Chapter Calls for EPA to Deny Request to Exempt Pollution from Flint Hills Burning

By Craig Volland, Air Quality Chair

On April 6, 12 and 13 of 2011 the burning of grassland in the Kansas Flint Hills caused exceedances of the ozone standard at monitors in Wichita, Manhattan and Topeka. Ozone smog can cause serious respiratory problems for asthmatics, children, the elderly and people who are physically active outdoors. KDHE has requested that the USEPA classify these as “exceptional events” so the monitored values for those days can be eliminated from the calculation to determine if a violation has occurred under the national ambient air quality standard. Among other claims, KDHE maintains that the Smoke Management Plan (SMP) they initiated prior to the 2011 burning season entitles them to this exemption.

The Kansas Chapter has submitted a detailed comment to both KDHE and EPA Region 7 explaining why KDHE’s request fails to comply with both the Clean Air Act provision that prioritizes the public health and other EPA’s policy provisions that might allow such a ruling.

In summary the EPA says that an ozone exceedance may be excused if the event is not reasonably controllable or preventable and the activity that caused it is unlikely to recur at a particular location, or if it is a natural event. It is obviously not a natural event since landowners plan and execute the burn every year, and it recurs in the same place, the Flint Hills.

We contend that KDHE has conflated the need to burn the Flint Hills every year with the question of whether the ozone exceedances are an inevitable result. That is, one can argue that the burning of the Flint Hills is not reasonably preventable from the prairie conservation perspective, but that does not mean that the consequences of this burning (the ozone events) are also not preventable or controllable. The SMP

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Help protect our animal friends; because once they’re gone, they’re gone. Join Sierra Club now.
Preserving the Environment Where My Great-Grandchildren Will Live

Interview with Samantha Farb

Interview by Daniel Redwood for Planet Kansas

Samantha Farb is a 14-year-old high school student from Lecompton, Kansas, who has filed a lawsuit to determine whether the State of Kansas has an obligation to protect the atmosphere under the Public Trust Doctrine. Samantha filed the case to prevent further increases in Kansas carbon dioxide emissions and to require the state to reduce CO2 emissions consistent with what current scientific analysis deems necessary to protect the lives and property of citizens, including future generations.

Samantha’s is the newest Atmospheric Trust Litigation (ATL) case to be filed in the United States. In May 2011, as part of the TRUST Campaign, youth plaintiffs began filing legal actions across the country to compel reductions of CO2 emissions that will help restore the health of essential natural resources threatened by the climate crisis. The lawsuits rely upon the long established legal principle of the Public Trust Doctrine that requires all branches of government to protect and maintain certain shared resources fundamental for human health and survival. Kansas has already recognized that state waterways must be protected for the benefit of its citizens and Samantha’s lawsuit argues that the atmosphere is inextricably connected to state waters and the health of other trust resources.

In this Planet Kansas interview, Samantha explains why preserving the environment for future generations matters so deeply to her. A passionate and gifted science student who is a keen observer of tornado patterns and has won a national contest sponsored by Women in Construction, she looks to the future and understands, as do all the world’s national academies of science, that unless global warming is reversed, humanity faces a most perilous future.

Samantha’s attorney, Bob Eye of Topeka, says about the specific implications of Farb v. Brownback for the state of Kansas, “Agricultural production in Kansas has seen record lows this year. Western Kansas is in its second year of severe drought, and corn growers in
State Election Results – Kansas 2012

By Zack Pistora, Legislative Director, and Bob Sommer, Political Chair

While the national elections favored Democrats, the Kansas legislature saw little change, as the ratio of Republicans to Democrats in the Kansas House and Senate held steady. Ultra-conservatives gained ground in Kansas, with several moderate Republicans losing seats in the Kansas Senate. The election results signal strong support for Governor Brownback in both houses of the legislature.

Here’s how things stack up:

Kansas Senate: 32-8 (Republicans to Democrats), same as last year. Ten Republican and former state representatives now can call themselves Kansas Senators. These members include a number of ultra-conservative Republicans, adding to the deficit of moderate Republicans who either retired or lost in the election. Four Republicans are first-time Kansas legislators.

The Kansas Sierra Club won 8 of 17 Senate endorsements.

Kansas House: As of this writing, the count is 92-33, Republicans to Democrats. A couple of tight races still were undecided pending a count of provisional ballots and review votes. 70 of 125 House members held onto their seats. 40% of the House will be freshman legislators (55 new legislators total, but 5 have served terms previously).

The Kansas Sierra Club won 20 of 35 House endorsements.

Final results:

SIERRA CLUB Senate Winners (8)
Marci Francisco (D – Dist. 2)
Tom Holland (D – Dist. 3)
Kay Wolf (R – Dist. 7)
Laura Kelly (D – Dist. 18)
Anthony Hensley (D – Dist. 19)
Vicki Schmidt (R – Dist. 20)
Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D – Dist. 29)
Carolyn McGinn (R – Dist. 31)

Interesting Facts about the 2012 Election:
• Only 48 of 125 House members won their original district after redistricting and the election.
• 23 of 40 Senators were unaffected by redistricting and the election.
• Senate Democrats:
  » Lost (2): Kelly Kultala (Kansas City) and Allen Schmidt (Hays)
  » Gained new (2): Pat Petrey (Kansas City) and Tom Hawk (Manhattan)
• House Democrats:
  » Lost (8): Doug Gatewood (Columbus), Bill Feuerborn (Garnett), Jerry Williams (Chanute), Mike Slattery (Mission), Ann Mah (Topeka), Sean Gatewood (Topeka), Judith Loganbill (Wichita), Melody McCray-Miller (Wichita), Eber Phelps (Hays)
  » Gained new (11): Julie Menghini (Pittsburg), John Wilson (Lawrence), Nancy Lusk (Overland Park), Emily Perry (Overland Park), Virgil Weigel (Topeka), John Alcala (Topeka), Carolyn Bridges (Wichita), Pat Sloop (Wichita), Roderick Houston (Wichita), Tom Sawyer (Wichita), and Brandon Whipple (Wichita)
• American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) known members in the House (21): Amanda Grosserode (Dist. 16), John Rubin (Dist. 18), Rob Bruchman (Dist. 20), Kelly Meigs (Dist. 23), Ray Merrick (Dist. 27), Lance Kinzer (Dist. 30), Marvin Kleeb (Dist. 48), Scott Schwab (Dist. 49), Richard Carlson (Dist. 61), Marc Rhoades (Dist. 72), Don Schroeder (Dist. 74), Peggy Mast (Dist. 76), Pete DeGraaf (Dist. 82), Steve Brunk (Dist. 85), Steve Huebert (Dist. 90), Gene Suellentrop (Dist. 91), Mario Goico (Dist. 94), Phil Hermanson (Dist. 98), Joe Siewart (Dist. 101), Sharon Schwartz (Dist. 106), Ron Ryckman (Dist. 115). Known ALEC members in Senate (12): Dennis Pyle (Dist. 1), Julia Lynn (Dist. 9), Mary Pilcher-Cook (Dist. 10), Forrest Knox (Dist. 14), Ty Masterson (Dist. 16), Dan Kerchen (Dist. 26), Mike Peterson (Dist. 28), Mitch Holmes (Dist. 33), Terry Bruce (Dist. 34), Garrett Love (Dist. 38), Larry Powell (Dist. 39), Ralph Ostmeyer (Dist. 40).

What’s good for the environment is good for the economy

See Election on page 5
ALEC FAQ

What is ALEC?

ALEC is not a lobby; it is not a front group. It is much more powerful than that. Through ALEC, behind closed doors, corporations hand state legislators the changes to the law they desire that directly benefit their bottom line. Along with legislators, corporations have membership in ALEC. Corporations sit on all nine ALEC task forces and vote with legislators to approve “model” bills. They have their own corporate governing board which meets jointly with the legislative board. (ALEC says that corporations do not vote on the board.) Corporations fund almost all of ALEC's operations. Participating legislators, overwhelmingly conservative Republicans, then bring those proposals home and introduce them in statehouses across the land as their own brilliant ideas and important public policy innovations—without disclosing that corporations crafted and voted on the bills. ALEC boasts that it has over 1,000 of these bills introduced by legislative members every year, with one in every five of them enacted into law. ALEC describes itself as a “unique,” “unparalleled” and “unmatched” organization. We agree. It is as if a state legislature had been reconstituted, yet corporations had pushed the people out the door.

Who funds ALEC?

More than 98% of ALEC’s revenues come from sources other than legislative dues, such as corporations, corporate trade groups, and corporate foundations. Each corporate member pays an annual fee of between $7,000 and $25,000 a year, and if a corporation participates in any of the nine task forces, additional fees apply, from $2,500 to $10,000 each year. ALEC also receives direct grants from corporations, such as $1.4 million from ExxonMobil from 1998-2009. It has also received grants from some of the biggest foundations funded by corporate CEOs in the country, such as: the Koch family.

What goes on behind closed doors?

The organization boasts 2,000 legislative members and 300 or more corporate members. The unelected corporate representatives (often registered lobbyists) sit as equals with elected representatives on nine task forces where they have a “voice and a vote” on model legislation. Corporations on ALEC task forces vote on the “model” bills and resolutions, and sit as equals with legislators voting on the ALEC task forces and various working groups. Corporate and legislative governing boards also meet jointly each year. ALEC says only the legislators have a final say on all model bills. ALEC has previously said that “The policies are debated and voted on by all members. Public and private members vote separately on policy. It is important to note that laws are not passed, debated or adopted during this process and therefor no lobbying takes place. That process is done at the state legislature.”)

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Flint Hills, continued from page 1

contains no material controls on the design, scale or timing of
the burning that might mitigate the downwind health impacts. Indeed, our “back of the envelope” analysis, using KDHE’s
own data, indicated that a very modest regulatory intervention
that reduces the scale or timing of the burning would likely
have prevented the 2011 ozone exceedances.

USEPA has attempted to further parse the intent of the
Clean Air Act, which clearly prioritizes the public health, with
certain policies relating to wildfires and those prescribed fires
deemed in the public interest. It makes sense that exceptions be
granted for prescribed burning that is conducted in the public
interest, such as to reduce the risk of wildfires. But nothing in
the language of the Clean Air Act grants priority or even equal
ranking to burning practices, especially ecologically destructive
ones, conducted in furtherance of private interests. Indeed,
KDHE states in their report, “One of the strongest motivators
for land managers to burn is to improve daily weight gains in
stocker cattle.”

It also stands to reason that the mere existence of a SMP is
not sufficient. In order to meet the high threshold to exempt
prescribed fires, the SMP must establish: (1) that the Flint
Hills burning is primarily designed to protect the ecology of
the Flint Hills and not primarily about benefits to ranchers
economic interests, (2) that every reasonable measure has been
implemented to minimize the ecologically destructive impacts
of the burning, and (3) that every reasonable measure has been
implemented to minimize the impacts of the burning on the public health. The SMP as currently written fails in
all three respects.

The burning of the Flint Hills is obviously not a wildfire.
The Flint Hills is not a “wild-land” like those managed by state
and federal agencies in the West. Rather it is one of the most
thoroughly tamed landscapes in the United States. The burning
can be considered a “prescribed fire,” but the activity is almost
entirely implemented by private landowners, and the primary
purpose is to maximize weight gain in grazing cattle.

There is no provision in the SMP for public officials to
supervise the design of this activity as to the number of acres
burned, the density of grazing animals or to stretch out the
activity over time. The only public supervision is related to
fire safety. Therefore, this activity is almost entirely managed
by private interests. Any benefit to the public interest is inci-
dental.

It is well known that the current regime of burning is
impacting the habitat of grassland birds, especially the greater
prairie chicken (GPC) whose population has been in decline
since the advent of more intensive burning and cattle
stocking practices in the 1980’s. Indeed KDHE
substantially admits to this state of affairs in
their report, but, strangely, the committee
that prepared the SMP specifically declined
to address this issue. Therefore KDHE can-
not claim that the annual burning of the Flint Hills is achieving
the purpose of preserving the tall-grass prairie ecology.

Some stakeholders still deny that the burning is affecting
grassland birds, but some of the locals know what’s going on.
The Wichita Eagle published an article on November 18 about
traditional prairie chicken hunting clubs in the Flint Hills.
These folks noted how the Flint Hills used to teem with the
birds, but that recent intensification of burning and cattle
stocking practices have greatly reduced GPC populations.
This article can be found at:
http://www.kansas.com/2012/11/17/2572326/old-
friends-gather-for-traditional.html

The full text of the Chapter comment on the KDHE’s
request for exemption, including several interesting graphics,
may be found on our website at:
http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/FlintHills/index.html

In the final analysis the SMP, and KDHE's request for clas-
sification of the 2011 events as exceptional events, prioritizes
the private interests of Flint Hills landowners, some of which
are out of state corporations, over the risks to vulnerable indi-
viduals, such asthmatic children and the elderly in eastern
Kansa and in other downwind states such as Missouri and
Nebraska.

ALEC, continued from page 5

on the governing board means that Koch has had influence
over an untold number of ALEC bills. Due to the questionable
nature of this partnership with corporations, legislators rarely
discuss the origins of the model legislation they bring home.
Though thousands of ALEC-approved model bills have been
publicly introduced across the country, ALEC’s role facilitat-
ing the language in the bills and the corporate vote for them
is not well known.

(ALEC legislators sometimes compare the organization to
the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), yet the
two organizations could not be more different. NCSL has zero
corporate members. It is funded largely by state government
appropriations and conference fees; it has a truly bipartisan
governance structure, and there is a large role for nonparti-
san professional staff; it does not vote on or promote model
legislation; meetings are public and so are any agreed upon
documents. Corporations do sponsor receptions at NCSL
events through a separate foundation.

How do corporations benefit?

Although ALEC claims to take an ideological stance (of
supposedly “Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited
government, federalism, and individual liberty”), many of
the model bills benefit the corporations whose agents write
them, shape them, and/or vote to approve them. These are
just a few such measures:

• Altria/Philip Morris USA benefits from ALEC’s newest
tobacco legislation -- an extremely narrow tax break for
moist tobacco that would make fruit flavored tobacco
products cheaper and more attractive to youngsters.

- Health insurance companies such as Humana and Golden Rule Insurance (United Healthcare), benefit directly from ALEC model bills, such as the Health Savings Account bill that just passed in Wisconsin.
- Tobacco firms such as Reynolds and pharmaceutical firms such as Bayer benefit directly from ALEC tort reform measures that make it harder for Americans to sue when injured by dangerous products.
- Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) benefits directly from the anti-immigrant legislation introduced in Arizona and other states that requires expanded incarceration and housing of immigrants, along with other bills from ALEC’s crime task force. (While CCA has stated that it left ALEC in late 2010 after years of membership on the Criminal Justice Task Force and even co-chairing it, its prison privatization bills remain ALEC “models.”)
- Connections Academy, a large online education corporation and co-chair of the Education Task Force, benefits from ALEC measures to privatize public education and promote private on-line schools.

How do legislators benefit?

Why would a legislator be interested in advancing cookie-cutter bills that are corporate give-aways for global firms located outside of their district? ALEC’s appeal rests largely on the fact that legislators receive an all-expenses-paid trip that provides many part-time legislators with vacations that they could not afford on their own, along with the opportunity to rub shoulders with wealthy captains of industry (major prospective out-of-state donors to their political campaigns). For a few hours of work on a task force and a couple of indoctrination sessions by ALEC experts, part-time legislators can bring the whole family to ALEC’s annual convention, work for a few hours, then stay in swank hotels, attend cool parties -- even strip clubs-- and raise funds for the campaign coffers, all heavily subsidized by the corporate till. In 2009, ALEC spent $251,873 on childcare so mom and dad could have fun.

Is it lobbying?

In most ordinary people’s view, handing bills to legislators so they can introduce them is the very definition of lobbying. ALEC says “no lobbying takes place.” The current chairman of ALEC’s corporate board is W. Preston Baldwin III, until recently a lobbyist and the Vice President of State Government Affairs at UST Inc., a tobacco firm now owned by Altria/Phillip Morris USA. Altria is advancing a very short, specific bill to change the way moist tobacco products (such as fruit flavored “snus”) are taxed-- to make it cheaper and more attractive to young tobacco users according to health experts. In fact, 20 of the 24 corporate representatives on ALEC’s “Private Enterprise Board” are lobbyists representing major firms such as Koch Industries, Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, Wal-Mart and Johnson and Johnson.

ALEC makes old-fashioned lobbying obsolete. Once legislators return to their state with corporate-sponsored ALEC legislation in hand, the legislators themselves become “super-lobbyists” for ALEC’s corporate agenda, cutting out the middleman. Yet ALEC enjoys a 501(c)(3) classification, which allows it to keep its tax-exempt status while accepting grants from foundations, corporations, and other donors. In our view, the activities that corporate members engage in should be considered lobbying by the IRS, and the entity that facilitates that effort to influence state law, ALEC, should also be considered to be engaged predominantly in lobby-related activities, not simply “educational” activities. Re-classifying ALEC as primarily engaged in lobbying facilitation would mean that donations to it would not count as tax-deductible for businesses and foundations. Common Cause filed a complaint with the IRS on July 14, 2011, setting forth evidence supporting its complaint that ALEC is engaged in lobbying despite its claims to do no lobbying.

Is it legal?

ALEC’s operating model raises many ethical and legal concerns. Each state has a different set of ethics laws or rules. The presence of lobbyists alone may cause ethics problems for some state legislators. Wisconsin, for instance, generally requires legislators who go to events with registered lobbyists to pay on their own dime, yet in many states, legislators use public funds to attend ALEC meetings. According to one study, $3 million in public funds was spent to attend ALEC meetings in one year. Some legislators use their personal funds and are reimbursed by ALEC. Such “scholarships” may be disclosed if gifts are required to be reported. But should the legislators be allowed to accept this money when lobbyists are present at the meeting? Still other legislators use their campaign funds to go and are again reimbursed by ALEC; in some states, campaign funds are only allowed to be used to attend campaign events.

In short, many state ethics codes might consider the free vacation, steeply discounted membership fees, free day care or travel scholarships to be “gifts” that should be disallowed or disclosed.
Kanza Day at TimberRidge Adventure Center a Great Success!

By Bob Sommer, Kanza Group Chair

The late October morning was cold and overcast. Not a promising start. Still, intrepid Kanzans Elaine Giessel and Richard Voss arrived early at the TimberRidge Adventure Center in western Johnson County to set up for the first annual Kanza Day. Their efforts and optimism soon paid off as the sky cleared and the sun warmed the day.

The Kanza Group sponsored this low-impact outing so members and their families and friends could enjoy a day of nature walks, boating, archery, good food, and great company. There was even an on-leash dog hike, which several furry Sierrans and their two-legged companions enjoyed.

TimberRidge proved to be a great location, with canoes and paddle boats, scenic hiking paths, and a comfortable shelter with a great fireplace. As the sun neared the treetops in the west and cast a golden glow on the lake, ExCom members Frank Drinkwine and Mike Miller fired up the grills for bison burgers and hot dogs. Soon everyone enjoyed the generous bounty of potluck dishes spread along the serving tables.

Some members were lucky enough to go home with new Sierra Club backpacks, T-shirts, and water bottles as door prizes.

Also participating was local camping store, Backwoods.

This event was free to members and guests and made possible, in part, thanks to a generous gift by Kanza ExCom member and Outings Chair, Bob Fritsch.

As night fell and the fire died, a small group remained for a nighttime owl hike, led by Elaine Giessel. The group didn’t hear any owls, though the hike was rewarding in other ways. Finally, when only Elaine and Richard remained, who’d arrived first that morning, and stillness had fallen over the lake, they heard them—two great horned owls, hooting across the lake, a reward for their efforts, a sign that nature persists and Earth abides.
Leadership can be exhausting as Bob catches a few when he thinks no one is looking.

Kayaks and canoes gave many of us some peaceful exercise.

Chair Bob Sommer, now alert, barks out the day's activities.

Archery was one of the activities available.

Folks begin to migrate to the fire as temps cool.

Bob Sommer plays dueling cameras.

A great sunset to end the day.
the state have planted the fewest acres in three years. Climate change is pushing corn-growing regions north, leaving Kansans no choice but to turn to less water hungry crops, such as wheat. To combat the negative effects climate change has on the state's economy and agricultural production, Kansas must reduce CO2 emissions or risk continued crop failures and the resulting economic downturns. Each year Kansas delays making the necessary reductions and transition to renewable energy sources makes it harder to protect the climate system and the Kansas way of life.”

“To protect the natural systems on which humans depend, the best available science shows that average global surface heating must not exceed 1.8° Fahrenheit and concentrations of atmospheric CO2 must decline to 350 ppm this century. We are currently at 393 ppm. To accomplish this reduction, Dr. James Hansen and other renowned scientists conclude that CO2 emissions need to decline by 6% each year starting in 2013. Samantha’s lawsuit seeks a climate recovery plan that would allow Kansas to reduce CO2 emissions consistent with these levels.”


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Planet Kansas: You filed a lawsuit, Farb v. Brownback, in which you ask the courts to compel your state government to use its powers to safeguard the air and water and preserve the environment for future generations. Let’s talk about why this matters to you. If you think back over your life, how did you develop an interest in the natural world and our relationship to the environment in which we live?

Samantha Farb: As long as I can remember, I’ve always enjoyed being outside. It’s always been my favorite place. That’s where I spent a lot of my childhood, reading outside and doing everything I could outside. I want that to be there for my children and my grandchildren. I want them to be able to enjoy it, too.

Are there special moments you can recall when you were outside in the open air and you noticed something or understood something for the first time?

There are so many of those moments, especially playing in our creek. I always loved wading into it, watching the fish and seeing all the animals and the trees and the plants.

You and your parents live in a rural agricultural area, in a house off a dirt road. Your lawsuit speaks about changes that you have observed recently where you live, which appear to be climate-related changes. What have you seen that concerns you?

This past year spring started extremely early. There has also been a lot more severe weather in the past few years and almost all of our summer gardens were unable to survive because of the bad drought.

This year, 2012, there were record-setting heat waves across much of the nation, in which so many records were broken, and by such large amounts, that many people took notice, more so than in the past. Where you live, did this affect Kansas farmers who grow corn and wheat and other crops? Do you know whether they’re having difficulty?

Definitely. This summer we were driving on a road not far from our house and all of the corn in the fields was dead because we had such a bad drought. Many scientists are concerned that there may be much more of this in our future because of climate change.

The National Academy of Sciences in the United States, and all other national academies of sciences in the world agree that climate change and global warming are occurring, that human activity is a major cause of climate change and that this is a great threat to our future. I recently read that the Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy Advisory Group said that with continued warming it will cause precipitation levels to be like those of the worst Dust Bowl years, with temperature increases exceeding the Dust Bowl. They also predict that there will be declines in crops, increases in disease, and more heat waves that will last longer.

Kansas is a state where many leading government officials either deny that climate change is happening, or deny that human activity affects climate change, or contend that the scientific evidence is currently inconclusive. Have you ever seen any of these officials, two of whom you are suing, explain why they are right and all of the world’s national academies of sciences are wrong?

No, I haven’t. All students learn in their science classes that in order to understand the world, you have to look closely at data and always with an open mind. That’s the scientific method. I wish these officials would do that and realize how serious climate change is.

Is one of the goals of your lawsuit to force them to answer these questions?

Yes.

Your lawsuit specifically calls for your state government to implement policies that would cut back on greenhouse gas emissions so that a goal of 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere can be achieved. Right now, the world is approaching 400 and the current trend line is headed up, not down. What are some ways that the government could bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions?

I think the most important thing is for them to follow through with the Clean Air Act and all other environmental laws and actually enforce them. If they did, it would mean that power plants could only emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide. This is very important for our future. Government officials should protect the environment.

For people who may not be familiar, could you explain what is meant by our “carbon footprint”? Aside from controlling power plant emissions, what are some other ways that a state or a nation
could lower its carbon footprint?

A person’s carbon footprint is how much greenhouse gas emissions can be directly or indirectly related to them. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, animal agriculture is another big contributor and accounts for 19% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is another large cause of these emissions. As a nation, if we could eat less or no meat and dairy and use more mass transit, we would drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

How has your family tried to lower its carbon footprint?

Our family does not eat meat, dairy or eggs. We live in a concrete and foam house which means in the summer and winter months we rarely use our air conditioner and heater. We recycle, grow some of our own food and buy things with minimum packaging.

What are your goals with your lawsuit? What do you hope happens as a result?

I hope that the laws will be enforced and that there will be more regulations on power plants and other pollution sources so that there’s less pollution and lower greenhouse gas emissions. And I hope that this can set a precedent for the rest of the United States to also follow the same rules.

Are there other young people who have filed similar suits in other states?

Yes, I think there at least a dozen of us.

How does it feel to stand up for what you believe in? Not many 14-year-olds have done something like this.

It feels really good to know that I can actually make a difference in the world. One of my family’s most important values is that we have the responsibility to make the world a better place. This is an opportunity for me to do my part.

Putting your principles into action is among the most satisfying things in life.

It really is.

If the lawsuit makes it to trial, will you be testifying in court?

I think so. I’m not certain about the details.

What do you think are some of the toughest questions you might be asked?

There are areas related to climate change that I have not yet researched in detail, so questions about those areas might be challenging. Of course, I am constantly learning so I’ll know more six months or a year from now than I know today.

I know you have a strong interest in weather, particularly tornadoes. Have you seen any changes in tornado patterns that might relate to climate change?

I actually have. In fact, I did a couple of science fair projects on tornadoes. As I was looking at the data, I noticed that since the 1950s, tornadoes and severe weather have gone up dramatically in Kansas. Also that there have been many more F5 tornadoes.

The F5 tornadoes are the kind that can destroy an entire town, as happened in Greenberg, Kansas a few years ago. And in Joplin last year.

A few years ago, you won a national science contest sponsored by Women in Construction. Please explain the task that you and the other competitors were asked to perform. What did you have to do?

It was basically a Lego building contest that had Legos and other materials like string and tinfoil. We had 45 minutes to create something construction-related out of it. We had to make use of every piece. What I created was a model of a wind-powered, solar-powered, hydroelectric-powered factory that produces batteries that then go into construction machinery that has been recycled.

That sounds like a very creative thing to have done. Apparently the judges agreed.

They did. Winning that contest was a wonderful experience.

The realm of science has historically been one where men have occupied the most influential roles. The movement for women's equality, among its many positive effects, has advanced the role of women in the sciences. As a female high school student in the United States in the early 21st century, do you feel that there are any limits on your ability to pursue your dreams?

Not really.

Is science your favorite subject?

Science and math. I would really like to pursue climatology, meteorology or maybe even architecture.

Are there certain scientists whose work has been a great inspiration for you?

Rachel Carson, Theodore Fujita, and James Hansen.

One more question about your lawsuit. Aside from the Governor Brownback and the Secretary of Health and Environment, who are being sued, who are you hoping to reach with this lawsuit?

Young people? Older people?

My hope is that it will reach everyone. But my greatest hope is that older people will realize that they are ruining the next generation’s future by trying to make money now and by not looking ahead and thinking about the environment that their children or their great-grandchildren will need to live in.

Daniel Redwood, DC, the interviewer, is a Professor at Cleveland Chiropractic College in Overland Park, Kansas. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Health Insights Today, Associate Editor of Topics in Integrative Healthcare and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Chiropractic Association. Dr. Redwood’s website and health policy blog are at www.redwoodhealthspeak.com.
Industrial Farming Practices Focus of Kansas Agriculture and Health Summit

Robert Martin among several speakers at conference on agriculture and public health

By Phil Cauthon, KHI News Service. Nov. 16, 2012

TOPEKA — Eliminating the routine use of antibiotics in livestock would be the single most effective way to improve public health by changing the way meat is produced in the U.S., said the keynote speaker at a conference here today.

The second most effective approach would be to aggressively enforce existing anti-trust laws and thereby increase competition in the livestock industry and foster more small-scale production, said Bob Martin, a senior policy advisor for Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore.

"If we were only going to do two things, I think those would be the most transformative things we could do," Martin told about 75 attendees of “Healthy Farms, Healthy People: Agriculture and Health Summit.”

The summit was organized by the Kansas Rural Center in partnership with the Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Health Institute. It was funded in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through a grant provided to the National Network of Public Health Institutes.

The policies that Martin listed as priorities were among 24 recommendations made in 2008 by the National Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, for which he was executive director.

“We looked at antibiotic overuse as the No. 1 public health concern because it adds significantly to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria that find its way into the community through a number of pathways," he said. “We’re creating resistant bacteria, stronger bacteria that can infect human populations. And then we’re seriously inhibiting our ability to fight those infections...I don’t think it’s alarmist to say we’re on the verge of that point where we won’t have effective antibiotics.”

Overuse of antibiotics goes hand-in-hand with large-scale operations, Martin said.

“The type of operation that is most likely to misuse antibiotics are the large-scale operations where the animals are overcrowded and waste management is a problem. They stand over their own waste and it’s flushed out from the barn a couple times a day. Those environments are really good breeding grounds for bacteria. So to suppress the infection rate, low levels of antibiotics are administered on a routine basis,” Martin said.

“It’s really true in this setting, the old adage ‘what doesn’t kill them makes them stronger.’”

The Kansas Livestock Association raised concerns about Martin’s views prior to the summit but no one from the organization attended or could be reached for comment afterwards.

However, the Kansas Farm Bureau, the state’s largest agriculture organization was represented. Meagan Cramer, KFB communications director, said her members welcomed discussions about the health impacts of modern, industrialized agriculture on consumers’ health. But she said some typical Kansas farmers should have been included in the line-up of presenters at the summit.

“That voice was maybe left out a little bit,” Cramer said. But she quickly added, “I think these types of discussions are good and they are becoming more mainstream.”

Consolidation big issue

Paul Johnson grows produce and lobbies for the Kansas Rural Center. He attributed much of the consolidation in the agriculture industry to the farm bill, the primary driver of federal agriculture and food policy. Among other things, it outlines agriculture subsidies and farm credits, conservation policy, and food and nutrition programs. It is the source of intense debate when the bill is renewed every five years or so.

“Concentration and consolidation have built off the farm bill politics. Eighty-five percent of all our farm payments from 1985 to 2009 went to 20 percent of farms. A third of our farms got no help at all from USDA payments,” Johnson said.

As a result, Kansas has lost 90 percent of its hog farms since 1978. Today, he said, 319 farms account for 95 percent of hog sales in the state.

Over the same period, the number of Kansas dairies has dropped from 5,600 to 420, Johnson said. “Two of those have 65 percent of the cows,” he said.

In beef production, “One percent of the cattle farms do half the sales in our state. About 10 percent do 75 percent of the sales,” Johnson said.

Johnson said Kansas could create its own farm and food...
plan to counter consolidation forces and encourage smaller-scale agriculture.

“We have many resources to draw from in the state,” he said, citing the beginning farm loan program out of Kansas Development Finance Authority, the Kansas State University Research and Extension, the marketing division in the Kansas Department of Agriculture. “People need to be players at this point,” he said.

Support for local producers

The connection between the industrialization of agriculture and the nutritional value of the food Americans eat was what Emily Hampton and Ashley Craff came to hear about and discuss. The women work for Farmers and Educators United, a Lawrence-based program that facilitates getting locally produced food into childcare centers.

“Our main goal is to reach kids before they’ve already formed their eating habits, and combating obesity by creating a culture of health from day one,” said Hampton.

Craff said even with the program’s limited size — it currently distributes food to nine childcare centers — it has generated demand for small farm produce in Douglas County.

“We’ve surveyed and talked to farmers, and they report that they are producing more now than they used to because of this new market with childcare centers,” Craff said.

Connecting children to the source of their food is among the ways shown to combat childhood obesity, said another speaker at the conference, Barb LaClair of the Kansas Health Institute.

“We’re raising a generation of children that doesn’t have any idea where their food comes from. It comes in a cellophane package in the grocery store — they don’t know if there’s a farmer behind that food or a rancher,” LaClair said. “It’s been shown that children who participate in growing foods are more open to trying different kinds of fruits and vegetables, and are more likely to have better eating behaviors.”

Emily Hampton (left) and Ashley Craff from Families, Farmers and Educators United.
Mother Earth’s Wish List for the Holidays
Eating as Though the Earth Matters

By Judy Carman, M.A.

What gifts can we give to the earth and future generations this holiday season? If Mother Earth could speak in human language, what gifts would she put on her list? Perhaps an end to mining and pumping toxic fluids into her wounded sides? Oh—and could we please stop digging and drilling into her beautiful body? Could we possibly quit scraping her precious forests and jungles and leaving only desiccating, eroding soil and millions of her animals homeless? Could we kindly stop poisoning her rivers and lakes and oceans that once were clear and clean and full of life?

Paul Post, in his “Planet Kansas” article “Confessions of an Oil Addict” rightly said that (in Pogo’s famous words) “we have met the enemy and he is us.” Of course, Bill McKibben, author of the August 2 “Rolling Stone” article “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math,” (to which Paul refers) also rightly points to Big Oil as the enemy. Bill quotes Naomi Klein who states that “…with the fossil fuel industry, wrecking the planet is their business model. It’s what they do.”

Says Bill, “The numbers are simply staggering – this industry, and this industry alone, holds the power to change the physics and chemistry of our planet, and they’re planning to use it.” The problem for us, as Paul Post pointed out, is that we are supporting this industry with our life style.

So this is a many-faceted crisis with many players, and we are the ones who can see the big picture, connect the dots, and take positive action. We are the ones who want to give these gifts to the earth and heal the damage, even while we confess to being part of the problem.

Martin Luther King believed we should not confront an oppressive system with violence, because that is where it is most powerful. Rather, we must confront it where it is weakest, and that is in the area of moral authority. If violently wrecking the planet is the business model for the fossil fuel industry, then violence is what they expect from opponents. Violence toward the earth and her inhabitants is where their strength lies. They do not spend time studying ethics, kindness, nonviolence, and compassion. They are very weak in those areas. By contrast, our strength lies in those very areas where they are weakest.

But that very strength of ours calls upon us to look deeply within ourselves for any complicity we have with this violent industry and any support we are giving to it.

Bicycles, as Paul Post mentioned are beautiful symbols of a peaceful, nonviolent method of transportation—no need for fossil fuels there. Supporting alternative energy systems, installing some in our homes, using less heat and more sweaters, trimming down to zero items going to the landfill, eliminating any investments we might have in Exxon and other such stocks, supporting legislation that protects instead of destroys, such as the carbon fee and dividend program that Lynate Pettengill is teaching,—all this moves us step by step closer to lining up our values with our actions.

But one more action always stands out for me and is, of course, the underlying theme of this column. That is the way we eat. Eating nonviolently brings our quest for an end to corporate violence full circle. Not only are we engaging in a powerful symbolic act of kindness and respect for all life and exercising our true power, but we are also directly eliminating a huge amount of fossil fuel use from our lifestyle.

I have listed the statistics before, so suffice it to say that animal agriculture is at the top of all causes of water pollution, deforestation, desertification, habitat loss, and species extinction and comes in a close second as an overwhelming cause of global climate change and air pollution.

All we have to do is imagine this—no animals are transported from farm to slaughterhouse and then to meat markets and grocery stores; 70% of grain is no longer grown for feed for farmed animals, eliminating the need for petroleum based fertilizers, fuel for farming equipment and trucks to transport the feed; a vast amount of land once used for hay and grain and grazing cattle, sheep, and other animals slated to be killed for meat, becomes available to wildlife. Imagine how great the demand for fossil fuels would decline.

Imagine too—a world in which the majority of people have not only reduced the use of fossil fuels and precious land significantly by not eating animals, but have also extended their commitment to nonviolence to include all life, all beings. Such a commitment creates in us a heightened sense of our true interconnectedness with all precious life. In my book (co-authored with Tina Volpe), The Missing Peace, there are many stories of individuals who found a serenity and joy they had never known before once they adopted a plant-based diet. I believe that is because, once adopted, this nonviolent way of eating at last brings us into full harmony with our true hearts—hearts which long for peace for the earth and for all those who live here.

Bill McKibben writes, “… So pure self-interest probably won’t spark a transformative challenge to fossil fuel. But moral outrage just might — and that’s the real meaning of this new math. It could, plausibly, give rise to a real movement…” We cannot lay claim, however, to moral outrage, if we are engaged in violence ourselves.

Will Tuttle, author of The World Peace Diet, writes “The contemporary vegan movement is founded on loving-kindness and mindfulness of our effects on others. It is revolutionary because it transcends and renounces the violent core of the herding culture in which we live. It is founded on living the truth of interconnectedness and thereby consciously minimizing the suffering we impose on animals, humans, and biosystems; it frees us all from the slavery of becoming mere commodities.
It signifies the birth of a new consciousness, the resurrection of intelligence and compassion, and the basic rejection of cruelty and domination. It is our only real hope for the future of our species because it addresses the cause rather than being concerned merely with effects.”

As the holidays draw near, we will all be embraced by songs and greeting cards promising peace on earth, giving us permission, at least for a few weeks, to believe that peace is possible. December and January, with their holidays proclaiming love and joy, and commitments to new resolutions and beginnings, surely help open our hearts to hope for a healed world. We can imagine it; we can believe it; because we have the vision and the passion to do this. May Mother Earth’s wish list be fulfilled in time, and may your holidays all be bright with hope and faith in ourselves and in the power of love.

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

Holiday Torte from Zel Allen’s The Nut Gourmet
Serves: 6 to 8

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cups wild rice
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 pound red or white rose potatoes, unpeeled, scrubbed, and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
- 1 (14-ounce) package vegan ground sausage
- 3/4 pound portobello mushrooms, chopped (about 4 large mushrooms)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon hickory liquid smoke
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt or to taste
- 2 ripe tomatoes, sliced

Mushroom Sauce:

- 1/2 pound sliced button mushrooms
- 1/4 soy sauce
- 1/4 cup dry red wine
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch

TO MAKE THE TORTE, lightly oil a 9-inch spring form pan, line the base with parchment paper (for easier cleanup), and set it aside. Combine 2 cups water, wild rice, and salt in a 2-quart saucepan. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Turn the heat down to medium-low and steam for 45 to 50 minutes, or until the rice is tender. Drain off excess liquid and set the rice aside.

Combine the potato cubes and 1 cup water in a 2-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Turn the heat down to medium, cover, and simmer for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the potatoes are fork tender. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the potatoes to a medium bowl, mash them, and set them aside.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Toast the pecans and walnuts in a 10-inch skillet over high heat, stirring constantly for 1 to 2 minutes. Immediately transfer them to a dish to cool.

Combine the vegan sausage, mushrooms, onion, 1/3 cup water, olive oil, poultry seasoning, and pepper in a large, deep skillet. Cook over high heat for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the onion is transparent, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon or paddle to break up the sausage chunks. Drain and reserve any excess liquid. Add the salt and hickory liquid smoke to the sausage mixture and mix well.

Add the mashed potatoes to the skillet along with the toasted nuts and cooked wild rice. Mix well to combine the ingredients thoroughly. Adjust seasonings if needed.

Press the mixture firmly into the prepared springform pan, and attractively arrange the tomato slices over the top, covering most of the surface. Bake uncovered for 1 hour. Allow the torte to stand for 15 to 20 minutes before removing from the pan. Cut into wedges to serve.

TO MAKE THE MUSHROOM SAUCE, prepare it while the torte is baking. Combine the mushrooms, scant 2 cups water, soy sauce, red wine, and lemon juice in a 2-quart saucepan and bring to a boil. Turn heat down slightly and simmer for 5 minutes.

Combine the cornstarch with 3 tablespoons water in a small bowl and stir with a spoon to make a runny paste. Add the paste to the bubbling sauce, a little at a time, stirring constantly, for about 1 minute, until the sauce has thickened to the desired consistency. Pass around for guests to pour over their wedges of torte.

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, peacetooallbeings.com.

“Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math” can be read at: http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719#ixzz2CExs1e9u or at http://rol.st/Yv8VKI
Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

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Officers, Committee Chairs

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

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Dec 2012 - Jan 2013
General Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
December 8. 6:00 pm
2nd Annual Winter Solstice Celebration
Join the Kanza Group for a potluck dinner and seasonal celebration with live music from the Celtic music band DogTree. After dinner, we'll enjoy a Winter Wildlife Program from Ernie Miller Nature Center. Kids of all ages will love the furry and feathery critters! We'll also recognize our outstanding volunteers during a brief awards presentation. There will be door prize drawings for Sierra Club items and our beautiful calendars to purchase for holiday giving.

Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side.


Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
January 8. 6:30 pm
Share Your Adventures

6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.

7:00 pm - Share Your Adventures is Kanza Group's annual invitation to members to bring their special slide shows of your recent vacations. This is always a favorite of wonderful adventures around the world. Slides should show nature or be about an environmental issue. Limit slides to your best 60.

Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side.


Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
February 12. 6:30 pm
Monarch Conservation: The Challenges Ahead

6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.

7:00 pm - Orley R. “Chip” Taylor is a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. Taylor is very concerned about the impact higher temperatures will have on monarchs.

Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side.


Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
December 14. 6:30 pm.
No General Meeting.

Annual Southwind Holiday Dinner
Come and enjoy a relaxing evening socializing with your fellow Sierra Club members for our Covered Dish Holiday Dinner. The Southwind Group will provide the entre. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite covered side dishes.

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

Where - The home of Mary June Hefley 6201 Perryton in Bel Aire.

Southwind Group (Wichita)
January 11. 6:30 pm.
Beyond Coal Campaign

6:30 pm – Social Hour. Pizza and pop are available.

7:30 pm - Scott Allegreucci will provide an overview and update on the Sierra Club 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 in July of 2011. Scott is the Beyond Coal Senior Campaign Representative for Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. You may remember Scott from his prior work as Executive Director for the Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy (GPACE) in Kansas. His presentation will cover a national and regional overview of the Beyond Coal Campaign with a focus on goals, strategies, methodology, accomplishments, and challenges. BCC is doing big things, so join us to find out what is happening. Everyone welcome.

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

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

Topeka Group
December 8. 6:00 pm.
Holiday Dinner
The Topeka Group will celebrate the holidays at our annual Christmas Dinner.

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

Where - This year we will meet at Johnny Carino’s Italian restaurant located at 6130 SW 6th Ave.

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

Topeka Group
January 22. 6:00 pm
Mother Ocean: Heartland-Ocean Connections
We will encourage donations of chili for our annual Chili Fundraiser at this meeting. We will start serving at 6:00 PM at UUFT. Our program at 7:00 PM will be “Mother Ocean: Heartland-Ocean Connections” by Elaine Giessel from our Kanza Group. Part of the presentation will include the short movie, “Ocean Frontiers”. Elaine is an active Sierra Club member involved with all types of water issues both national and local.

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

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

Topeka Group
February 26. 6:00 pm
Legislative Update
Zack Pistora, our Kansas Chapter Legislative Coordinator who will bring us up to date on the Kansas Legislature concerning energy and conservation issues.

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

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

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting
Dec 1, Jan 5, Feb 2. 11:45 am.

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

Contact - Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625,
LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. The number in [brackets] indicates the area of the outing as shown on the map. Please contact the outing leader listed after the description by phone or e-mail before attending any of these activities. For trips requiring physical exertion, leaders need to know your ability and condition. Sierra Club policy also requires participants to sign a liability waiver or acknowledgement of risk prior to departing the trailhead. Outings organizers have a webpage for the latest outings updates at: http://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings:

Experience Christmas on the farm with holiday music, treats and a tour of the home. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Hike some ravines & woodland trails. Bring lunch, and we’ll provide the hot cocoa. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

A casual walk through a variety of habitats. 2.5-3 miles. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

8.5 miles of pretty, wooded trails adjacent to Beaver Lake in Hobbs State Park Conservation Area. Dogs welcome! Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

Hike some ravines & woodland trails. Bring lunch, and we’ll provide the hot cocoa. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

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

Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

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Cottonwood Falls, KS www.emmachasecafe.com
Committee Meetings

Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

Dec 6, Jan 24 - 7:00 pm,
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211,
rsommer@kc.rr.com

Joint Action Committee
Dec 6, Jan 24 - 7:00 pm,
Conservation, legislative, and political
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group
(Wichita)

Executive Committee - 6:00 pm
Dec 2, Jan 6
Location TBA
Equity Bank Building
Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722,
stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Conservation Committee
TBA - 6:30 pm
Bruce Fuelling, (316) 682-0340,
bfuelling@cox.net

Wakarusa Group
(Lawrence)

Executive Committee Planning
Contact Jason Hering, (785) 341-4911,
jasonforjustice@gmail.com

Conservation Committee
Contact George Brenner, (785) 393-3828, GBrenner@sunflower.com.

Topeka Group, TBA. Topeka Shawnee County Public Library
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, Jan 26, Topeka
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4474, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Pilgrim Ranch

Enjoy a 3000 acre Flint Hills ranch near Cottonwood Falls as if it's your very own.
ATV rides, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and fishing are all available.

Email: pilgrim@starband.net
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.

Out Dec 1. Hike Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
GM Dec 1. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
CM Dec 2 . 6:00 pm. Executive Committee. Southwind. BLANK
CM Dec 2. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Dec 6. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Dec 6. 7:00 pm. Kanza EsCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com
GM Dec 8. 6:00 pm. 2nd Annual Winter Solstice Celebration. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Dec 8. 6:00 pm. Holiday Dinner. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
GM Dec 14. 6:30 pm. Annual Southwind Holiday Dinner. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Dec 14. 6:30 pm. No General Meeting. Southwind.
Out Dec 15. Wildlife Walk - Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, Blue Springs MO. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com
Out Dec 29-30. Backpack the Pigeon Roost Trail, Beaver Lake AR. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com
Out Jan 1. New Year’s Day Hike - Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
GM Jan 5. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
CM Jan 6. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Jan 8. 6:30 pm. Share Your Adventures. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Jan 11. 6:30 pm. Beyond Coal Campaign. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Jan 12. Snow Shoe Hike and Trail Maintenance - Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
Out Jan 19. Thomas Hart Benton Historic Site, Kansas City MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
GM Jan 22. 6:00pm. Program: Mother Ocean: Heartland-Ocean Connections. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com
GM Feb 2. 11:45 am. Carbon Fee and Dividend Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-5556, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
GM Feb 12. 6:30 pm. Monarch Conservation: The Challenges Ahead. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM Feb 26, 6:00 pm. Annual Legislative Update” by Zack Pistora. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 256-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com