Topeka, Kan. – In a decision that will protect public health and ratepayers, the Kansas Supreme Court has invalidated the air pollution permit granted to Sunflower Electric Power Corp. by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in 2010. The permit must be reconsidered by KDHE, and all current air pollution regulations must be applied. With new standards in effect since the project was first proposed, the outlook for this unneeded coal-fired utility plant is dim.

“The proposed Holcomb coal plant is now a fading mirage on the plains,” said Holly Bender, Deputy Director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign. “As states embrace renewable energy and utilities are locking in contracts for clean energy at record low prices, there just isn’t a need for the dirty, expensive energy that Sunflower Electric is looking to sell.”

The proposed coal plant in Garden City, KS, also known as Holcomb II, was the most intensely contested coal plant in Kansas history, as well as one of the most controversial permits ever considered by KDHE. If built, the new plant would release millions of tons of toxic pollution into the atmosphere, including mercury, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, and particulate matter.

The power it was expected to generate would belong to Colorado-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. According to Tri-State’s recent resource plan, on file with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, it has no current need for electricity from the new plant until 2027, making the plant an unnecessary and a risky investment.

Sunflower Electric, which would manage and operate the plant, still owes the federal government hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayer-supported loans taken out to build the existing coal plant at Holcomb Station. Allowing Sunflower to build yet another coal plant it doesn’t need and can’t afford is likely to put existing taxpayer support at even greater risk.

See Supreme Court on page 8
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GOING, GOING... GONE?

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

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

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Fall - 2013
Concert for the Climate: Inspiring... and Wet

By Craig Wolfe, Chapter Communications Director

By all predictions, the Concert for the Climate was heading towards being one of the most important events in the fight against climate change in the Midwest. Then along came Mother Nature. You would think she would behave in her own best interests, but that proved to not be the case.

The morning and early afternoon of September 28 were rainy, drizzly, and cold. But that didn’t stop the true believers, the seekers who wanted to hear the words of two of our great fighters for a clean, renewable energy future.

Bill McKibben, well known author and journalist among environmentalists, was his usual effective self. He was personable, honest, and clear. McKibben was in town for a book signing the night before at Unity on the Plaza of his book Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist. Ever the activist, he made room in his jetting schedule to speak at the Concert for the Climate before heading off to Wichita for another event that Saturday night.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. who spoke for nearly an hour, had his examples, anecdotes, and consequences lined up neatly and clearly... reciting them without notes. His logic was unshakable. His emotional context was inspiring. He was the consummate advocate for reason and sanity as he laid out what we must do now to avoid the unthinkable.

If only McKibben and Kennedy were talking to 3,000 rather than 300. But, our event still won considerable victories in the David and Goliath battle against climate change. In the Kansas City area, there were over 40 TV and radio segments, articles and interviews about and with the Concert speakers. Kennedy held court at a special Friday night pre-event hosted by t2 Studios in the Crossroads with political and business leaders to explore the topic of renewable energy and climate change. The issue of climate change made the news in a way that hadn’t happened before in the Midwest. Chaulk up one for climate change fighters.

Climate change is one of those topics of social and political change that requires reaching a tipping point. Like racial equality or women’s rights, we need to hear the discussion over and over again. Finally, the planet will stop its denying, objecting, and falsifying reality. We will come closer and closer to our goal. With most social battles, I think we know that it is just a matter of time, be it decades or centuries, until our social and spiritual evolution wins the day.

See Concert (with photos) on page 14
Gov to Farmers: Save water... so I can bring in a couple million more hogs!

By Craig Volland, Kansas Chapter Agriculture Chair

The Aquifer is drying up. The depletion of the High Plains Aquifer has been much in the news lately. A recent study by Kansas State University showed that some 30% of the western Kansas portion of the High Plains Aquifer, also referred to as the Ogallala Aquifer, has already been pumped out, and another 39% will be depleted over the next 50 years at current rates. Saving water and extending the life of the aquifer has been one of Gov. Brownback's major themes, and the legislature has passed laws toward this end. But what do the Governor and his point man, Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman, also have in mind?

Bring in the Animal Factories! In an August 9, 2013, article by Tim Carpenter of the Topeka Capitol-Journal, Governor Brownback said he wants farmers to switch to hot weather crops like milo and cotton that require less irrigation. Then he wants to expand the livestock industry, “transferring water consumption to animals and away from corn. We want to get as much economic value out of it (as we can) if we’re going to mine the resource.”

That’s standard economic theory on maximizing return. You know, the kind of thinking that ignores externalities like pollution, health costs and loss of property value, and that crashes the economy every decade or so.

What stands in his way? The citizens of western Kansas. They’ve heard this kind of thing before. A Kansas law on corporate farming gives counties the option to keep out corporate-owned hog factories and dairies. In the late 1990’s eighteen counties voted to do so with respect to hogs. That’s what Secretary Rodman was referring to in the July 18, 2012, Greeley County Republican when he said, “This is an issue we have to quit fighting. The place to feed the world is here.”

He was attending an appreciation lunch and tour of Seaboard Food’s new Ladder Creek hog feeding complex touting a capacity of 132,000 mature hogs or 264,000 “nursery” pigs. The complex, the largest in Kansas, features 10 wastewater impoundments from 8 to 11 acres each in size. Seaboard recently filed plans to increase the capacity of the Ladder Creek complex by 50%. Mr. Rodman visited the site before it was stocked with hogs.

Assault on the Kansas Corporate Farming Law. So in the 2013 legislature, Mr. Rodman introduced a bill to change the corporate farming law, which, according to the Kansas Farmers Union, has been in place for 80 years and has served the state well. At the committee hearing he failed to mention that the bill would take away the county option to keep out corporate hog factories. But opponents, including the Sierra Club, Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Rural Center, did point out that little detail. That got the committee’s attention, and the bill was placed on hold for further study. The Governor will be not easily give up, though.

Assessing the Governor’s Vision. So, aside from taking Gov to Farmers, continued from page 6
KDHE Fails to Enforce Odor Control Provision on Massive Hog Operation.

By Craig Volland, Kansas Chapter Agriculture Chair

Seaboard Food Inc’s. Ladder Creek hog feeding operation in northeast Greeley County is the largest in Kansas and one of the largest in the United States. Its current capacity is 132,000 mature hogs. In order to limit the odor potential of this massive facility, Seaboard’s permit contains a condition that the ten waste impoundments, also called lagoons, must be filled to a level of 10 feet to allow mixing of clean water with the hog manure to facilitate treatment.

The first barns were stocked on July 17, 2012 and the Kansas Chapter filed a complaint on August 22, 2013 noting that water levels in 3 of the first 5 impoundments to be placed into operation were still significantly below the 10-foot standard for odor control.

Relying on incomplete calculations provided by Seaboard, and without checking current hog stocking levels, KDHE responded by granting Seaboard an exception to the permit condition, cutting the requirement to a little as 5 & 1/2 feet of depth.

“The permit contains no language allowing such an exception,” says attorney Robert V. Eye, former General Counsel of KDHE. The 10 foot standard is unequivocal and should be enforced as written.”

KDHE claims they inadvertently left off qualifying language in the original permit. However, Seaboard had every opportunity to challenge the 10-foot standard during the original public comment period, and they did not. No qualifying language was included in another Seaboard permit issued just six months earlier.

“When KDHE accepted the calculations as provided by Seaboard, they not only did not follow KDHE’s own design manual, they did not adhere to ASABE engineering standards for design of anaerobic treatment lagoons,” says Kathy J. Martin, a professional engineer from Oklahoma who specializes in evaluating waste management systems of large animal feeding operations. “The ASABE standard clearly requires a treatment depth that includes space attributable to the manure volume and sludge buildup, which were ignored in Seaboard’s calculation.”

Seaboard plans to expand the Ladder Creek operation in this water-short area to almost 200,000 hogs next year.

“Water depth in lagoons may seem like a minor issue to some,” says Craig Volland, Chair of the Chapter’s Agriculture Committee, “but KDHE’s handling of this should cause concern for all Kansans. If some big corporation brings thousands of hogs into your county, your quality of life will not be protected.”

More details, including links to photos of the Ladder Creek operation and aquifer maps, are available at www.Kansas.SierraClub.org/LadderCreek/
Gov to Farmers, continued from page 4

away citizens’ right to protect their quality of life, what else is wrong with this picture? The concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) model for hogs is to cram as many animals as you can into some buildings and sluice the high-strength manure into massive impoundments, called lagoons. Cattle feedlots are out in the open, but still require impoundments to contain precipitation runoff. After the waste putrefies in the absence of air for some months the operator sprays it over fields to grow crops.

Both the Governor and Rodman think that semi-arid and thinly populated western Kansas is an ideal place for animal factories. After years of combing through hog CAFO permit files at KDHE I have found quite a different picture (my friends tell me I should get a life).

The Reality. We now have lengthy experience with Seaboard Food’s massive complex of hog factories that were put in place from 1995 to 2001. The capacity of Seaboard’s system in Kansas is about 1.5 million head at any point in time with a turnover of about 2 times per year. They have numerous other operations just over the border in the Oklahoma panhandle and a huge slaughterhouse in Guymon.

There are serious problems with raising animals in close confinement in a semi-arid region subject to drought and heat waves that will only get worse with climate change. USDA scientists and others warn that the hotter it gets the less efficient will become the production of animals, and that the hotter summers will reduce production more than warming winters will help. Kansas’s important beef industry will get hit as well. Pity the poor cows standing in 110 degree F. heat in July without shade. Operators can help by spraying, uh, lots of water to keep the animals cooler and to keep the dust down.

Hot weather doesn’t do much for the manure disposal model either. Due to persistent drought and very high evaporation rates, Seaboard has given up spraying wastewater onto fields at many of its sites for the time being. The salinity of the wastewater in some lagoons is now in the range of seawater.

This wastewater can still be used on crops, but it must be diluted with huge amounts of, oops, irrigation water. At one of their large breeding complexes Seaboard gave up on wastewater application and built an evaporation pond to hold the waste indefinitely. It’s no coincidence that this site is on the edge of the aquifer with minimal irrigation supplies. KDHE has never specified what can be done with this nasty material after 25 years of baking in the sun. Evaporation ponds have been built at other sites as well.

Soil tests at many wastewater application fields show a buildup of residual nitrogen that prevents the addition of more wastewater. Apparently this is the result of the poor quality of the effluent, poor growing conditions, and insufficient use of clean irrigation water. The only practical way to retrieve these fields is to plant corn, which is hungry for nitrogen, and then apply a bunch of clean water. Say, isn’t that what the Governor wants to avoid?

The soil pollution would be even worse if it were not for the fact that over 80% of the nitrogen in the waste is emitted to the atmosphere as ammonia which causes environmental damage hundreds of miles downwind. These emissions are not currently regulated under the Clean Air Act though a coalition of environmental groups has submitted to EPA a petition to eliminate this loophole.

Who Wins and Who Loses with CAFOs? Seaboard Foods wins, especially executives in their cushy suites in a Kansas City suburb or Smithfield executives in Virginia or their new owners in China. The Governor will tout the new investment he brought into the state. He will try to tout the jobs, but the massive complex Seaboard built in Greeley County has so far earned the area a grand total 14 permanent jobs. His figures will, of course, not include the losses to hundreds of family farms that could be raising hogs the right way.

The people who sell their land and water rights to Seaboard or Smithfield will make out, but the neighbors get thrown under the bus. The only protection the neighbors have from the flies, odors and other noxious gases is the statutory separation distance of 5000 feet between the hog CAFO and their home. But that distance is the same whether the site holds 9400 hogs or the soon-to-be 200,000 hogs at Seaboard Ladder Creek. If you work in fields adjacent to the hogs you get the full force of the nuisance without recourse. As is currently the case in Greeley County inadequate water supply will make the odor worse.

The host county may collect some taxes, but they have to build and maintain roads to accommodate the heavy trucks that deliver feed and animals to stock the site and that return later to pick up the 280-pound hogs for their long ride to slaughter. Then there’s the almost daily traffic of rendering trucks that pick up the large number of animals who die in these operations.

Environmental Injustice. You’ve probably heard about injustice to low income people who live near industrial polluters in big cities. EPA even has a program for it. We are focusing here on the rural counterpart to environmental injustice that gets little notice from regulators or from the news media. Big Ag, “Feed-the-world” proponents may say that residents of western Kansas aren’t complaining that much. That’s probably true at this point, and my review of those permit files tells us why.

Here’s how it works. A neighbor calls KDHE and complains about the stink. KDHE dutifully makes out a complaint form, and a technician shows up in a day or two after the wind has shifted. He will report that the odor is not that bad, or that the odor is no worse than at the site he visited the previous week. He may call the operator who says he was spraying wastewater a couple days ago. KDHE personnel almost never go into the barns to check the sanitary conditions due to “biosecurity” concerns, or check how often the pits under the animals are flushed (in water-short areas, it
The Sunflowers Are Still A-Bloomin’!

Fieldnotes from the DD…

By Bob Sommer, Kansas Chapter Director of Development

Wow!

What a response! When the Kansas Chapter needed volunteers to support its “Where have all the sunflowers gone?” campaign at the end of the summer, I put out a call for help and a whole bunch of hands sprouted like a field of blooming sunflowers.

To get the snail-mail ready, a herd of Priuses grazed in my driveway and street on a hot August night while inside we folded letters and stuffed envelopes at the kitchen table. Lots of good conversation and refreshments—and not a single paper cut!

Meanwhile, a call for volunteers to phonebank netted thirty (yes, 3-0!) responses from members all over the state willing to make calls on behalf of the Chapter. While some folks had conflicts with the call dates, we finally had seventeen people reach out and touch Sierra Club members in Kansas. In addition, some volunteers also participated in training before they dialed a single number.

Thank you, phonebank volunteers! Gary Anderson, Jennifer Ashby, Carol Barta, Yvonne Cather, Andrea Cavalar, Yairy Duin, Renee Eberle, Mary Helen Korbelik, Craig Lubow, Cheryl Mayo, Mike Miller, Carol Mohling, Ian Munro, Zack Pistora, Paul Post, Ann Suelentrop, Helen Woerner.

Your Kansas Sierra Club Chapter is grateful to all who participated!

This is how we roll—members reaching out to members, getting to know each other at the kitchen table and on training calls, visiting by phone with Sierrans who may not hear from another Sierra Club member all year long. Biggest treat for me—those thank-you emails I received from volunteers who appreciated the opportunity to do something for the environment. So many of us want to do our part! I was amazed at what happened just for asking!

Wow!

Make it easy on yourself—and help the Kansas Chapter, too!

Here’s an easy way to contribute to the Kansas Chapter and help create a predictable income flow to support our many activities and efforts:

Consider setting up a regular donation at the Chapter’s website (kansas.sierraclub.org). Click the DONATE button and then click SUSTAINING DONATION to establish a monthly, quarterly, or annual contribution. It’s easy! And 100 percent of your dollars stay right here in Kansas, supporting your Sierra Club Chapter.

Remember, if you think Kansas has environmental challenges now, imagine the Sunflower State without a vibrant Sierra Club Chapter. Would there even be any sunflowers?

“Field Notes from the DD…” is a regular feature of Planet Kansas. To reach Bob, email bob.sommer@kansas.sierraclub.org or call 816-898-1100.

Gov to Farmers, continued from page 6

can be two weeks). The technician checks a box on the form and goes home.

Nothing is ever done because Kansas has no analytical standard for odor or flies, and even if they did, it would be prohibitive to regularly measure it. So the neighbors are stuck, and they know it.

Pretty soon they give up, and get by as best they can.

The nuisance is inherent in the intensive confinement of large numbers of hogs, and regulators have accommodated this bizarre technology in favor of the producers. Actually, if the Governor gets his way with the corporate farming law, there’s nothing to stop some big meat corporation from setting up shop in central or eastern Kansas. I’d hate to be in a legislator’s shoes when Seaboard or Smithfield comes in with a proposal to fill his district with hogs, and then his constituents find out that their right to vote has been taken away.

A Solution. So, Mr. Rodman, if you want the people of western Kansas to “quit fighting” hog factories and other CAFOs, I have an idea for you. Why don’t you and your associates buy their homes and fields, so they can move to Topeka and become politicians and bureaucrats. Then you guys can sit on your investment while western Kansas gradually becomes a vast wasteland.
Chapter Member Receives National Award!

Chapter Excom member and KCK community activist, Richard Mabion, received a Special Achievement Award from the National Sierra Club on September 21 in San Francisco. Richard organized the Kansas Chapter’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program in Wyandotte County. His work was part of a comprehensive program that facilitated our recent settlement with the Bureau of Public Utilities to stop burning coal at the two Quindaro power plants and to spend some $3/4 million on energy conservation over the next five years. See the companion article that describes some of Richard’s recent work.

Supreme Court, continued from Cover

“This ruling calms the fears of many Coloradans who are concerned about Tri-State’s coal investments and the direct impact the investments will have on Colorado ratepayers,” said Nellis Kennedy-Howard, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign Representative in Colorado. “Tri-State’s commitment to expanding its coal resources is at odds with the cost-effective clean energy solutions that currently exist in Colorado and beyond.”

“This is a good day for everyone in Kansas who breathes,” said Amanda Goodin, the Earthjustice lawyer who represented the Kansas chapter of the Sierra Club. “The Kansas Supreme Court saw through Sunflower’s smoke screen and clearly agreed that Kansans deserve clean air. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has the responsibility to meet that goal for the state. The permit for this dirty coal plant would have allowed tons of unnecessary and harmful pollution to be dumped into the air, putting Kansans on the hook for respiratory and other health problems. The Supreme Court decision puts the brakes on this dinosaur of a project, and sends a clear message to Sunflower that they’re not going to get away with playing fast and loose with the law.”

In a separate lawsuit, a federal court in Washington, D.C., held that the U.S. government violated the law by allowing Sunflower to proceed with this financially risky plant without first examining its environmental effects and alternative actions.

Kansas is already making important strides to develop clean energy like wind. More than 51,000 megawatts of wind power are online across the country, with more than 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.

“The proposed Holcomb coal plant is now a fading mirage on the plains,” said Holly Bender, Deputy Director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign.

“The proposed Holcomb coal plant is now a fading mirage on the plains,” said Holly Bender, Deputy Director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign.

Kansas can lead the way nationally on clean energy,” said Craig Volland, Air Quality Chair of the Kansas Chapter. “Wind turbines don’t require Kansas water. Solar panels don’t require burning millions of tons of coal purchased from Wyoming and the dangerous air pollution that goes with that. It’s time for Kansas electric utilities to invest in Kansas’ future and commit to clean energy jobs and investment, rather than investing in a dirty, expensive relic of the past like coal.”

Fall - 2013
Sierra Club’s Energy Savings Program Continues to Aid Residents and Small Businesses in WYCO

Last Fall the Sierra Club’s innovative, grass-roots energy conservation program helped a barber shop and home-based day-care save on electric bills and increase the comfort level of their clients. Our program is mainly directed at residences, but we had found that small businesses fall through the cracks in the state and federal low-income weatherization program.

The project arose from a Sierra Club grant to J. Gordon Community Development, Inc. to educate & assist inner city residents who are typically on the front lines of pollution from old power plants. Since the government programs had a long waiting list, we decided to pick the low-hanging fruit ourselves by replacing hugely inefficient incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Bulbs and performing simple weatherization steps, like sealing windows and doors. CFLs use only 25% as much electricity as incandescent lights.

We are still at it. This winter and spring we not only worked on 47 residences, but also three more small, minority businesses. The program is led by community activist, Richard Mabion, who is assisted by his handyman, Ernest Tolon.

The photos (link to photos) show our work at a popular local restaurant, a hair salon and at another home-based childcare. At M’s R’s Soul Food Cafe on Quindaro Blvd, Ernest fixed broken fixtures and replaced the old incandescent bulbs. “It really brightened up the place for our customers, and I’m looking forward to lower electricity bills,” said Ruth Scover. At the Infinity Hair Solon, operators were getting eye-strain while cutting their customers’ hair. Ernest fixed the inoperative ceiling fan and replaced all the hot bulbs with cool CFLs. “The improved lighting literally invites our customer’s into the place,” said TeMishca Dunlap, shop owner.

At Tamika Pledger’s home daycare (Pledger’s Care), Ernest replaced all the old bulbs, and then noticed that the windows were leaky. That could be a problem for the kids in the winter. So he and Richard found some recycled storm windows and tightened the place up. “Thanks so much to J. Gordon Community Development and the Sierra Club,” said Tamika, “it’s a much more comfortable environment for the kids and saves me money as well. Based on what I learned I will continue to make energy saving improvements.” Tamika is also a community activist seeking justice for inner city youth who face daunting obstacles in growing up safely in the inner city.

For more information on the Sierra Club’s EE&C program for Wyandotte County contact Richard Mabion at 913-481-9920 or email rmabion@sb-cglobal.net. Richard is also an elected member of the Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club Executive Committee.
Sierra Club Awards
Grant to Topeka Educator

The Sierra Club Kansas Chapter has announced this year’s recipients of the Sierra Club Environmental Grants for Kansas Primary and Secondary Educators. Scott Schwarz, a high school teacher at Hope Street Academy in Topeka, is one of seven educators to receive a grant. He teaches Environmental Science, Health, Human Anatomy, and Biology.

In Scott’s Environmental Science class, students participate in designing a model wind turbine for the KidWind competition at Kansas State University. Once they determine a winning design in class, they enter that design in an annual competition against other schools. Scott’s class has won the competition for the past three years.

“The basis of my educational teaching,” Scott said, “is to teach as much hands-on as possible and to show how science is used in the real world.”

The Topeka Group is looking forward to hearing from Scott and some of his students following the 2014 competition.

Two Sierrans Make a Trip to Bold Nebraska’s Barn Build

By By Lori Lawrence

Helen Woerner (Lyndon) and Lori Lawrence (Wichita) trekked to York, Nebraska the weekend of September 21st to help build the barn in the path of the Keystone XL pipeline. By the end of the weekend we helped finish building the wooden barn and installing both a wind turbine out front (in gale-force winds that had it pumping away immediately!) and solar panels on the south-facing roof. These renewables are feeding back into the Nebraska grid which is something Keystone XL will never do.

Jane Kleeb is the director of Bold Nebraska and spoke eloquently to the crowd of about 100 people from the front porch of the barn on Sunday the 22nd before we all took off to our respective homes in Nebraska, Texas, Kansas, Colorado and we don’t know where else. It was a glorious weekend and the barn is community built and will stand proudly until TransCanada tears it down to build their pipeline.

Picture caption: Bill Cutler, Topeka ExCom Treasurer, presents a Kansas Sierra Club Educational Grant to Hope Street Academy teacher Scott Schwarz.

Picture caption: Stop the pipeline. The rise against Keystone XL.
Tune Into KKFI Radio for Environmental News

By Craig Lubow, Kanza Group Chair

KKFI, the community radio station in Kansas City, has a weekly environmental radio show. The show airs every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on 90.1 FM. For Sierra Club members outside of the Kansas City area, you may listen to the live web stream at www.KKFI.org. Three of the five hosts are Sierra Club leaders and include Craig Lubow, Richard Mabion, and Elaine Giessel. We cover a wide range of local and environmental issues. Other Sierra Club members have been frequent guests, including Craig Volland, Craig Wolfe, and Joe Spease. We take calls from listeners some weeks.

If you have an environmental issue that you would like covered by us and would like to suggest a guest for the topic, send me an email at alanskoalas@yahoo.com.

KKFI is the only radio station in the region with a weekly show dedicated solely to the environment. Please listen to it and support it.

Kansas Chapter Strengthens Digital Presence with New Website

Over the past few months the Kansas Chapter’s Communication Committee has been working on a complete revamp of our website. The new website will give Sierra Club members and supporters the ability to easily keep up-to-date on the latest Environmental news that affects our state through the new digital Planet Kansas News portal. The News portal will be updated as quickly as the news happens and will now allow you to drill down into every article that has appeared in the Planet Kansas Newsletter since 2005 to see a categorized historical view of issue updates.

You can be sure that you don’t miss a beat. Visitors to our new site will also garner the ability to easily navigate to and participate in not only the Kansas Sierra Club’s latest calls to action, but also the outings and social events that bring us all together. Wondering what projects that we’re leading across Kansas? Have no fear, there is also a new Projects section that highlights what volunteers like you are working on day-to-day. In the next few weeks, you will be able to check out these powerful new features and more on our revamped website at Kansas.SierraClub.org.
Can “Free Range” Be Sustainable?

Eating as Though the Earth Matters Column

By Judy Carman

I was driving down Highway 5 in California when the smell hit me. It was somewhere near Coalinga. The suffocating odor hits first, sifting past closed car windows—and then the sight of it all comes into view—thousands of cows crammed together in strings of feed lots being fed antibiotic and pesticide laden, genetically modified “food.” The smell is nearly unbearable, even though I am a good thousand feet away from the cows forced to wade through layers of wet feces while the acrid ammonia burns into their lungs—a horrifying, undeserved purgatory that precedes the hell of the slaughterhouse. There is nothing left of nature here—no trickling streams, no clean air, no trees, no flowers or butterflies.

Growing up in the 1950’s, I remember well the stench of the Kansas City stockyards. If you’re too young to remember, you might be astonished to learn that people actually ate at the Golden Ox restaurant which was located in the stockyards—right there beside the awful smell and the cows waiting to be killed.

City stockyards disappeared eventually. Instead factory farms began cropping up in more rural locations and getting bigger—and bigger. Environmentalists and animal protection activists began to document what was happening to the animals, the earth, indigenous peoples, forests, and water sources and reveal the facts to the public.

As a result the menace of factory farming (also known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations CAFO’s) has become fairly well known among caring people. Big Ag’s enormous and disastrously destructive footprints all over the planet have not escaped our notice.

In recent years, there have been three major shifts in eating habits as people have become more and more horrified at the environmental devastation and cruelty caused by factory farms. Some have adopted a completely plant-based, vegan diet in order to reduce their personal impact on the earth and animals for pasture and feed. Any plan to give more space to all farmed animals would accelerate that destruction.

How many more wolves and other wild animals and birds would lose habitat and lives to the huge demand for pasture land? A 2002 USDA estimate stated that over a billion acres is already being used for pasture, range, and cropland. How many more acres would be degraded by animals who cannot range freely as they would in the wild because they would still be confined by fences. Free range isn’t free. The cost to all of us, the earth, the poor, and the animals is way too high.

We are all concerned about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). Several estimates I found state that 93% of soy, 88% of corn, and 95% of sugar beets are now genetically modified in the U.S. Most of this GMO stuff is fed to animals that people eat. GMO alfalfa, used to feed dairy cows, was recently given the green light in the U.S. What is this doing to the animals people eat; what is this doing to people who are eating it directly as corn, etc. or indirectly in the bodies of animals? And what is it doing to all those who are working hard to keep their organic crops safe from contamination?

If we actually thought we could continue to eat the amount of meat currently being eaten by consuming only free range animals, where would the animals graze—on land formerly poisoned by GMOs, and how would the patent holders of GMO seeds react to such an intrusion on their profits?

Here in the U.S. and around the world, we have travelled down a dead end road. Passing feed lots, smelling death, and counting corpses along that road, we now have to make some quick decisions as individuals and as a species. As our hu-
man population continues to rise and one billion people still continue to starve, we have some life changing and lifesaving choices to make.

Clearly, the math alone tells us—eating free range animals is not sustainable—for the poor, for the earth, for us, and certainly not for the animals—the free ones and the ones who are confined. There is simply no way to raise the number of animals people currently eat and use for dairy and eggs, in a way that allows each one “free range.” If one chooses to locate and personally inspect a truly free range farm where the animals are not fed GMOs and antibiotics, what has been gained? That one person and his or her family may be ingesting slightly less toxic meat, eggs, and dairy, but we certainly cannot say that person is contributing to sustainable eating practices or to mercy for the animals, because animal agriculture, no matter how it is practiced, is not sustainable and is one of the primary contributors to water and air pollution, deforestation, desertification, resource depletion, poverty, loss of wildlife, loss of the beauty and serenity of nature, wars, and world hunger.

So should we just leave all farmed animals in the deplorable conditions of factory farms so that they will take up less space? Of course not. The environmental destruction and massive cruelty caused already by these monstrous factories is a crisis which we must address swiftly and firmly.

As HumaneMyth.org puts it, “If we wish to preserve our environment, avoid endless wars over energy and water, and if we do not wish to obtain our prosperity at the expense of the exploitation of others, if we wish to do right by those of future generations, the time has come to re-evaluate the role animal-agriculture plays not just in our own personal lives, but as a root cause of a number of planetary ills…”

“‘Humane’ animal products are being sold to us as a means of doing something good while being able to continue living the same lifestyle that has brought our planet to the edge of ecological disaster. While they may provide pleasure to our palate and a salve for our conscience, these products simply do not solve any of the problems that need to be addressed by our species if we are to live on this planet in a just and sustainable manner.”

I always like to end with good news, and even considering all this, there really is good news. We can back out of this dead end road. We can bring a gradual end to the cruel and unsustainable practice of animal agriculture, stop relentlessly breeding the animals, and learn the lovely, life-affirming art of plant-based eating. Oppenlander estimates that 2 to 3 acres of land can produce from 5,000 to 60,000 pounds of fruit, grain, and vegetable combinations; whereas the same acreage can only produce 160 to 240 pounds of meat. Now that’s math we like to see. It is literally possible to feed the world and drastically reduce the amount of land used for agriculture. We can each choose life and healing on a global scale by making this important choice.

From TheDailyGreen.com comes this lovely Split Pea Soup recipe:

“This is perfect comfort food with a cooking time that offers a good excuse to relax with friends. To boot, it’s filling, packed with protein, brimming with fiber, low in calories and fat, and freezes well.”

**SERVINGS**
4 to 6

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cups (450 g) green split peas
- 6 to 7 cups (1410 to 1645 ml) water or vegetable stock
- 1 medium-size yellow onion, diced
- 2 creamy yellow potatoes (such as Yukon gold or fingerlings), diced
- 2 or 3 garlic cloves, pressed or minced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon liquid smoke, optional
- Salt and pepper, to taste

**DIRECTIONS**
Rinse split peas, checking for any impurities, such as stones or residue. Place all ingredients except salt and pepper in a soup pot, and bring to a simmer. Cover loosely and cook until peas are tender, 1 hour or longer. Check occasionally to make sure water has not completely evaporated. Heat should be low-medium.

The resulting soup should be thick and creamy, with the split peas quite broken down and mushy. Add salt and pepper to taste, and serve hot.

**SERVING SUGGESTIONS AND VARIATIONS**
For creamier soup, puree in a food processor or blender. This is also a great soup for a slow cooker; add all ingredients, and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.

**COMPASSIONATE COOKS’ TIP**
The liquid smoke (found near the barbecue sauce in your local grocery store) takes the place of the ham (!) that people have been known to add to their soup. Because it’s the smoky and salty flavor that we desire (not pig!), the liquid smoke does the job perfectly! (Yes, I needed to use that many exclamation points.)

*Excerpted from The Vegan Table by Colleen Patrick-Goudreau.*
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© 2013, 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 and peacetoallbeings.com.
But climate change is different. The final arbiter is not our social behavior or our agreed upon laws. The final judge is impartial and sometimes cruel. That judge is simply the laws of Nature and physics. No debate, filibuster, or lie will convince an alternate interpretation of these laws.

So, what should we do? In a quiet conversation with Bill McKibben before the event started, I asked, “How optimistic are you that we will change hearts and minds in time?” McKibben did not miss a beat. His answer was at the ready, probably because he had asked himself that same question. Paraphrasing, he said, “I don’t think about it. I know what I have to do. I will do everything I can as best as I can figure out how to do it.”

The fight against climate change is a big fight. If we lose, it will prove to be bigger that any war we have fought on the planet. But unlike World War II when Pearl Harbor rudely got our attention, we have no bombs to wake us up this time, but wake up we must.

I think it is up to each of us to train our reactions. Climate change consequences seem so far away. Yet it threatens those we want the very best for... our children and their children. If someone started to grab your kid in the store, your reaction would be quick and decisive.

But when someone asks for us to sign a petition to stop the Keystone Pipeline, or attend a meeting to see what actions we must take, or have a serious discussion with an uninformed neighbor, we hesitate... we hesitate to take those actions that must be taken to insure our kids have a safe and prosperous future.

I wrote a song called *Book of the Heart*. The chorus goes, “Only you can say, ‘I’ll change it.’ No one else to arrange it.” Change we must. And, so far, we are not changing fast enough.

Craig Wolfe is the Communications Chair of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, President of the Heartland Renewable Energy Society, and singer/songwriter in the musical group Soular.
Electric and Alt Fuel vehicles were on display.

Enviro groups and businesses talked a plenty, despite the inclement weather.

Craig Wolfe and his Soular Group provided music about climate change and the heart.

Stan Slaughter and his Green Spirit Band had lots to say about the environment.

Third Party from Joplin rocked us to the end of the day.

Lewis and Clark points up the Missouri River.

The brave crowd listened intently to Kennedy and McKibben, despite the rain.

The melodic and thoughtful music of Missouri Woodland provided great imagery.

The crowd expressed its appreciation of a great effort to fight climate change.
Chapter & Group Leaders

Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Chapter Executive Committee
Officers, Committee Chairs

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

Yvonne Cather*, Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
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Scott Smith***, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Stuart Bolt*, ExCom Member, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
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Gary Anderson****, PAC Treasurer, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@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) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Wolfe, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Coordinator (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

(Kanza con’t)
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Mike Kozisek*, Secretary, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com
Mike Miller*, Conservation Co-Chair, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com
Sarita Singh**, ExCom Member, (913)563-4437, sarita888@hotmail.com
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Richard Voss**, Craig Wolfe*, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

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Helen Woerner**, ExCom Member, (785) 250-4104, woernerhelen1@gmail.com
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

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Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

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

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Craig Lubow*, Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
General Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
November 12. 6:45 pm
Sierra Club 101 New Member Fair
6:45 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:15 pm - A special meeting with a special format. Find out everything you want to know about the most effective environmental grass roots organization, the Sierra Club. How does your Sierra Club work… our issues, our outings. What happens in the background? What are we involved in and why? What do YOU want us involved in?
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 (Wichita)
December. No General Meeting. See Holiday Dinner below

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
December 7. 6:30 pm.
3rd Annual Winter Solstice Family Celebration
6:30 pm - Join the Kanza Group for a potluck dinner and seasonal celebration with live music from the Green Spirit Band. After dinner, for the kids (adults too), Elaine Giessel will do a reptiles and amphibians program from Ernie Miller Nature Center. 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

Southwind (Wichita)
October 22. 11:30-1:00 pm
Hydraulic Fracking—Pros & Cons (special event)
This will be a lively discussion with pro-fracking speaker, Ed Cross, president of the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association and opposing speaker, Dave Kirkbride, Communications Chair for the Southwind Group of the Sierra Club. Sponsored by the Wichita Public Library and the League of Women Voters. Bring a brown bag lunch, drinks furnished.
Where - Central Branch of the Wichita Public Library, 3rd floor Main & William Streets.
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind (Wichita)
November 8. 6:30 pm.
Sustainability
6:30 pm - Dr. Russell Fox, professor of Political Science at Friends University and involved environmentalist, will be our presenter. This will be a broad ranging presentation on adapting our way of life. It should be an informative and fun evening. There is a social hour that begins at 6:30 pm. Salad, pizza and pop will be available.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street North & Woodlawn, Wichita.
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind (Wichita)
December 13. 6:30 pm
Annual Southwind Holiday Dinner
6:30 - 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.
Where - The home of Mary June Hefley 6201 Perrytown in Bel Aire.
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
October 22. 7:00 pm.
Development & Development and Fundraising: An Organic Model for the Kansas Chapter
6:30 pm - “Meet and Greet and Gather”
7:00 pm - Bob, Director of Development for the Kansas Chapter, will provide an overview of the Chapter's long-term plan for development and growth. His organic model for development takes its cue from nature and asks the basic question, how can we grow and become a more vibrant Sierra Club Chapter by offering more opportunities for activism and participation to our current members? This general meeting is a vital opportunity to take stock of the Chapter’s organization and its future. The ideas will be helpful to any non-profit organization interested in development and growth.
Where - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, Marvin Auditorium 101B, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group
December 6. 6:30 pm.
Topeka Group Holiday Dinner
6:30 pm - The Topeka Group will celebrate the holidays at our annual Holiday Dinner. We'll meet at 6:30 and eat at 7PM. (Dinner and beverages are no-host.)
Where - Join us at Tup Tim Thai Restaurant 220 SW 29th.
Contact - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229
gjanderson1963@gmail.com
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:

Make the most of Fall by spending the month of Walktober moving! By participating, you are helping your family start a regular, healthy habit. Ready to sign up your family? This is not a Sierra Club Event. For more information go to www.hwc wichita.org. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Oct 12. 9:00-11:00 am. 3rd Annual Take a Hike!
Join nature center staff and volunteers from the Sierra Club for our 3rd annual “Take a Hike” event! It’s a “come ‘n go” event beginning at 9 a.m. Spend time walking, running, or hiking the accessible trails of Chisholm Creek Park, enjoying the cool weather and fall colors. For all ages, FREE, Registration not required. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

[2] Oct 13. 4:00 pm. Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Its Local, Regional and International Implications
At once one of the most talked-about, yet misunderstood, issues in American life, climate change is already having some significant impacts—here in Kansas, regionally, and around the world. This panel discussion is intended to bring good, fact-based information about how climate change is affecting us now, and how it will continue to affect our lives and our society in the future. Speakers on the panel hold expertise in their subject areas and are well-qualified to address questions of “What are the facts?” “What can we do about it?” and “Where do we go from here?” Sponsored by Sierra Club Southwind Group and Kansas Interfaith Power & Light. Kansas Interfaith Power & Light is a statewide organization seeking to engage faith communities in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This event will be at College Hill United Methodist Church 2930 E. 1st Street North, Wichita, KS 67214 - Phone: (316) 683-4643. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

We’ll spend 3 nights on the Ozark Highlands Trail in a remote, rugged, and scenic part of Arkansas backpacking between the Lick Branch and Ozone Campground trail heads - the longest section of the OHT. Participation will be limited to about 6 people. Get on the waiting list here (preferably) or by email to [masked]. Once you’re approved, I’ll move you to the YES list. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

16600 State Route 45 N, Weston, MO (map) We’ll meet at the Overlook parking lot and hike a total of approximately 5 miles. We’ll hike a portion of the West Ridge trail then make a loop on the Paved Bicycle Trail then take the Harpst Trail back to the parking lot. Bathrooms and a water fountain will be available approximately half way through the hike. This will be a moderately paced hike, plan on 2.5 hours to finish. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. After the hike we’ll head into Weston for lunch (optional). Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

The Hike is at the Kirkbride Ranch southwest of Medicine Lodge. We will gather at the ranch house at 10:30 a.m. on the 27th. After transporting our camping gear to the campsite, we will have lunch at the ranch house prior to starting the hike. Individuals who RSVP for the hike will receive detailed directions to the ranch. A $5.00 donation will be requested. RSVP required. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
## Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kanza Group (Kansas City)</th>
<th>Southwind Group (Wichita)</th>
<th>Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 24, Dec 5 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 5 - Mtg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, <a href="mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td>Location: Bolt Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Action Committee</td>
<td>Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org">stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24, Dec 5 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Conservation Committee</td>
<td>Conservation Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, <a href="mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org">craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td>TBA - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>TBA - 6:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bruce Fuelling, (316) 682-0340, <a href="mailto:bfuelling@cox.net">bfuelling@cox.net</a></td>
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### Topeka Group, TBA
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library
Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, gianerson1963@gmail.com

### Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee, TBA
Yvonne Cather, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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#### [5] Nov 15-17. 8 am. Backpack Buffalo River Trail - Boxley to Steel Creek Campground (NW Ark)
A fairly casual trip on the Buffalo River Trail - from Boxley to the Steel Creek Campground (12.6 miles). We can add a day hike to Lost Valley or Hawksbill Crag on Sunday. Participation will be limited to about 6 people. Get on the waiting list here (preferably) or by email to [masked]. Once you’re approved, I’ll move you to the YES list. Outings like this are one way our local Sierra Club group raises money to fund operations. A donation of $10 would be gratefully accepted. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

We’ll be working on improving part of this 30-mile trail. Bring a lunch, water, and bow saws or loppers if you have them (we do have extra). Our plans are now to meet at the Old Military Hiking Trail Access on the west side of Ferguson Road just south of the bridge over Little Slough Creek. There will also be a carpool location for those coming from the Kansas City area. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

#### [2] Nov 16. 10:00 am. Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge Educational Hike
Come and join Sierra Club on a journey to find the Enbridge Flanagan South pipeline route and to enjoy the educational hike through the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge. If you are a boater, you will enjoy the opportunity to canoe or kayak in the area. Information on the how important the issue of tar sands and what the Flanagan South pipeline means to Kansas will be made available to all attendees. Please RSVP directly with Yvonne Cather. Individuals who RSVP for the hike will receive detailed directions to the meeting place at the Wildlife Area and to the Longhorn Café for lunch afterwards. Please visit www.naturalkansas.org/marais.htm for information on the Wildlife Area and Refuge, 16382 US 69, Pleasanton, Kansas, (913) 352-8941. Meet – at 10 am at the headquarters building for the Wildlife Area just 1 mile north of the small town of Trading post which is located on U.S. 69. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

#### [5] Dec 7-8. 8:30 am. Simple backpacking trip
NW Arkansas about 4 hours from KC. Highway 12, Rogers, AR (see map on Meetup) A casual, short, easy one-night backpacking trip on the Pigeon Roost Loop in a part of Hobbs SP. A good trip for those with limited winter camping experience. The trip will go (almost) regardless of the weather unless driving will be hazardous. If you are not prepared to cope with some rain or freezing temperatures should this occur, this may not be your trip. Participation will be limited to about 8 people. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com
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.


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

GM Oct 11. 6:30 pm. Preserving Rare and Endangered Wildlife. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Oct 12. 9:00-11:00 am. 3rd Annual Take a Hike!. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Oct 13. 4:00 pm. Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Its Local, Regional and International Implications. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Oct 17. 8 am. Backpack the Ozark Highlands Trail - section 4 (Ozone to Lick Branch). Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Out Oct 19. 11:00 am. Gasland II. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Oct 22. 7:00 pm. Development & Development and Fundraising: An Organic Model for the Kansas Chapter. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Out Oct 22. 11:30-1:00 pm. Hydraulic Fracking—Pros & Cons. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Oct 24. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Oct 24. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Oct 20. 1-3pm & 3:30-6 pm. Global Frackdown Screening of Gasland 1 & Gasland 2. Topeka. Helen Woerner, (785) 250-4104, woernerhelen1@gmail.com

Out Oct 26. 9 am. Day Hike at Weston Bend State Park. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Out Oct 26-27. 10:30 am. Annual Southwind Gyp Hills Hike. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 945-0728, dave.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Nov 3. 6:00 pm. Executive Committee Meeting. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Nov 8. 6:30 pm. Sustainability. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Nov 12. 6:45 pm. Sierra Club 101 New Member Fair. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Nov 15-17. 8 am. Backpack Buffalo River Trail - Boxley to Steel Creek Campground (NW Ark). Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

Out Nov 16. 10:00 am. Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge Educational Hike. Southwind. Yvonne Cather, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Nov 16. 9:15-3:15. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance - Perry KS. Kanza. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

GM Dec. 6:30 pm. No General Meeting in December. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

CM Dec 5. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Dec 5. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Dec 6. 6:30 pm. Topeka Group Holiday Dinner. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Out Dec 7-8. 8:30 am. Simple backpacking trip. Kanza. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

GM Dec 7. 6:30 pm. 3rd Annual Winter Solstice Family Celebration. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Dec 13. 6:30 pm. Annual Holiday Dinner. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org