Settlement Between The Sierra Club and Kansas City Board of Public Utilities Brings Clean Air Victory to Kansas City

Settlement Includes Retirement of Kansas City-Area Coal-Fired Power Plant and Investments in Energy Efficiency Programs

On June 20, 2013, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Wyandotte County (Kan.) Unified Government Commission approved a settlement with the Sierra Club that requires the BPU to phase out coal burning at its Quindaro coal-fired power plant, just north of the city’s Central Business District, by 2015, reduce emissions at its Nearman coal-fired power plant by 2017 and invest $750,000 in energy efficiency programs for local residents. The settlement must be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency and approved by the Kansas federal district court before becoming final.

Today’s announcement brings the total number of coal plants retired or announced to retire since 2010 to 147 plants, totaling 54,974 megawatts, which is more than one sixth of the nation’s entire coal fleet. Pollution from coal-fired power plants is linked to premature deaths, asthma attacks and respiratory disease. According to a report by the Clean Air Task Force, air pollution from coal-fired power plants in 2012 was responsible for 32,000 premature deaths, 220,000 asthma attacks and 360,000 respiratory disease cases.

The settlement includes retirement of existing coal-fired power plants and investments in energy efficiency programs for local residents. The settlement must be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency and approved by the Kansas federal district court before becoming final.

See Settlement on page 10
Sierra Club info

Chapter Office
Sierra Club, Kansas Chapter
c/o Craig Wolfe
9844 Georgia
Kansas City, KS 66109-4326
913-299-4443
info@kansas.sierraclub.org

National Headquarters
Sierra Club
85 Second St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
415-977-5500

Legislative Director
Zach Pistora,
785-865-6503
zackpistora@gmail.com

Director of Development
Bob Sommer
816-898-1100
bobsommer09@gmail.com

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

Communications Director
Craig Wolfe
Planet Kansas Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
913-299-4474
info@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

www.kansas.sierraclub.org

GOING, GOING... GONE?

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

Help protect our animal friends; because once they’re gone, they’re gone. Join Sierra Club now.
Tar Sands Blunder

By Yvonne Cather, Kansas Chapter Chair

Will Obama make a serious blunder or is he on the verge of showing genuine leadership? Most environmentalists and young voters are likely to abandon the Democratic Party if global warming’s signature cause is undermined. This potential blunder is bigger than Keystone Pipeline. It will demoralize a key element of the Democratic Party in the 2014 election and will probably make way for a new green candidate on scene or the next Ralph Nader in the 2016 election.

This is not a threat from the left. It is a blunder of centrists, a miscalculation by those who think the left is smarter than it really is, and environmentalists will have no place to go. Enough environmental votes were diverted to defeat Al Gore – the greenest candidate in American history. That’s the blunder! The greens may enable Republican rule for another eight years.

The looming blunder is not the miscalculation of the president but the blunder of environmentalists and the “99 Percent” youth coalition and their collective defection from the Party. Clinton didn’t see it and thus Gore didn’t succeed him. Will a beleaguered Obama get it? He is a Nobel peace recipient who has fought the Iraq and Afghan Wars and intervened in Libya. How peaceful is he? How green is he?

Are enviros wrong? Will tar sand oil doom Earth to continued warming over the next forty years and melt Greenland and drive polar bears and other arctic species to extinction? It doesn’t make sense to drive environmentalists out of the coalition or repeat the Nader errors.

Mr. President, do not allow tar sands oil to run through the veins of our states! Your decision not only determines whether the Earth will face drastic climate disruption that only grows worse throughout the lifetime of our children and our grandchildren, it also dooms us to repeat political history.

Although Obama has doubled renewable energy production in the United States, the centrist’s view of drilling more fossil fuels to become energy independent threatens our well being. The United States already exports crude oil. We don’t need the risks that Trans Canada’s Keystone XL Pipeline brings with it just for export. It’s time for bold action and to stand up for climate science!

A disillusioned Enviro, Sierran, 99 Percenter,
Yvonne Cather, Kansas Chapter Chair

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The Kansas Sierra Club on the Road to Fight Tar Sands Oil

By Yvonne Cather, Kansas Chapter Chair

The Southwind Group of the Kansas Sierra Club sponsored two buses from Wichita to fight tar sands oil. The first traveled to Washington, D.C., to the “Forward on Climate Rally,” where nearly 50,000 activists demonstrated on Presidents Day weekend at the Washington Monument. They were joined by thousands more who demonstrated at over twenty solidarity rallies across the country and more than one million online activists who spoke out to tell President Obama that now is time to move forward on climate change.

The photos include two students who attended the rally thanks to the generous support of the Southwind Group.

The second group left Wichita and traveled to Grand Island, Neb., the only state where the State Department held a public hearing on its draft environmental review of the Keystone XL pipeline. That hearing took place on April 18, with over 1,000 people in attendance in opposition to the pipeline, outnumbering supporters of the Keystone XL pipeline four to one.

Another bus from the Kansas City metro area brought over fifty people to testify before the State Department. Among those on the two buses were Kansas Sierra Club leaders, Lori Lawrence, a Southwind Group member, who was the bus captain for both bus trips leaving Wichita; Duane Schrag, Kansas Chapter Executive Committee member and his wife Robin Black; Flint Hills Group member, Helen Woerner; Southwind Group member and Kansas Chapter Chair, Yvonne Cather; and Zack Pistora, Kansas Chapter Legislative Coordinator and Lobbyist.

Several actions are coming up this summer to further efforts against Tar Sands. You won’t want to miss out on these chances to make your voice heard.

The Southwind Group is partnering with Occupy Wichita and Kansas Climate Action for a public forum in the Eisenhower Presidential Library’s ongoing Town Hall series in Abilene, Kan. These meetings are a partnership between the library and the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy at K-State.

A town hall meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, 200 S.E. 4th Street, Abilene, Kan. There will be a showing of the documentary film, “Chasing Ice,” followed by a panel discussion focusing on climate change. Panelists include Dr. Chuck Rice, Professor, Soil Microbiology, Kansas State University; Dr. Johannes Feddema, Professor, Geography Department, University of Kansas; and Rep. Dennis Hedke (R-Wichita). The Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association has been invited to send a panelist. Abilene is located on Highway I-70. Directions to the Eisenhower Presidential Library can be found at http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/visit_us/directions.html

The “Build our Energy” project is being coordinated by Bold Nebraska to construct wind turbines and solar-powered barns in the path of the Keystone XL pipeline. Lori Lawrence and Helen Woerner, co-founders of Kansas Climate Action, are leading the effort to travel to York or O’Neall, Neb., the first weekend in August. Plans are to arrive Friday and return home on Monday. Anyone wanting to get involved, please contact Lori Lawrence at lawrencelorid@gmail.com or Helen Woerner at edwoerner@hotmail.com, and let them know you want to participate and sign up with Bold Nebraska at http://boldnebraska.org/summer-heat.

Also check out the Kansas Climate Action facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/#!/KansasClimateAction to see all the latest plans and news from the state of Kansas on climate action.
More photos of Sierra Club activists on the march to put the brakes on Keystone

Our tireless leader Yvonne Cather just can't seem to stop working, even on the bus ride.
EPA Shuts Kansas Air Monitor that Measured Health Threat

By Craig Volland, Air Quality Chair

Without prior public notice the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stopped monitoring for ozone pollution at the Konza Prairie site near Manhattan, Kansas. The monitor was shut on April 5, 2013. This monitor has been collecting valuable data since 2002, and has also consistently indicated levels of pollution high enough during certain times of the year to cause significant health impacts in the area.

In response to our inquiry, EPA says they complied with a request from the landowner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and from Kansas State University (KSU), the operating agency, to remove the monitor. Documents attached to EPA’s response indicate that TNC and KSU were concerned that the monitor would be used for regulatory compliance purposes and interfere with their research on rangeland burning.

Our analysis, however, showed that two thirds of the 43 times where ozone readings at this monitor have exceeded the current national ozone standard since 2002, have occurred in the summer, not burning season. This indicates a serious ongoing threat to the health of residents of Manhattan, Ks. and the surrounding area.

According to Dr. Sheryl Magzamen, Asst. Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, high ozone levels, especially at or above the current standard, are associated with health effects, particularly among vulnerable members of our communities such as the elderly and children with asthma.

We note that the Konza Prairie ozone monitor was particularly valuable because it was located within the Flint Hills itself and available to assess effects on residents very near the burning. In their 2010 Smoke Management Plan KDHE promised to consult with the Centers for Disease Control to develop a more comprehensive study on the potential health impacts of the burning in the Flint Hills. The discontinuance of the Konza Prairie monitor will likely complicate that task.

The Konza Prairie monitor, installed in 2002, is not part of the network of air quality monitors run by state agencies for the usual regulatory purposes. It is operated by U.S. EPA directly as part of CASTNET. The purpose of CASTNET and a description of the Konza Prairie monitor may be accessed through the links at the end of this article.

Due to the seriousness of this matter the Chapter issued a press release on April 17 to alert the public. This led to articles in Grenewire and Inside EPA, two national newsletters widely read by the regulatory community. We

See Air Monitor on page 10
Wrap Up of the 2013 Legislative Session

2013 Legislative Session Marks Close Call for Environmental Issues

By Zach Pistora, Legislative Director

The 2013 Legislative Session finally came to a close in the early hours of Sunday, June 2nd, ending the 73-day session (seemingly a lightning round compared to the 99-day run last year). This year’s legislature, led by a super-majority of conservative Republicans in both chambers, posited a tough crowd for the environmental lobby. But luckily, most of the environmental opposition was spared, as taxes, budget, gun laws, and abortion garnered most of their attention. Still, Renewable Energy Standards, family-farm agriculture, climate change awareness, and funds for sustainable development were all under attack during the 2013 session. But with the lobbying efforts of the Kansas Sierra Club, as well as other environmental groups, legislators preserved our good environmental policy by keeping our renewable energy standards and the prospering Kansas wind industry, said no to legislation proposed by big money interests in corporate agriculture and fossil fuels.

Here is a summary of the major environmental legislation affecting the 2013 session with more details and analysis listed below.

Bills that Passed & Signed into Law

SB 62 – Making gas pipeline safety terminology consistent with federal guidelines
• Updated KS safety codes to match federal guidelines. Good law for safety standards & obtaining federal dollars.

SB 120 – Enacting the Kansas farmers’ market promotion act
• Creates voluntary registration, promotion opportunities, and limited liability for farmers markets in KS. Good policy for good, wholesome food. Yay!

SB 168 – Limiting nuisance actions against certain agricultural activities
• This bill reduces the scope of nuisance protections for people affected by neighbors’ farms or companies expanding agricultural activities. This bill is suited to favor big business and not the general well-being of farm neighbors and the community. We will continue to monitor this law’s effect and fight for justice for residents affected by extreme odor and other nuisances that big concentrated animal farms can produce.

SB 212 – Establishing tax credits for oil & gas equipment (storage, transportation, and fluid recycling)
• Proposed by Shell Oil and supported by the KS Petroleum Council, oil and gas companies could be credited 20 percent of the first $100 million spent on new storage, transportation, and fluid recycling equipment. Masked as an interesting move, these tax credits would fund the development of more oil and gas extraction, while increasing the contamination risks to our water supplies.

Interesting Legislation that Came Close

SB 191 / HB 2404 – Amending Corporate Farming Definitions; Eliminating County Rights to Prohibit CAFOs
• These bills would have redefined “agricultural business entity” to allow non-Kansans to own and operate a farm without living on the property, including multinational companies. These bills remove corporate farming restrictions and the rights of counties to exempt themselves from a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Fortunately these bills got sidetracked by House & Senate Committees, sending the legislation to the KS Judicial Council & interim committees for more examination. This bill would have been bad for counties’ democratic rights, for family-farm agriculture, and would have serious safety & environmental implications. We expect to fight this bill again next year.

SB 2363 – Water Policy Changes: Limited Transfer Permits, Dam Inspections, Stream Cleaning
• The bill allows the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to grant limited transfer permits authorizing the use of up to 4,000,000 gallons from an existing water right. These limited water transfer permits were specifically designed to get oil & gas operations more water access for fracking (which is ironic that our state government is helping give water to oil & gas when fracking imposes greater contamination risks to our water supplies).
• Land-based sand and gravel pits or aggregate mining operations utilizing washwater ponds will be exempt from KDHE regulations. We will see how these operations, un-regulated, will affect our environment.
• Modifies statutory definition of dams, so more dams will not be inspected by Dept. of Agriculture.
• Establishes different methodology for removing debris from water streams without a permit, so long as the excavation does not change or diminish the course, current, or cross-section of a stream based on the watershed area.

See Wrap Up on page 14
National Plug In Day
September 28-29, 2013

Co-Sponsored by Sierra Club.

National Plug In Day is a fun celebration that brings together electric drive owners with the public. Electric car, truck, motorcycle and bike owners gather for test-drives and parades throughout the country. Our goal is to bring the EV message to consumers, policymakers, the media and general public.

We would like to coordinate a state-wide effort in the cities our Groups and would like for all members who own or who have expertise with the electric vehicle contact Yvonne Cather, Transportation Chair for the Kansas Chapter at yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org to explore our capacity to hold an event around National Plug In Day. In Kansas City, we will gather around Concert for the Climate on September 28 (see ad on opposite page).

Because many volunteers bring their electric vehicle (EV) to these events, it is a great visual media coverage opportunity for your group and our chapter. In 2012, 65 cities hosted a Plug In Day, with 25,000 people in attendance nationwide. The number of EV and PHEV sales in the US exceeded 100,000 cars in the past two years. We hope to double the number of National Plug In day events in 2013.

EPA, continued from page 6

in Chanute Kansas since the 1980s. Some residents in the city have been concerned about health impacts for years while others are concerned about safekeeping their jobs at the town's major employer. To address this situation, EPA Region 7 and KDHE devised an environmental screening study focused on the city of Chanute.

This included soil tests, sampling in nearby Village Creek and monitoring for air emissions. I participated in a public planning meeting in June, 2011, at EPA Region 7 offices attended mostly by the concerned citizens of Chanute and Ash Grove workers and management. In November of 2011, NPR ran a story on this controversy. See our analysis in the Dec. ‘11 - Jan.’12 issue of Planet Kansas.

So from December 1, 2011, to August 15, 2012, EPA and KDHE collected particulate matter (PM) data at several monitors located in Chanute. In a report dated September 12, 2012, EPA noted that there were no results that would violate the ambient air quality standard, implying there was no cause for concern. But during a routine review of the Ash Grove permit file, I found a letter dated April 16, 2012, wherein Ash Grove notified KDHE that their furnace had been down in January and February of 2012.

This was not mentioned in EPA’s report.

The Ash Grove Cement kiln is located on the north edge of town. All the monitors were located to the south. Wind directional data in the EPA report showed that (as one would expect) January and February were the months when northerly winds were most likely to carry particles to the monitors. From March 1 to August 1, the bulk of the study period, the winds were remarkably consistent from the south and would have carried Ash Grove’s emissions away from the monitors.

EPA and KDHE have tried to indicate that the study was not just about the Ash Grove facility. However, in terms of PM monitoring, the cement kiln is easily the largest potential source of emissions in the immediate area, and no conclusions are valid when the operation is shut at a time when emissions are most likely to be detected by the monitors.

It’s not EPA’s fault that the plants were shut after monitoring had begun, but they should have immediately informed the public about it. The purpose of this article is merely to notify the public that EPA Region 7 has not shown by their studies that the CertainTeed fiberglass plant and the Ash Grove cement kiln are harmless. Additional study is warranted.

EPA’s web page for the Chanute study can be accessed at the link below. EPA’s Sept 12, 2012, report has not been
A free, musically informative event focused on exploring the global impact of climate change and the steps each individual can take to reduce their impact on the earth.

**Date:** Sat, Sept 28, 2013, 11 am to 6 pm  
**Location:** Kaw Point Riverfront Park, just off Fairfax Ave in Kansas City, KS  

**Get the latest information at**  
www.ConcertForTheClimate.org

The Concert for the Climate event will educate and inform families of their impact on climate change and offer practical steps to create solutions.

**Concert for the Climate includes:**

- **Keynote speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**
- **Special Guest Bill McKibben** will discuss steps we must take to fight climate change. McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming.
- **Musical performances that carry the message by like-minded local and regional artists**
- **Workshops on simple changes that families can take to begin their journey to reduce their impact on global climate change, including energy related demonstrations on solar energy, home energy retrofits, and other practical solutions.**

**Our keynote speaker**

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is a resolute defender of the environment who has inspired organizations across the globe. A leader in sustainable development, he will share his views on alternative energy, solar capabilities as well as conservation techniques. Founder and President of Waterkeeper Alliance, Mr. Kennedy has empowered 137 local organizations to defend and protect our waterways.

Sierra Club is a sponsor
pollution from the Quindaro and Nearman coal-fired power plants contributes to 11 premature deaths and 194 asthma attacks annually.

“Phasing out coal in Kansas City will mean cleaner air for a community that has fought for years for this outcome,” said Holly Bressett, Deputy Director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign. “Efficiency programs will empower local neighborhoods to use less energy in homes and businesses, leaving dependence on old, polluting coal plants in the past. As Kansas continues to grow as a wind energy powerhouse, Kansas utility companies must change their business-as-usual, coal-dependent model to ensure clean air and keep rates competitive.”

In 2012, the Sierra Club notified BPU that it intended to bring suit for more than 9,000 air pollution violations at BPU’s Quindaro and Nearman coal-fired power plants. Today’s settlement resolves those allegations.

The settlement is also the culmination of years of community-building and work in Kansas City, Kan. to promote energy efficiency measures that help low-income ratepayers reduce their bills. The energy conservation work is led by Richard Mabion for the Kansas City, Kan. nonprofit J Gordon Community Development Corporation, and is supported by a grant from the Sierra Club. Richard’s brother, Raymond Mabion, is President of J. Gordon Community Development Corporation and lives near the Quindaro coal plant.

“Pollution from coal plants disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color, and BPU’s old coal plants here in Kansas City are no exception,” said Raymond Mabion, President of Kansas City nonprofit J Gordon Community Development Corporation who lives near the Quindaro coal plant. “Phasing out coal at the Quindaro power plant and installing vital pollution controls at the Nearman plant are important steps toward cleaning up our air in an industrialized neighborhood.”

The settlement between the Sierra Club and Kansas City BPU will bring important energy efficiency investments to Kansas City, making basic efficiency programs more accessible to more people. BPU must spend an average of $150,000 per year for five years on efficiency programs, including home energy audits, refrigerator replacement programs, and home retrofits through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. BPU will also create an energy efficiency collaborative made up of representatives from core ratepayer and community constituencies. Through the collaborative, BPU will share information and training materials related to energy efficiency with community members.

More than 51,000 megawatts of wind power are online across the country, with close to 2,600 megawatts of wind power currently online in Kansas. The wind energy industry supports 3,000 jobs in Kansas, and the state gets more than 10 percent of its power from wind.
Showing of the film Chasing Ice
at the
Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum
Saturday, July 13th, 2–4 pm
200 SE 4th Street
Abilene, KS 67410

Kansas Climate Action, working with Sierra Club Southwind Group, is showing the film “Chasing Ice” followed by a panel discussion featuring three perspectives:

THE POLITICAL: Kansas Representative Dennis Hedke, Geophysicist with Hedke-Saenger Geoscience, Ltd. and author of The Audacity of Freedom

THE FARMER: Donn Teske, Executive Director of the Kansas Farmers Union

THE SCIENCE BASED: Charles W. Rice, University distinguished professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University and Johannes J. Feddema, Department of Geography, University of Kansas

THE MODERATOR: Carol Barta is a Librarian with the North Central Kansas Libraries System who believes that an informed citizenry is vital to democracy.

For more information:
www.facebook.com/KansasClimateAction
www.ChasingIce.com
Fieldnotes from the DD…

Organic growth, or Jerry McGuire joins the Sierra Club

By Bob Sommer, Chapter Director of Development

A lot of changes are underway right now in the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. *Planet Kansas* will soon be coming out in a new format. The Chapter is tackling an ever-widening set of challenges to keep our state’s environment healthy. And yes, I’m new too. Or at least I’m taking on a new challenge as the Kansas Chapter’s Director of Development.

But I’m hardly new to the Club or the Chapter. I served for four years on the Chapter’s ExCom and was also privileged to serve as its Political Chair. Along with a dedicated Political Committee we slogged our way through two daunting elections.

I’ve also had a seat on the Kanza Group’s ExCom for over five years and served as the Kanza Group Chair for the past two-and-a-half years. I’ve made many new friends among Club members, not only all over the state, but around the country too. I’ve been to rallies, gone on outings, attended countless meetings, and if there’s such a thing as more than countless, dialed into even more conference calls.

Traditionally the Development Director’s role in the Chapter has been to raise money. That’s always a challenge, and with so many issues and activities to undertake, there’s never going to be enough money.

Right now, your Chapter is underwriting grants for Kansas educators who teach climate science; it’s helping minority residents in our cities make their homes energy efficient. It was a major sponsor of the Occupy Koch Town rallies to bring attention to the threat of tar-sands oil delivered by the Keystone XL pipeline. The Kansas Chapter has recently engaged in state and federal court cases to prevent another coal plant from being built and to preserve our wetlands. The Chapter is continually challenging business leaders and legislators who believe burning ever-more fossil fuels is the only way to achieve economic growth.

The list goes on. There’s much to do. While our budgets have grown, the need always outpaces income—and I don’t have to tell you how well funded fossil-fuel supporters are.

But to meet these challenges I believe we need a different model of growth than our opponents. We’re not a business. We’re a club.

As environmentalists, perhaps we should model our future success on the natural world. Perhaps we should develop a model of organic growth.

A virtuous cycle that spirals ever outward, growing and widening just as rain forests and glaciers once did, just as our universe does.

Organic growth means more than simply trying to increase donations to the Chapter and Groups.

Quite simply it means more activism. It means invigorating our members to take on leadership roles. It means more gatherings, more interaction, more events, more personal contact between leaders and members, more participation throughout the state.

The Kansas Chapter is 4,500 members strong. If more of our members get active with planning meetings, going on outings, attending conferences, participating in committees, everything else will follow. Their friends and families will join. If we build it, the fundraising part will come.

Think of this as a sort of Jerry McGuire approach—instead of show me the money, right now I’d say, “Show me the members!”

“Field Notes from the DD…” will be a regular feature of the new Planet Kansas. To reach Bob, email bobsommer09@gmail.com or call 816-898-1100.

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New Chair of Kanza Group, and Call For Volunteers and Leaders

By Craig A. Lubow, Kanza Group Chair

Bob Sommer has stepped down as the Kanza group chair to assume his new role as the Chapter Director of Development. We wish Bob well in his new position. I have assumed the group chair position with many exciting activities that the Kanza group will be involved in during the coming year.

We need our members to become volunteer leaders. As a grassroots organization, it is volunteers that make it possible for us to accomplish our goals as stewards of the environment. I know many of you contribute in many other ways, but volunteerism is crucial.

The Kanza group is looking for members to volunteer to lead outings. We can help train you. It is very easy and enjoyable. If you have just a couple hours per month available, please consider serving as the chair of our Outings Committee.

See Kanza Chair on page 13
Kanza Chair, continued from page 12

We also have a vacancy on our Executive Committee. It requires that you be able to attend the business meetings that we have the fourth Thursday evening of every month from January through October and one meeting during the first week of December, in lieu of the monthly Thursday meeting for November and December. Beyond that, a commitment of two to four hours per month is all that is needed. The reward is that you get to protect your environment and preserve it for future generations, including your children, grandchildren, and pets.

If being an outings leader or serving on the excom is not your cup of tea, you can still become involved in other ways. The Kansas Chapter, the Kanza Group, and the other groups always need help by more activists willing to serve on one of the Conservation committees. We need people to help with publicity, education, research, letters to the editor, and many other activities on all of the conservation issues that we work on. If there is an conservation issue that you want to work on that we are not currently involved with, that is often possible. Our issues include promoting alternative energy and efficiency, stopping the reliance on fossil fuels, stopping the dangerous practice of horizontal fracking, educating the public about global warming and climate change, population education, water resource protection, fighting air pollution, stopping the production of hazardous waste and promoting the safe disposal of existing hazardous waste, promoting safe landfill operations, and many other issues.

Even if you can only volunteer as little as two hours per month, Uncle Muir wants you!! Contact me at Craig.Lubow@Kansas.SierraClub.org. Send me your name, email, number, and areas of interests. Either myself or another chapter or group leader will contact you then.

A New Director of Development for the Kansas Chapter

The Kansas Chapter is delighted to welcome its new Director of Development, Bob Sommer.

Bob is well known to Kansas Sierrans for his work as the Chapter’s Political Chair and as the Kanza Group’s Chair. He authored the Antiwar Resolution unanimously approved by the Kansas Chapter’s ExCom in 2011. Additionally, the Kansas Chapter’s new grant program to support educators teaching climate change was his brainchild, and he continues to serve as Chair of the Education Grants Committee. He’s also been a regular contributor to Planet Kansas, writing on topics ranging from politics to poetry.

Bob brings considerable experience in fundraising and financial management to this position. In a past life he pursued a fifteen-year career as a Financial Advisor for two Fortune 500 investment firms. Additionally, he served for four years on the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra’s Board of Directors, two years as President. He has been active in a variety of regional organizations, including PeaceWorks and Safe Home.

In recent years, Bob has worked at the writer’s trade, publishing his first novel, Where the Wind Blew, in 2008. His second novel, A Great Fullness, is forthcoming from indie publisher Aqueous Books later this year. His award-winning prose has been recognized by the Kansas Authors Club, the Kansas Writers Association, and elsewhere. His feature writing and columns have appeared in many commercial and literary publications. His recent work is also featured in The Whirlybird Anthology of Kansas City Writers.

Bob’s love of literature has left its mark on the Kanza Group, where he set the tone for every General Meeting with a reading from poets like Wendell Berry and Walt Whitman.

Asked what he most hoped to accomplish as Director of Development, Bob said, “Organic growth! We should apply the lessons of nature to our own organizational development. We need to encourage more of our members to take an active role in the activities and work of the Sierra Club. If that happens, membership rolls will grow and donations will increase. Then the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club will continue to increase its impact on the environmental health of the state. Organic development and organic growth—that’s what I hope we can do together.”

Welcome, Bob!

Wrap Up, continued from page 7

incentive for water conservation for oil & gas, this is another example of an economic handout for fossil fuel industries when these companies should be required to use the best practices of water conservation, period. Our FRACK Act, proposed by Kansas Sierra Club, would promulgate such requirements, without bearing costs to taxpayers.

HR 6015 – Studying the viability of compressed natural gas as alternative vehicle fuel
• This bill ended up on General Orders in the Senate, but never made it up for vote. Lessening our reliance on foreign oil and utilizing cleaner burning natural gas instead of oil make this bill appealing, but with the problems seen with horizontal drilling and fracking, especially without serious safety and environmental safeguards in place, we are wary of more dependence on natural gas in our state.

Bills that Needed Way More Attention
SB 43 – Requiring the Kansas Water Office to formulate a strategic plan to address water-related issues
• This bill suggests that dredging the John Redmond Reservoir is our best idea for addressing our state’s water problem!?! Water is our most precious resource for life, thus we need to seriously step up our water conservation policy. The Kansas Water Office ought to act more proactive and innovative than simply digging our lakes deeper, such as issuing water conservation incentives, encouraging less water-intensive crops, limiting circle-pivot agriculture, and transitioning from water-intensive energy sources like coal, nuclear, & natural gas (fracking).

SB 193 / HB 2332 – Requesting the KCC to issue safety rules on Horizontal Drilling & Hydraulic Fracturing
• If Kansas hopes to avoid serious safety and pollution problems affecting water supplies, air quality, and community safety that other states have already experienced, the legislature should pass our suggested recommendations, our legislation we call the FRACK Act.

SB 213 – Speed-based Highway Tolls
• Allowing a financial incentive for people to slow down would ideally reduce traffic accidents and car emissions. Speeders would literally pay the price too (that’s if the state troopers don’t catch them first).

SB 2321 – Standards for use of Graywater
• Figuring out more innovative ways for our state to utilize graywater safely and environmentally could help ease our heavy consumption of fresh, clean groundwater, which is running out fast in Western Kansas.

The Top 5 Most Ridiculous Legislation this Year
#5 SR 1711 – Opposing the Black-footed Ferret Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement
• The Department of Agriculture, Kansas Farm Bureau, and Kansas Livestock Association teamed up to tell nightmare stories of the consequences of reintroducing America’s rarest mammal back into natural setting. The farm groups warn of problems associated with prairie dogs, the black-footed ferrets main food staple, to their cattle herds. Yet, the story seems backwards. The once well-suited prairie dweller, the black-footed ferret, would help reduce the prairie dog concerns, so the problem is indeed not the ferret, but the prairie dogs, or even more, perhaps our expectation of animal agriculture production.

#4 HB 2306 – Teaching of Controversial Science Subjects, particularly Climate Science
• Proposed by Climate Denier, Rep. Dennis Hedke of Wichita, the bill specified that the Kansas education curriculum teach counter scientific evidence for controversial subjects (only climate science was specifically noted as an example of controversial science). While reexamining scientific theories and hypotheses are a cornerstone of science, incorporating pseudoscience and crediting outlandish views into the teaching curriculum totally misses the point of educating our youth to be informed and prepared for the real world. We don’t teach opposite theories of gravity or plate tectonics, so why should we continue to misinform our students that climate change is not happening nor of human induction when there is nearly universal agreement amongst accredited climate scientists globally? Climate Deniers: Give us a break! Let’s figure out how to face the facts and solve the problem ahead of us instead of continuing to ignore / deny our evolving climate catastrophe.

#3 HCR 5014 – Urging the Presidential permit approval for the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline
• While Kansas Sierra Club presented the problems associated with the Canadian Keystone XL Pipeline, including economic studies that showed higher gas prices for our region, high risk of tar sands spill and water supply contamination, and increased dirty air pollution for processing plant communities, the House Energy & Environment Committee passed the measure onto the house for easy passage on the basis of 35 permanent jobs being created and few hundred temporary construction jobs (jobs not designated for Kansas, but for USA entirely). But shortly after the ExxonMobil’s Tar Sands Spill from a similar pipeline in Mayflower, Arkansas that oozed 12,000 barrels of toxic tar sludge into waterways and residential neighborhood, the resolution’s momentum quickly died in the Senate.

#2 HB 2366 – Prohibiting Public Funds for Promoting
Sustainable Development

- Riding the tea-party led, conspiracy theories of UN Agenda 21, the legislative climate deniers, like Rep. Dennis Hedke of Wichita, or Rep. Ron Highland of Wamego, were up to no good again, proposing that we prohibit public funds for implementing, teaching, and promoting sustainable development. This bill would've meant that our universities, city planning groups, and state agencies would not have been able to educate or create better infrastructure that intelligently grapples with problems of limited natural resources or climate impact in future years. Apparently, these bill supporters (which only includes a handful of lawmakers), would rather have our public institutions utilize unsustainable development… for fear of the UN or communists taking over. Wow – how did these guys get elected anyway? Answer: Fossil fuels money and corporate interests.

And the Number 1 Most Rediculous Legislation This Year

#1 HB 2241 / SB 82 – Weakening the State’s Renewable Energy Standards

- Perhaps the biggest environmental fight this session, the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which challenges the state’s utilities to meet a 20% renewable energy goal by year 2020, was under attack in both chambers. Senate Bill 82 and House Bill 2241, both aimed to reduce the timeframe and momentum for the RPS because of claims by wind opponents that wind power causes damaging increases in rates. Credible studies disprove that claim. In fact, Kansas utilities are already ahead of schedule to meet their RPS goals with little cost increases. Meanwhile, cleaning up old coal plants is a main reason for utilities’ rate increases. These bills get the top ridiculous award because of the extremely misguided economic claims by the bill supporters, (which included the Kansas Policy Institute, the Beacon Hill Institute, the Heartland Institute, and Americans For Prosperity, all funded by fossil fuel giants, the Koch Brothers). These groups claimed the RPS would cost jobs and bigtime economic downfalls, but the empirical evidence seen by the thousands of jobs and investment created in Kansas during the RPS tenure because its effect of attracting investment. Last year alone, Kansas saw hundreds of jobs in the wind sector, doubled its wind capacity, and attracted over $3 billion in investment. When Kansas is the nation’s second best state for wind capacity and could effectively harness other renewable energy industries like solar and advanced biofuels, why would our state want to go back on our these business-friendly goals, when they benefit rural Kansans, electricity ratepayers, our environment, and our state’s pocketbook?? Glad a majority of our lawmakers came to their senses before they made a BIG mistake.

Thank you from Kansas Sierra Club Lobbyist, Zack Pistora

Thank you to all of you who were aware or involved in our legislative and political activities this year. This year was my second year as Kansas Sierra Club lobbyist, and with a little more know-how, I think our lobbying efforts made a bigger impact. Most of my days were spent talking with legislators and other lobbyists, writing and giving testimony in front of multiple committees, and relaying information back to our Club leaders and environmental allies. This session was certainly a tough test for me, dealing with a number of anti-environmental attacks on a variety of issues, but overall, we fared very well and I had a lot of fun. A major milestone for me: I introduced my first bill, the FRACK Act, which I hope to get more traction towards next year. And while we faced tough opposition, we had great success, largely in part because of our tremendous efforts and advocacy from YOU, our Sierra Club members, and from our allies in other like-minded organizations.

Again, I must reiterate my gratitude for all the support I received from the members and volunteers at Sierra Club and our ally organizations. I am very excited to work hard in the off-season for a successful effort next session. As always, thank you for being a member of Kansas Sierra Club, being active in the policymaking process, and above all, caring for our earth!

With great gratitude,

Zack Pistora
Legislative Director
Kansas Sierra Club
zack@kansas.sierraclub.org
Sierra Club Awards
Grants to Kansas Educators Teaching Climate Change

The Sierra Club’s Kansas Chapter has announced this year’s awards for the Sierra Club Environmental Grants for Kansas Primary and Secondary Educators. This grant program was uniquely created by the Kansas Sierra Club to aid teachers who are educating students about the nature of climate change. This is the first such program developed nationwide by a Sierra Club Chapter.

This year’s award recipients are Nikki Burnett, Baldwin City School (Baldwin City); Joanna Farmer, Metro Meridian High School (Wichita); Misty Lambeth, Countryside Elementary (Olathe); Scott Schwartz, Hope Street Academy (Topeka); Lesley Sheldon, Rolling Ridge Elementary (Olathe); Blake Smith, Maize South High School (Wichita); and Dan Whisler, Sterling High School (Hutchinson).

“The quality of applications we received was very high,” said Robert F. Sommer, Chair of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter’s Education Grants Committee. “We’re especially pleased to see so much geographic diversity from around the state.”

These Kansas teachers will put their grants to work on a range of activities, from buying materials for students to build wind turbines and measure the energy generated to traveling to conferences to study climate change.

“This is the first year we’ve made these grants,” Sommer added. “Already I’ve had inquiries from other Sierra Club Chapters about establishing similar grants in their states. There’s so much at stake with climate change. Carbon dioxide has reached dangerous levels in the atmosphere. Our polar caps are losing exponentially more ice each year. The oceans are acidifying. Wildlife throughout the planet is threatened with extinction. What could be more important that educating students on how to face these challenges?”

The Kansas Sierra Club hopes to expand this grant program in future years.
Topeka Group and Guests Tour Bowersock Power Plant in Lawrence

By Paul Post, Topeka Group Outings Chair

In November 2012, the Topeka Group toured the Westar Jeffrey Energy Center near St. Mary’s. As most readers know, Jeffrey is a coal fired plant, the largest in Kansas. On April 27, the Topeka Group, along with Jayhawk Audubon in Lawrence, several Kanza Group members and K.U. students, learned about a different way to generate electricity at the Bowersock hydroelectric plant in Lawrence. As many as 50 people were in attendance.

Comprised of seven hydroelectric turbines, the original plant is capable of producing 2.35 MW of environmentally friendly electricity. The Bowersock Mills & Power Company is the only operating hydroelectric plant in Kansas. According to the company’s website, “The Bowersock Mills and Power Company strives to generate renewable energy in a way that creates a minimum impact on the environment.” In the last year, the original power plant on the south side of the Kansas River was supplemented by a new, state-of-the-art plant on the north river bank, as well as upgrades to the dam. Four new turbines are now operating in the north plant, which can generate enough electricity to power about 5,400 homes. The pool level of the mill pond behind the dam is controlled by “flash boards” that can be raised or lowered as the level of the river rises and falls, so that relatively constant flow can be maintained. Originally, the boards were raised or lowered by use of an overhead crane that spans the river. The dam upgrade included installation of pneumatic flash boards that can be raised or lowered from the control room using compressed air. The city of Lawrence helped pay for these upgrades, as Lawrence relies upon water in the mill pond for much of its water supply.

Bowersock was established in 1874, originally as a flour milling company, but also provided mechanical power to downtown businesses. In 1886, only five years after Thomas Edison established the first commercial power plant in New York City, Bowersock added its first direct current (D.C.) generator. After the 1903 flood, the plant was rebuilt and the generators were converted to alternating current (A.C.).

Over the years, Bowersock struggled to remain financially solvent, particularly during the 1970s and 80s. Many Lawrence businesses expressed an interest in purchasing renewable energy from Bowersock, but under Kansas law, Bowersock was only allowed to wholesale its energy. Things have improved for Bowersock, primarily as a result of rulings made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that allowed for greater opportunities for independent power producers in energy markets. In the late 1970s, the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 (PURPA), actually set a price floor for purchasers of Bowersock’s energy, at the time was being bought exclusively by Westar Energy. FERC’s later rulings in the 1990s gave Bowersock the opportunity to sell to utilities other than Westar. In June of 2008 the company

See Power Plant on page 19

Summer - 2013
The “Question Authority” Diet
Eating as Though the Earth Matters

By Judy Carman, M.A.

One of my favorite bumper stickers is the one that simply states “Question Authority.” Participating in any justice movement requires that of us. It is by questioning, rather than accepting, authority that we measure the rules, traditions, customs, and laws against our own ethics and our own moral compass.

In a New York Times article entitled, “Retracting a Plug for Meatless Mondays,” Amy Harmon described the debacle at the USDA when someone recommended in an interoffice newsletter the following: “One simple way to reduce your environmental impact while dining at our cafeterias is to participate in the ‘Meatless Monday’ initiative.” They went on to explain the benefits: “The production of meat, especially beef (and dairy as well), has a large environmental impact. According to the U.N., animal agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gases and climate change. It also wastes resources. It takes 7,000 kg of grain to make 1,000 kg of beef.”

The Meatless Monday campaign is promoted by numerous organizations, including the John Hopkins School of Public Health. Its goal is to encourage people to go meatless on Mondays to benefit one’s own health, the environment, and animals.

Cries of heresy rang out from those who profit hugely from the animal agriculture industry. It did not take long for the authorities to, not only remove the recommendation, but also to state quite authoritatively: “U.S.D.A. does not endorse Meatless Monday.”

Meanwhile, we go on questioning, and we find that an October, 2012, United Nations Global Environment Alert Service article (at unep.net) reported that: “…the true costs of industrial agriculture, and specifically ‘cheap meat’, have become more and more evident. Today, ‘the livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems’” (Steinfeld et al. 2006).” Among the stressors to the earth caused by animal agriculture, they list many of the problems we have highlighted in this column—desertification, deforestation, pollution, overuse of water, using grain to feed animals instead of hungry people, and greenhouse gas emissions.

As we question further, we hear from The Center for Biological Diversity. They report that scientists are asking legislators to reduce public land grazing in the west. They cite higher temperatures, accompanied by less snow and water, and more fires. The combination of global warming and the huge stress placed on these lands by domestic animals is causing a situation in which it is becoming more and more difficult for the ecosystems to recover and support the wild animals who depend on them. They noted that both Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land is trampled upon by grazers causing erosion and harming water, wildlife, plant biodiversity, and pollination.

As the Question Authority journey continues, a Norwegian foundation known as GRID-Arendal has posted revealing information on their website at grida.no. They are a group that collaborates with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Regarding fish, GRID notes that out of 110-130 million tons of marine animals, 30 million tons are discarded as trash and 30 million tons are converted to fishmeal much of which is ironically fed to vegetarian animals such as cows. What will the “authorities” think of next?

We all know that today’s fishing technologies, aquaculture of captive fish, and land animal agriculture pollution are major causes of dead zones and other severe threats to the health of the earth’s waters.

GRID also points out that the land needed to pasture and grow crops to feed animals takes up approximately one-third of all arable land, land that could be used to feed people, including the nearly one billion of the world’s hungry human beings. As the global population increases, imagine that the demand for meat increases along with it and that sustainable meat production will be more of an oxymoron than it is now. Already, approximately 70% of what was Amazon forest has been slashed and burned and is used for pasture and animal feed crops.

It is precisely because we question authority that the giant animal agriculture machine has proposed “ag-gag” bills in 11 states. These bills are designed to make it a crime to film, document, or otherwise expose activities at agricultural facilities. Whistleblowers around the country have been able to expose animal cruelty, unsafe food practices, and illegal and unfair treatment of workers, but Big Ag wants whistleblowing to stop, no matter that both human and animal rights are at stake.

In a May 27 press release entitled “North Carolinians to See TV Ads Showing Animal Cruelty the Chamber of Commerce is Trying to Keep Hidden,” the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) states “The narrator in The HSUS commercial calls on politicians and the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce to stop the legislation because it would criminalize undercover investigations, help protect and shield the abusers, and violate the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and the press.”

The importance of whistleblowers and authority questioners cannot be underestimated. HSUS reports: “A 2008 whistleblower investigation into a slaughter plant in California revealed sick animals being slaughtered, leading to the recall of 140 million pounds of tainted meat, tens of millions of pounds of which was originally destined for school cafeterias across America. Images of workers kicking cows, ramming them with a forklift and using electric prods and high-pressure water hoses to force sick animals to slaughter led evening newscasts...
and shocked consumers. This one investigation led to cruelty convictions, Congressional hearings, new policy, a shut-down of the plant and the largest meat recall in U.S. history.”

It may not always be the most popular path to take, but without questioners and whistleblowers, this earth and all who live here will continue to suffer under the heels of the toxic industries that profit from exploiting and killing animals, people, and nature.

Refusing to support these industries by eating a vegan, plant-based diet and living nonviolently is one of the most radical, revolutionary acts anyone can take. Questioning authority leads to researching the origins of the products we buy. If the source of that product is steeped in violence, we can refuse to support it. Therein lies our power to bring peace and healing to the world.

**Great Summer Recipe: Let's use as many organic, local ingredients as possible.**

**Potato Salad Plus!**

Recipe courtesy of veggiertorials.com

Ingredients (12 servings)

- 6-8 large russet potatoes (I use Yukon Gold)
- 1 cup chopped celery or water chestnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup sundried tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup roasted red bell peppers
- 3 tablespoons Italian parsley, finely chopped

**The Dressing**

- 1/2 cup Vegenaise (or Earth Balance organic Mindful Mayo)
- 1/2 cup prepared Vegg*
- 1 tablespoon Colman’s (or other) mustard
- 3 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 tablespoon dill
- 2 tablespoons vegan citrus garlic seasoning blend
- salt & pepper

**Directions**

- Boil the potatoes with the skin on until easily pierced with a fork (about 30-40 minutes). Remove from heat, drain and cool potatoes. Peel off skins and cut into bite-sized cubes. (I leave the skins on since they are nutritious if organic.) Add to a large bowl with all of the veggie ingredients.
- Mix all of the ingredients for the dressing. You may want to use more of the Vegg mixture for a creamier taste. Adjust seasonings and add salt & pepper to taste.
- Pour the dressing over the potatoes and veggies. Mix until potatoes are well coated. Garnish with heirloom grape tomatoes, spicy pickled green beans or vegan bacon bits.
- Leftovers can be stored covered in the fridge for up to 2 days.

*You can purchase The Vegg – Vegan Egg Yolk online at thevegg.com or at retail stores.

© 2013, Judy Carman, M.A., Author of Peace to All Being: 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 and peacetooallbeings.com.

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**Power Plant, continued from page 17**

began to sell energy to the Kansas Power Pool (KPP), which is a consortium of small Kansas municipal utilities.

The mill pond above the Bowersock dam provides the City of Lawrence with a reliable source of drinking water, even during periods of drought. The area around the Bowersock dam has also become a favorite hunting and nesting area the bald eagle, during the winter months. A home powered by hydro power rather than coal you would prevent 7.2 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

The company is led by Stephen Hill, whose family first established The Bowersock Mills and Power Company. Mr. Hill has extensive business and hydropower experience, as he has run BMPC since 1972, while maintaining primary employment as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Stephen Hill's partner in the management of Bowersock is his daughter and co-owner, Sarah Hill-Nelson, who has been running BMPC along with her father since 2002.

In addition to her experience running the plant for seven years, Hill-Nelson was one of the first Kansas energy business leaders to leverage renewable attributes through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs or Green Tags), and she has been actively involved in legislative issues relating to renewable energy. Ms. Hill-Nelson's most important contributions to the BMPC Team lies in her long-term commitment to the Lawrence community and the environment. Ms. Hill-Nelson acts as the primary manager of Bowersock Operations including all business relationships, and is currently managing the FERC licensure process.

How “green” is Bowersock? While there is some debate over the environmental impacts of hydroelectric power, Bowersock has been designated as a “low-impact” hydropower facility. This means that in comparison to other hydroelectric power plants, Bowersock’s environmental impacts are limited.

Our members were treated to tours of both power plants, as well as “up close” views of the dam and the recent water control improvements. The company brochure refers to the facility as “Kansas’ Largest Hydropower Facility,” but the web site discloses that it is the only commercial hydro plant in the state. The company web site is http://www.bowersockpower.com.
Chapter & Group Leaders

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

Yvonne Cather*, Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Chris Cardinal*, Vice-Chair, (785) 550-2432, cacardinal@gmail.com

Tom Kneil***, Secretary, (316) 744-1016, Chapter Group Rep, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org

Scott Smith****, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

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

Dolores Daniels*, ExCom Member, (913) 621-7227, daniels_dolores@yahoo.com

Anita Frank****, Topeka Chapter Group Rep, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net

David Kirkbride*, Topeka Chapter Group Rep, (785) 273-5305, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Craig Lubow*, Conservation Co-Chair, Global Warming Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Richard Mabion*, Environmental Justice Co-Chair, Education Chair, (913) 481-9920, rmabion@sbcglobal.net

Ken Schefter***, Chapter Group Rep, (913) 780-6878, purpleroc1@gmail.com

Duane Schrag**, Conservation Co-Chair, (785) 263-4002, schrag.duane@gmail.com

Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net

Gary Anderson****, PAC Treasurer, (785) 246-3229, ganderson1963@gmail.com

Elaine Giessel*****, Wetlands and Water Quality Co-Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Bill Griffith****, Energy Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org

Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com

Craig Wolfe*, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Coordinator (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Bob Sommer*, Chair, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, rsommer@kc.rr.com
Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Koziszek*, Treasurer, Secretary, (913) 788-2957, koziszek@hotmail.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
Jason Hering*, Chair, (785) 341-4911, jasonforjustice@gmail.com
Lynate Pettengill*, ExCom Member, (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com
Carolyn Binns*, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.com
Steve Lopes*, Secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes3688@aol.com
Susannah Neal*, ExCom Member, (785) 760-6633, susannahneal@sunflower.com

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Stuart Bolt*, Chair, Fundraising Chair, Communications Chair, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Ron Morris*, Vice Chair, (316) 777-4130, ronnymorris@hotmail.com
Tom Kneil*, Secretary, Chapter Rep, (316) 744-1016, Thomas.Kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Deborah Gafvert*, (785) 733-5102, dsgafvert@gmail.com
Yvonne Cather*, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Dave Kirkbride*, Political Chair, Outings Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bruce Fuelling***, Conservation Chair, (316) 682-0340, bfuelling@cox.net

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Jim Tuchscheler*, Vice Chair, (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
Ramon Powers**, ExCom Member, (785) 224-9225, ramonpowers@sbcglobal.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Nancy Kirk**, ExCom Member, (785) 234-8806, paulpost@paulpost.com

Kanzan Group (Kansas City)
Frank Drinkwine*, Fundraising Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Bob Fritsch*, Outings Chair, Kanza Group Rep, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Co-Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Miller*, Conservation Co-Chair, Membership Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (913) 362-2600, mmiller1@mindspring.com
Ken Schefter*, Assistant Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (913) 780-6878, purpleroc1@gmail.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Craig Wolfe*, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

In the summer of 2013, the Chapter Executive Committee met to elect new officers for the upcoming year. The elected officers include Yvonne Cather, Chair; Chris Cardinal, Vice-Chair; and Tom Kneil, Secretary. The appointed officers include Scott Smith, Treasurer; Stuart Bolt, Vice-Chair; and Tom Kneil, Secretary. The officers are responsible for leading the chapter and ensuring its success.
General Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
July 9. 6:30 pm
A Photographic Trip to Glacier, Yellowstone & Teton National Parks
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Ann suellentrop will present on the the toxic and radioactive contamination of the environment caused by the manufacture of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, specifically the Kansas City Plant and Wolf Creek Power Plant. The KC Plant, operating since 1949 at Bannister and Troost (a residential neighborhood) contains 14 superfund sites with approximately 900 toxins and is currently being assessed for cleanup purposes. Wolf Creek, located 100 miles southwest of Kansas City, has one of the worst safety records recently being assessed for cleanup purposes. Wolf Creek, located 100 miles southwest of Kansas City, has one of the worst safety records recently being assessed for cleanup purposes. Wolf Creek, located 100 miles southwest of Kansas City, has one of the worst safety records recently being assessed for cleanup purposes.

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)
August 13, 6:30 pm.
The Environmental Impacts of Nuclear Energy
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Gary Mass, a long time gardener extraordinaire, will teach us how to plant and tend a vegetable garden in cold weather. Wouldn't it be great to have fresh vegies on the table in winter? Gary learned much about this topic from his days as a Peace Core volunteer in Nepal.

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)
September 10, 6:30 pm.
How to Garden in Winter!
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Gary Mass, a long time gardener extraordinaire, will teach us how to plant and tend a vegetable garden in cold weather. Wouldn't it be great to have fresh vegies on the table in winter? Gary learned much about this topic from his days as a Peace Core volunteer in Nepal.

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 is partnering with the Kansas Climate Action for a showing of the documentary film, “Chasing Ice,” followed by a panel discussion focusing on climate change.

Where - Eisenhower Presidential Library, 200 S.E. 4th Street, Abilene, KS.
Carpooling - Contact Stormy Johnston , gryphonelder@gmail.com
Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind (Wichita)
August 9. No General Meeting

Southwind (Wichita)
September 13. 6:30 pm.
Solar Power
6:30 pm - After announcements, pizza and pop are available.
7:30 pm - There will be a discussion of the benefits of solar power to people's homes and to the environment.

Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th St. N. & Woodlawn, Wichita.
Contact: Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka.
July 23. 6:30 pm.
Animal Factories, Latest Poster Child for a Dumb Technology
6:30 pm - “Meet and Greet and Gather”
7:00 pm - Craig is our Kansas Sierra Club Chair of CAFO, Trade, Air Quality and Agriculture. As a technologist he has addressed social and regulatory issues with large livestock feeding operations since 1996 for the KS Sierra Club and others. He will discuss the fundamental contradictions of the underlying technology, called intensive confinement, and compare it to other troubled technologies that have boomed and faded during America's Post-WWII industrial era. He will also update us on the Governor's proposed changes to Corporate Agriculture.

Where - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, Marvin Auditorium 101B, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS
Questions - Contact Gary Anderson at 785-246-3229 or ganderson1963@gmail.com.

Topeka
August 27. 7:00 pm.
Environmental History
7:00 pm - James Sherow, Professor at Kansas State University will present a program on environmental history. Closer to the date we will send out a postcard with more details.

Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st Street, Topeka
Questions - Contact Gary Anderson at 785-246-3229 or ganderson1963@gmail.com He will also update us on the Governor's proposed changes to Corporate Agriculture..

Topeka.
Sep 24. 7:00 pm. TBA
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; ganderson1963@gmail.com
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.

Outings organizers have a webpage for the latest outings updates at: http://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/

[2] Jul 2. 7:30 pm. Chasing Ice Showing
The Southwind Group is partnering with Occupy Wichita and Kansas Climate Action on Tuesday, July 2nd to show the documentary film “Chasing Ice” at 7:30 p.m. located at 508 S. Commerce St. the Go Away Garage Gallery in Wichita. Kid-care is available – bring a dish to share. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Jul 10. 5:00 pm. Resist the Americans For Prosperity Agenda Protests
Kansas Chapter endorses the protest action to “Resist the Americans For Prosperity Agenda,” in particular, as climate deniers which is being held on July 10, 2013 at 5 p.m. For more info call 1-800-232-5273 facebook.com/AFTKansasworkingkansans.com. Corners of SW 24th and Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS (Americans For Prosperity Topeka office) and Wichita - 151 Whittier, Wichita, KS (Americans For Prosperity Wichita office). Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group is partnering with the Kansas Climate Action on a public forum that will be a presentation of the Eisenhower Presidential Library’s ongoing Town Hall series in Abilene, Kansas. These meetings are a partnership between the library and the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy at K-State. A town hall meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, 200 S.E. 4th Street, Abilene, KS. There will be a showing of the documentary film, “Chasing Ice,” followed by a panel discussion focusing on climate change. Confirmed panelists so far are Dr. Chuck Rice, Professor, Soil Microbiology, Kansas State University, Dr. Johannes Feddema, Professor, Geography Department, University of Kansas and Rep. Dennis Hedke (R-Wichita). The Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association has been invited to send a panelist. Directions to the Eisenhower Presidential Library can be found at http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/visit_us/directions.html. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Build our Energy project is being coordinated by Bold Nebraska to construct wind turbines and solar powered barns in the path of the Keystone XL pipeline. Lori Lawrence and Helen Woerner, co-founders of Kansas Climate Action, are leading the effort to travel to York or O’Neall, Nebraska the first weekend in August. Plans are to arrive Friday and leave Monday to come home. Sign up with Bold Nebraska at http://boldnebraska.org/summer-heat. Also check out the Kansas Climate Action facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/#!/KansasClimateAction to see all the latest plans and news from the state of Kansas on climate action. York or O’Neall, Nebraska. Southwind. Lori Lawrence, (316) 688-1484, lawrencelorid@gmail.com or Helen Woerner, edwoerner@hotmail.com

[1] Sept 28. 11 am - 6 pm. Concert For The Climate
A free, musically informative event focused on exploring the global impact of climate change and the steps each individual can take to reduce their impact on the earth. Keynote speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Special Guest Bill McKibben will discuss steps we must take to fight climate change. McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. Musical performances that carry the message by like-minded local and regional artists
Workshops on simple changes that families can take right now to begin their journey to reduce their impact on global climate change, including energy related demonstrations on solar energy, home energy retrofits, and other practical solutions. Latest info at www.ConcertForTheClimate.org. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Committee Meetings

Kanza Group
(Kansas City)

Executive Committee
Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 26 - 7:00 pm
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Joint Action Committee
Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 26 - 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
Jul 7, Aug 4 - No Mtg. Sep 1 - Mtg
Location: Bolt Residence
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, giananderson1963@gmail.com

Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, Jul 13 by Tele Conf
Yvonne Cather, (316)522-4741, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932 - 4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org
Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 21. Outings page 22, and Committee Meetings page 23. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

GM. Jul 2. 7:30 pm. Chasing Ice Showing. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/2/2013

CM. Jul 7. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/7/2013

GM. Jul 9. 6:30 pm. A Photographic Trip to Glacier, Yellowstone & Teton National Parks. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/9/2013

Out. Jul 10. 5:00 pm. Resist the Americans For Prosperity Agenda Protests. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/10/2013

GM. Jul 12. 6:30 pm. General Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/12/2013

Out. Jul 13. 2:00 pm. Abilene Town Hall Series – Chasing Ice Showing & Public Forum. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/10/2013

CM. July 13. 9 am. Chapter ExCom Meeting. Chapter. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org. 7/13/2013

GM. Jul 23. 7:00 pm. Animal Factories, Latest Poster Child for a Dumb Technology. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com. 7/23/2013

CM. Aug 4. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 8/4/2013

GM. Aug 9. 6:30 pm. General Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 8/9/2013

GM. Aug 13. 6:30 pm. The Impacts of Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Weapons. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org. 8/13/2013

CM. Aug 22. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org. 8/22/2013

GM. Aug 27. 7:00 pm. Environmental History. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com. 8/27/2013

CM. Sep 1. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 9/1/2013

GM. Sep 10. 6:30 pm. How to Garden in Winter. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org. 9/10/2013

GM. Sep 13. 6:30 pm. Solar Power. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org. 9/13/2013

GM. Sep 24. 7:00 pm. TBA. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com. 9/24/2013

CM. Sep 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org. 9/26/2013