bob Sommer

There's a memorable scene in the Masterpiece Theater production of Thornton Wilder's Our Town in which Mr. Webb, Emily's father and the editor of the Grover's Corners Sentinel, mows his lawn with a push mower. The scene is staged without a mower. Rather, actor Jeffrey DeMunn mimes the act of mowing in synchronized time with the sound of a push mower. It's a marvelous piece of mime, choreographed to the mower's gentle whirr, frequent stops and starts, and the extra push sometimes needed for a stubborn clump of grass.

The effect of the staging is, of course, to add to the idyllic quality of life in Grover's Corners. First produced in 1938, as war loomed, the play is a bouquet of melancholy remembrances of lost time, both imagined and real, reaching back to the then already-distant early twentieth century. Such sounds, and such quiet, are no small elements in our collective sense of what has been lost in our mechanized and now digitized age. Noise surrounds us. Not white noise either—but harsh, aggressive noise: traffic, trains, construction, airplanes, ubiquitous TVs, endless cell-phone chatter—and power tools. Mr. Webb's business with his lawn seems so simple, so easy, so gentle. The play's pastoral mood resides in such scenes.

I thought about that scene recently as I pushed my push mower around the yard. My wife says she enjoys the sound of it. Typically—and this moment, I must concede, goes back years—my then-teenage daughter thought the mower made a racket. (Of course it was about noon, she was in bed, and I was mowing right under her window—and not by coincidence.)

It's ten years since I began cutting my suburban Johnson County grass with a push mower. My neighbors, who were possibly concerned that my mower wouldn't get very good results and thus I'd single-handedly drag home values into decline (and quietly also thought I was a little weird—and may be right about that), have since recognized that I and my mower had nothing to do with the real estate bubble bursting. One neighbor stopped by recently with his grandchildren who were curious; they'd never seen such a thing. Others stop as they're out walking to ask about the mower—how it works, how much it costs, does it cut the grass. The answers: very well, about $120, and yes, it cuts the grass.

When I first wrote about my push mower for Planet Kansas five years ago (“Saving the Planet One Lawn at a Time,” April/May 2007), I focused on the carbon footprint power tools make, both collectively and individually. On looking into the subject again, I learned that the data hadn't changed much.

Here are a few factoids:
- a typical gas-powered mower emits about 87 pounds of CO2 every year;
- in one hour a gas mower produces the same carbon emissions and air pollution as 11 cars driven for the same amount of time;
- 54 million Americans collectively use 800 million gallons of gas mowing their lawns each year—and produce in turn the corresponding amounts of air pollutants;
- according to the EPA, lawn and garden equipment is the single largest source of non-road volatile organic compound emissions in most metropolitan areas during the summer;
- gas mowers stink and make a lot of noise (though for pure brain-numbing, straight-from-hell affliction nothing compares to the racket a leaf
Redux, continued from page 10

blower makes).

Well, that last one isn’t strictly a factoid, but I realized recently—maybe as I thought about the mowing scene in Our Town—that it wasn’t really the virtue of lowering my carbon footprint that led me back to a push mower but how much I preferred the quiet. When I stop mowing for a moment, the mower stops too. Its sound reflects my movements, short push, long row, sudden stop for the twig caught in the blades (oh yes, that happens too). And less noise in general. Also I’m not walking behind all those fumes. And it runs on water and Gatorade!

This is my second push mower. Technically my third, but the first was my father’s, which I pushed through a thick lawn in upstate New York many years ago. At nine or ten years old I found nothing romantic or sentimental about mowing the lawn. I recently discovered that old mower in my mother’s tool shed. It still works, though it’s heavy, with sturdy ash handles and steel blades, which are only about 14 inches wide.

My current mower is a Scott’s Classic 20-Inch Reel Mower, the second of these I’ve owned. It’s light, maneuverable, and cuts well. I do some cross-cutting, and I’ve also put berms in to limit the amount of grass in my yard. (That’s another story—why we have lawns at all, or certainly the huge swaths that suburban life has turned into a standard requirement, literally for most homeowners associations.)

On Saturday mornings—and for that matter just about any other time during daylight on the weekend—my neighborhood sounds like an airport. My wife and I have been driven indoors by fumes and noise on many occasions; settled down to dinner on the deck only to have a lawn mower erupt. Don’t get me wrong: I like my neighbors. They are good people, and generous. But we are all part of a culture that has spiraled into dependency—perceived or real—on the aesthetics of green lawns and the equipment needed to maintain them. We've come to accept as a standard for living. I keep hoping the image of me pushing a push mower will rub off on some passer-by. Maybe it has. “Hope is the thing with wings,” Emily Dickinson wrote. Sometimes it flutters by when I’m mowing.

Bob Sommer is the Kanza Group Chair and serves on the Chapter ExCom as Political Chair. He is the author of Where the Wind Blew. His new novel, A Great Fullness, is forthcoming from Aqueous Books.

Party of Earth, continued from page 3

tactic. Would it backfire and lead to a moderate Republican defeating a Democrat in the general election? These are fair concerns.

A few—and it was only a few—so misunderstood the political process, and more importantly, the Sierra Club's role in it, as to describe the effort as “untruthful,” “dishonest,” and “unethical.” These accusations came from Sierra Club members.

To the first two groups I responded as follows: Not much else will matter in Kansas politically or otherwise if the Tea Party takes over both houses of the legislature. Nothing less than the future of the environment—and education, healthcare, and other issues—is at stake. The general election will go the way it goes. Kansas will go red for the president and in all likelihood all four congressional districts, though we do have hope for the 2nd District. The radical Republican Governor of Kansas has made a land-grab of the Executive Branch. He's placed a supporter of the Holcomb plant in charge of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and slashed the department's budget. He continues pushing the legislature ever farther to the right. The House will do his bidding whenever and whatever he may bid. The Senate is all that remains, thanks to some stalwart Democrats and a handful of moderate Republicans.

The Political Committee, made up of some fifteen members from all over the state, scrutinized this challenge from every angle. We considered the “backfire” question and decided we'd win either way, unless a Tea Party candidate won. We pored over the candidates. We argued. We gathered on regular conference calls and inundated our email with chatter and information. And we vetted these candidates.

I should make clear that the Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization. Our loyalties in the matter of politics are not to a party but to the planet. It is true that one major party aligns with us more often than the other, but I don’t have to detail for you the disappointments it has also brought us. One member waggishly compared changing parties to changing religions. Well, that’s a touchy metaphor, but those of us on the Political Committee tend to put candidates’ voting records before articles of faith. I suggested that member seek redemption the day after the primary and rejoin her favorite party.

To those who saw this tactic more darkly, I would first say that for a couple of people, their manner of sharing their opinions is not worthy of a response. For others, I would ask what was dishonest? The tactic could not have been more transparent. What was unethical? Did you sign a contract with the Democratic Party? Were you asked to break an oath? Lie? Gain some advantage through means or information not available to others? I would further point out that the Sierra Club joined with other organizations, such as the Kansas National Education Association, in pursuing a legitimate, fair, transparent, and legal tactic to gain whatever advantage we could in the fight for the environment. Our opposition—do they fight
Minnesota’s Wolves: Dead or Alive?

By Elanne Palcich

CHISHOLM, Minn. — The ink to delist the gray wolf from the endangered species list has barely dried on the paper. Already the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the state Legislature have plans to open a sport hunting and trapping season on the wolf. The DNR is backtracking on earlier promises to keep wolves on a five year watch list after removal from endangered designation.

Wolf as an endangered species

The gray wolf was placed on the endangered species list following passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. Minnesota was the last of the lower 48 states to retain a wolf population. An estimated 350 to 700 wolves were surviving in the area of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Superior National Forest, while a few isolated packs remained in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. In 1978, Minnesota’s wolves were downgraded to “threatened” in order to allow federal agencies to kill problem wolves.

Under the ESA, the wolf population was able to increase. During this same time, DNR policies have favored maintenance of a large deer population. The DNR receives much of its income from the sale of hunting licenses. According to 2010 statistics, with approximately one million deer in the state, 800,000 deer hunting licenses are sold each year, and an average of 240,000 deer are taken.

Predator/prey

Deer are a primary prey of the wolf. In predator-prey relationships, a natural balance is maintained. Wolves, for example, tend to cull out the old, weak, and sick members of a herd.

Contrary to popular belief, the wolf is not in direct competition with hunters.

The most recent survey conducted in 2007-8 placed the wolf population at 2,921 animals. Population survey results are somewhat subjective, depending upon “opinion surveys,” peripheral information from studies of other species, and extrapolations from aerial surveys. According to those survey results, there was no significant change in wolf population from 1998 to 2008. However, the wolf population had dispersed into parts of north central and central Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan’s UP, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Delisting begins

In March of 2010, the Minnesota DNR petitioned the U.S. government to delist the gray wolf. In May the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, the Safari Club International, and the National Rifle Association followed suit. In December, the Mining Journal, Marquette, reported that the Fish and Wildlife Service would release a proposal in 2011 to turn management of the region’s wolves to state agencies in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Mining concerns were eager to remove the wolf as an endangered species. With the protection removed, new mining proposals would no longer need to consider wolf habitat in their environmental review.

The Wild West of politics

The rhetoric to vilify the wolf knows no political boundaries.

In December of 2010, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar wrote to the Department of the Interior saying that the increased number of wolves was “threatening the citizens of my state as well as our livestock and hunting industries.”

U.S. Reps. John Kline, Collin Peterson, and Chip Cravaack added to the hyperbole by introducing legislation to remove wolves from protection “because of all the killings by an ever expanding and increasingly dangerous wolf population.”

On Jan. 26, the day the wolf was delisted, Ed Boggess, director of Fish and Wildlife for the Minnesota DNR, told a panel of state lawmakers, “There’s been a pent-up enthusiasm, a pent-up demand to hunt wolves.” Immediately following, Rep. David Dill (Crane Lake), and Sen. Tom Saxhaug (Grand Rapids), introduced companion bills that would require state officials to schedule wolf hunting at the same time as the deer hunting season, with a secondary wolf trapping season to begin on Jan. 1, 2013.

Aerial hunting

Adding fuel to the fire, Rep. Torrey Westrom (Elbow Lake), sponsored a bill to allow the hunting of coyotes from aircraft and snowmobiles, stating, “This would be just one more way to continue the intrigue and enjoyment many people get out of hunting as well as a creative way to help control the coyote population.”

Westrom said people have been telling him for years how much fun they had hunting wolves from aircraft in the 1960s.

**Is this what awaits the wolf next?**

Meanwhile, Sens. Tom Saxhaug, Tom Bakk (Cook), Dave Tomassoni (Chisholm), and Rep. Tom Anzelc (Balsam) introduced SF 1820/HF 2417, which changes requirements for checking of conibear traps and snares from one day to three days. In addition to tripling the torture time, this bill would allow trappers to set out more traps on longer lines, making it easier to trap more wolves. All traps kill more than just the intended prey.

The DNR has currently proposed a limited wolf hunting and trapping season, issuing 6,000 licenses for a wolf hunting/trapping season, at $30 each. Another proposal is to hold a lottery and sell many more licenses. According to DNR commissioner Tom Landwehr, “This animal is a trophy animal.” (Outside with Sam Cook, Jan. 26, 2012)

**Nonlethal solutions for predation**

While wolf predation of livestock has been one argument for delisting, wolf predation affects less than 2 percent of existing farms. A statewide hunting/trapping season will do nothing to solve these individual problems. In fact, killing strategic members of a pack may put more pressure on the remaining adults to obtain easily available meat, causing packs to migrate into farming territory.

As people who are co-existing with the wolf, we must learn to adapt our own practices. Studies in other countries and states have shown that fencing is a deterrent to predation. Farmers are encouraged to keep their livestock in barns at night and during birthing. Dead carcasses need to be buried or removed so as not to attract wolves. Sheep farmers have found the use of guard dogs to be helpful; while a single dog alone can be wolf prey, two or three dogs can adequately protect a herd.

Pet owners in wolf range need to take extra precautions, such as keeping their dogs in at night, keeping them close to the house, and providing enclosed outdoor protection. Each year, many pets are also killed by hunters and traps.

**Wolf as icon**

Despite current rhetoric against the wolf, the species has long been an icon of the great north woods of Minnesota. Open season on the wolf is open season on our remaining natural heritage.

In contrast to the current war against the wolves, the Red Lake and White Earth Ojibwe Bands have approved policies protecting the wolf on their reservation lands. The Ojibwe warn that hunting and trapping pressures will put the wolves back on a path toward extinction.

The indigenous people see Wolf as brother. What befalls the wolf befalls us all.

*Elanne Palcich, a retired elementary school teacher, lives in Chisholm, Minn.*

**Party of Earth, continued from page 11**

fairly? Does the Heartland Institute support legitimate science? Is the Tea Party interested in the scientific implications of an ice sheet twice the size of Manhattan Island freeing itself from Greenland or the threats posed by rising global temperatures, ocean acidification, global deforestation, and unchecked carbon emissions?

As Bill McKibben so eloquently said, “Physics and chemistry don’t care what John Boehner thinks; they’re unmoved by what will make Barack Obama’s re-election easier. More carbon means more heat means more trouble – and the trouble has barely begun.”

To all who participated, I would say on behalf of the Political Committee, thank you for your engagement in the democratic process. If more citizens were as well informed as you, our efforts in the Sierra Club would meet with even greater success.

Now, it’s on to the General Election. Let’s get to work.

*Bob Sommer serves as Political Chair for the Kansas Chapter and Chair of the Kanza Group.*

**Photos from page 5**

[Image of people standing outside a barn]

*Yvonne Cather, Don & Ellie Skokan, and Robin Black & Duane Schrag rest by this spectacular barn and on trail.*

*Aug - Sept 2012*
From Superbugs to Super Foods
Eating As Though The Earth Matters

By Judy Carman

If you want an antibiotic, you have to get a physician’s prescription for one—right? So we thought. As it turns out, however, 80% (FDA statistics) of all antibiotics are taken without any prescription at all. And while they are used partly to treat disease in these 80%, they are also used to promote unnatural weight gain. Who are these 80% and why would they want to gain an unnatural amount of weight—and why are they so sick?

Of course, I’m referring to farmed animals: dairy cows, egg and meat producing chickens, cows, pigs, turkeys, other land dwellers, and even fish who, we can well imagine, would rather not gain enormous amounts of weight or be so constantly sick as to need daily antibiotics. They are the 80%. A recent report from Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine indicated that the increasing threat of antibiotic-resistant E.coli and other pathogens can be traced almost entirely to the animal agriculture industry’s overuse of the drugs.

In order to increase the amount of meat, milk, and eggs, animals are forced to swallow antibiotics in their feed and/or water or be injected with them. As we all know, such drugs wreak havoc on our own digestive systems since they kill the good bacteria along with the bad. But we only take them for a short period of time, and we can take acidophilus to help restore friendly bacteria into our systems. Imagine having to take these drugs daily for your short lifetime with no relief.

In addition to weight gain and increased production, these drugs also are used because crowded animals kept in confinement suffer from many respiratory problems, injuries, extreme psychological stress, and other ailments. Of course, it is also cheaper to dose every animal than it is to give them individual veterinary care.

As with life in general, the harm that we do comes back to us. In this case, as a result of what is being done to these suffering animals, human beings are experiencing ever-increasing challenges with antibiotic resistant bacteria. Many people have died as a result of being infected by bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics. The reason human beings are at risk is a result of these bacteria populating the contaminated waste that pollutes our rivers, streams, and oceans, as well as in the animal food products themselves. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest (2011 study), the most frequently contaminated animal product is dairy, followed closely by ground beef, chickens and turkeys, pigs, fish, shellfish, and eggs.

Lynn Peeples has written several articles about this issue in The Huffington Post. She reported that the FDA recently proposed a ban on one family of antibiotics, but she points out that such a ban will be easy to get around since there are so many other non-banned antibiotics to replace that group of drugs. Plus that specific ban will not do much to fight the superbugs such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA that we have been hearing so much about and that have caused many deaths.

Peeples wrote “Avinash Kar, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, went so far as to suggest the agency’s announcement was ‘meant to distract attention from its effort to sweep the broader issue under the rug.’” If the animal agriculture industry replaces the cephalosporins (the ones targeted by the FDA) with gentamicin, then nothing is resolved since that class of antibiotics is also critical for human health. As we now know overuse of an antibiotic speeds up the evolution of the bacteria’s ability to not be affected by it, thus rendering the medicine useless for human beings. In addition, tetracyclines and penicillins have been used since the 1950’s. These drugs are used by the human family as well and are threatened by the superbugs, but the FDA is not asking agribusiness to stop using those antibiotics.

While the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the Animal Health Institute (which represents the pharmaceutical industry) seek to refute the idea that antibiotics can lead to antimicrobial resistance in people, we need to consider the motives of the sources, which, of course, is big profit. The scientific community, on the other hand, is sounding the alarm that the superbug problem needs to be addressed in a much broader way than the FDA is requesting.

Peeples quotes Hansen of the Pew Campaign. “The longer we wait, the closer we come to the end of being able to use antibiotics.”

These superbugs that are resistant to antibiotics, due to the overuse by the animal agriculture industry, can get to us through contaminated meat, milk and eggs, contact with animals themselves, as well as through contaminated air and water. Because of this and to keep their patients’ ability to benefit from antibiotics intact, many physicians and hospitals have begun encouraging patients to let mild illnesses run their course rather than take an antibiotic unnecessarily.

Some hospitals have even come on board with Meatless Mondays (meatlessmonday.com) to educate patients about the benefit of avoiding animal products, as well as to lower the chances of introducing superbugs into the hospital at least one day a week. Both the American Medical Association and The American Academy of Pediatrics are in support of a bill known as the “Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.”

An April Mother Jones article by Tom Philpott, entitled “Four Things Grosser than Pink Slime,” addressed yet another aspect of superbugs, i.e., superbugs have bug friends. Philpott reports on research published in Microbiology in which scientists collected flies and roaches around hog farms. They found that 90% of the insects carried “forms of the bacteria
Enterococci that are resistant to at least one common antibiotic, and often more than one.” These insects can carry the superbugs to kitchens, food, and other areas far from the hog farms.

That item was one of Philpott’s four gross things. The other three were: “rodents on egg conveyor belts;” “chickens on sex hormones,” and “slaughterhouse workers sometimes get weird brain disorders along with their crap wages.” Each one of these is elaborated upon with even more gross facts about the meat, dairy, and egg industry. It’s well worth the read.

If you haven’t heard of “pink slime,” briefly it is used in school lunches and fast-food chains as filler and is made from ammonia tainted slaughterhouse scraps. The recent news about it and accompanying public outrage has caused many entities to stop adding it to their “food.” Beef Products International is the producer of the junk and appears to be slowing their production of it. There is a lot of power in our pocketbooks.

This issue of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria caused by the animal agriculture industry is a worldwide crisis. And it’s not just affecting us and our ability to use antibiotics to recover from illness. This widespread use of these drugs for profit is adding to our already polluted air and water and affecting the health and quality of life of free animals living on land and in the sea.

Such powerful entities as the pharmaceutical and animal agriculture corporations are taking part in the literal destruction of our precious planet. But we have the power to not cooperate with them. Peaceful non-cooperation and boycotting of their products are tools that we must use if we are to turn the destiny of earth toward peace and harmony.

There is a super-simple way to debug the superbugs and heal the earth more quickly than any other step we can take. Instead of eating superbugs, we can change our diet to super foods—a diet rich in vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains. By eliminating animal products from our diets, we significantly increase our chances of being able to benefit from antibiotics if we need them. And while we’re doing that, we are also simultaneously boycotting two huge industries that are wreaking havoc on our planet. It is the peaceful and harmonious, nonviolent, vegan way of living. Big Ag and Big Pharma don’t want us to do it, but this powerful choice is ours to make.

Gazpacho Summer Soup (Let’s use as many local, fair-trade, and organic ingredients as possible.)

8 servings

Ingredients:

4 c tomato juice or diced tomatoes
2 c diced tomatoes
1 peeled, seeded, diced cucumber
½ c chopped red onion
½ c chopped celery
½ c chopped bell pepper
2 chopped scallions
2 cloves minced garlic
¼ chopped fresh parsley
2 T wine vinegar

2 T lemon and/or lime juice
2 T olive oil
salt, pepper

Preparation:

- Combine all of the ingredients in a large bowl.
- Purée some or all of the soup (optional).
- Chill for several hours.

You might want to serve the soup with various toppings, such as diced tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, avocado, red onion, fresh basil, and croutons.

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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Late Summer/Fall at Clair Tappaan Lodge

In case you need a reason to get out of your routine and up into the mountains, take a look at the activities being offered at Clair Tappaan Lodge at the end of summer and early fall.

Located at 7,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada of California, in the middle of the Tahoe National Forest, it is cool enough to require a sleeping bag and jackets and caps in the evenings.

There are quite a variety of activities. See our Activities web page at http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/activities.htm for fees and details on the activities and the main page for information on the Lodge.

Spaces are limited. Call to reserve a spot at 800 679-6775.

Weekend activities include 6 meals, 2 nights lodging and all of the activities, unless otherwise stated.

- August 17-19. INTO THE WOODS our annual weekend fundraiser. $50 for Saturday only activities (no lodging), or $155 for 2 nights lodging, all meals and activities.

See Tappaan on page 19

Aug - Sept 2012
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, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

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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) 246-3229, CarolynBinns@sunflower.com

Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, Slopes3688@aol.com

Susannah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannahme@sunflower.com
General Meetings

**General public is welcome to attend**

**Flint Hills Group (Manhattan)**
September 25, 7:00 pm
Hope For the Planet: Addressing Climate Change Through Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation
Talk followed by Q&A, no cost. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**
August 14, 6:30 pm
Climate Change and Pricing Carbon
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Chapter Chair Craig Wolfe will present on the challenges to overcoming the skepticism and misinformation surrounding climate change, and the overwhelming body of evidence that compels us as planetary citizens to demand that our leaders and all citizens take all necessary action to avert disaster. Wolfe will also discuss the critical strategy of placing a fee on carbon and returning that fee as a dividend to the American people.
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

**Kanza Group (Kansas City)**
September 11, 6:30 pm
Corporations: The REAL Threat to Democracy (and How To Fix It)
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - We will begin with a shortened version the video exposing the tactics of the Wichita based Koch Brothers. Then, Mary Lindsay of the Kansas City affiliate of Move to Amend will make clear why the US government does not take the science on climate change seriously. Long before the US Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling, corporate lawyers used an effective strategy to defeat environmentalists’ efforts to defend the natural world. Systemic change is the only solution and amending the US Constitution is the only answer.
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)**
No August Meeting

**Southwind Group (Wichita)**
September 7, 6:30 pm
Residential Geothermal Retrofit
6:30 p.m. – Food & conversation.
7:30 p.m. – Clyde Flaming, Wichita Area Contractor, will present a photo essay detailing the process of designing and installing a geothermal heating and cooling system, (replacing the existing all electric system,) for a 35 year old residential property in a typical Wichita subdivision with a focus on how to proceed for persons considering a similar renovation.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn, Wichita.
Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Topeka Group**
August 28, 7:00 pm
Kansas Rural Center
Julie Mettenburg, new Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center will introduce herself and give us some general information about her organization. She’ll also acquaint us with certain programs and initiatives that the KRC is involved in. Join us for an educational evening. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; giananderson1963@gmail.com
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; giananderson1963@gmail.com

**Topeka Group**
September 25, 6:00 pm
KDHE Water Office
6:00 pm - Meet and Greet and enjoy a spaghetti dinner as one of our quarterly fundraisers. Jim Tuchscherer will cook the spaghetti and furnish some sauce from his organic beef. We’ll also serve a dessert and salad. Donations accepted and encouraged!
7:00 pm - Anthony (Tony) Stahl, KDHE Stream Chemistry Monitoring Program Manager will talk to us about their programs including Long Term Water Quality, Rivers and Streams and Statewide Monitoring Programs. He also will share information about mussels and some of the invasive species that are infesting our waters. Come and learn more about these vital resources. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; giananderson1963@gmail.com
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; giananderson1963@gmail.com

**Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**
Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting
Aug 4. 11:45 am.
September 1. 11:45 am.
Oct 6. 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

Aug - Sept 2012
Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

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

Aug 4. Prairie State Park, Mindenmines MO
Learn about bison on a prairie hike with an experienced naturalist. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Aug 11. Wildlife Walk - James A Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, Lees Summit MO
A casual walk through a variety of habitats. 2.5-3 miles. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Sep 8. Wildlife Walk - Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Liberty MO
A casual walk through a variety of habitats. 3-3.5 miles. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Sept 13. 7:00 pm. Book Signing at Watermark
Jim Mason, Naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center and Sierra Club member, has a new book coming out this fall. His first book Wichita’s Riverside Parks came out in April 2011 and was done through Arcadia Publications. It chronicled how Wichita has used the area along the rivers for recreation over the years. His second book is in the Arcadia Postcard History Series and is simply titled Wichita. It features 206 antique picture postcards of our town from a century ago and reveals the stories they tell. The premier event for the new book will be at Watermark Books & Cafe. Jim will give an illustrated presentation on the book and autograph copies afterwards. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Sep 15. Backpacking 101 Class Series, Part 1 of 3, Kansas City, MO
Class size is limited to 25. Participation in both classes ensures a place on the backpacking trip. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Sep 21-23. Backpack the Hercules Glades Wilderness, Taney County MO.
Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Sep 28-30. Missouri Parks Association Celebration, St. Genevieve MO.

Class size is limited to 25. Participation in both classes ensures a place on the backpacking trip. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Class size is limited to 25. Participation in both classes ensures a place on the backpacking trip. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Oct 6. 9:00 – 11:00 am. 2nd Annual Take a Hike
Join Southwind volunteers and the Great Plains Nature staff for a “come and go” event. Spend time walking, running or hiking the accessible trails of Chisholm Creek Park (6232 E 29th St N, Wichita). Enjoy the cool weather and fall colors. Register to win prizes (drawing at 11:00 am, you need not be present to win). No pets allowed on the trails. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

Oct 7. Wildlife Walk - Ernie Miller Nature Center, Olathe KS.
A casual walk through a variety of habitats. 2-2.5 miles. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Oct 13. Wallace State Park, Cameron MO.
Fall hike of forested hillsides covered with oak, walnut and redbud trees. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Oct 26-28. Family Camping in the Flint Hills:
Stay at the YMCA’s scenic Camp Wood and enjoy autumn on the prairie. Overnight and riding fees apply at Camp Wood. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

Class size is limited to 25. Participation in both classes ensures a
Committee Meetings

Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

Executive Committee
Aug 23, Sep 27 - 7:00 pm,
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211,
rsommer@kc.rr.com

Joint Action Committee
Aug 23, Sep 27 - 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
Aug 5, Sep 2
Location TABEquity 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,
jkforjustice@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, Sep 20, Teleconference
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4474, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

place on the backpacking trip. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563,
wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Hike a variety of natural communities - lake, bottomland forest,
and mature woodland. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823,
eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Maintenance, Perry KS.
Join us as we celebrate our 21st year of keeping the Perry Lake Trail
clear for hikers and backpackers! Bring a lunch, water, and bow saws
or loppers if you have them (we do have extra). Kanza. Steve
Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

**Tappaan, continued from page 15**

- August 19 (Sunday). Tasmania Wine and Cheese Tasting.
- Guests will get a taste of Australia's Natural State and learn
  more about its available outdoor adventures. A free evening
  of events, beginning at 8 pm, or book a room and spend
  the night.
- August 19 - 24. National Outing - Painting Along the
  Sierra Trails.
- Taught by artist, Susan Barry. Explore the outdoors and
  create works of art.
  and Play at Clair Tappaan Lodge, Tahoe National Forest,
  California. Improve the environment around Clair Tappaan
  Lodge by rehabilitating the forest, restoring streams, or
  maintaining nature trails.
- August 25. (Lodge reserved for a wedding. Closed to
  the public) (Clair Tappaan Lodge accepts exclusive use
  reservations and is the perfect venue for weddings, family
  reunions, business meetings or conferences or school
  retreats and camps.)
  Rambles, Tahoe National Forest, California.
- Artists are invited to come enjoy a 3-day weekend in a
  retreat led by artist Susan Barry.
- September 28 - 30, 2012. Fly Fishing
- Two days of instruction and demonstrations.
- October 5 -7. Opera in the Mountains. Wake up to the
  smell of brewing coffee and the sound of great music. We
  will have music sessions after each meal
- October 13, 1-4 pm. Wine Tasting
- Spend a Saturday afternoon exploring new wines and making
  new friends with local wine expert Dave Luce. Wines will
  be available for purchase and a percentage will go to Clair
  Tappaan Lodge. Appetizers will be served. Cost, $20.
- Join us on Facebook.
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Prairie State Park, Mindenmines MO. Kanza.</td>
<td>Eileen McManus</td>
<td>(816) 523-7823, <a href="mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net">eileen4250@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Aug 4. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting, Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill</td>
<td>(785) 331-5556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Aug 4. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting, Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill</td>
<td>(785) 331-5556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Aug 5. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt,</td>
<td>(316) 682-4722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Aug 11. Wildlife Walk - James A Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, Lees Summit MO.</td>
<td>Kanza. Michael Reed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Aug 14. 6:30 pm. Climate Change and Pricing Carbon. Kanza.</td>
<td>Craig Wolfe</td>
<td>(913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Aug 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow,</td>
<td>(913) 299-6620</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Aug 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer,</td>
<td>(913) 681-5211</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rsommer@kc.rr.com">rsommer@kc.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Aug 28. 7:00 pm. Kansas Rural Center. Topeka. Gary Anderson,</td>
<td>(785) 256-3229</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ganderson1963@gmail.com">ganderson1963@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Sep 1. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting, Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill</td>
<td>(785) 331-5556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Sep 2. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt,</td>
<td>(316) 682-4722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Sep 7. 6:30 pm. Residential Geothermal Retrofit. Southwind. Stuart Bolt,</td>
<td>(316) 682-4722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Sep 8. Wildlife Walk - Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Liberty MO.</td>
<td>Kanza. Michael Reed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Sep 11. 6:30 pm. Corporations: The REAL Threat to Democracy (and How To Fix It).</td>
<td>Kanza. Craig Wolfe,</td>
<td>(913) 299-4443, <a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Sep 13. 7:00 pm. Book Signing at Watermark. Southwind.</td>
<td>(316) 682-4722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Sep 15. Backpacking 101 Class Series, Part 1 of 3, Kansas City, MO. Kanza.</td>
<td>Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, <a href="mailto:wildwooddp@hotmail.com">wildwooddp@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Sep 20. 6:30 pm. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Craig Wolfe,</td>
<td>(913) 299-4443</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org">info@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Sep 21-23. Backpack the Hercules Glades Wilderness, Taney County MO. Kanza. Bob</td>
<td>Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, <a href="mailto:rjwilshire@kc.rr.com">rjwilshire@kc.rr.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Sep 25. 7:00 pm. Hope For the Planet: Addressing Climate Change Through Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation. Flint Hills. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, <a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Sep 27. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Bob Sommer,</td>
<td>(913) 681-5211</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rsommer@kc.rr.com">rsommer@kc.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Sep 27. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow,</td>
<td>(913) 299-6620</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craiglubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Oct 6. 9:00 – 11:00 am. 2nd Annual Take a Hike. Southwind.</td>
<td>(316) 744-0033</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellie_skokan@yahoo.com">ellie_skokan@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Oct 6. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill</td>
<td>(785) 331-5556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com">LynatePettengill@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>Oct 7. Wildlife Walk - Ernie Miller Nature Center, Olathe KS.</td>
<td>Kanza. Michael Reed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mereed@runbox.com">mereed@runbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Deadline for the next issue is September 10