Kansas Sierra Club Joins NY Peoples Climate March

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Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your dues include $5.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Joining by clicking on the above membership application will help raise money for you Kansas Sierra Club!!
By Gail Shafton

Note: The title is in “Twitter language”. Find us @SierraClubKS (Twitter) or Kansas Sierra Club (Facebook) or sierraclub (Instagram; only a national presence at the moment)

In 2007, Tom Friedman christened college age young adults “The Quiet Generation” and chastised them for living a virtual existence through their keyboards. But 2007 was a lifetime ago and the Millennials (born after 1980) have begun to rise up and be heard. This is a generation that dislikes institutions, will not identify as “environmentalists”, and is totally immersed in technology. Yet these same people are increasingly mobilized by the issue of Climate Change despite their disinterest in “the environment”. The People’s Climate March is their break-out event. And their online film “Disruption” shows the scope of what they are building.

They have found a voice and it’s about time. Since 2007 something tapped their idealism. In 2008 candidate Obama inspired them to vote, and while they may not have gotten what they expected, they continued to vote in 2012. And 2008 was the year that a guy named Bill McKibben, soul-mate of the Sierra Club, began to wake youth up to the issue of Climate Change. Bit by bit, he’s been growing a movement that is showing success in getting college students to persuade their universities to divest from fossil fuels.

I’m a Boomer. We could rightfully be accused of becoming the Greediest Generation but many of us have hearts that still beat to a progressive tune. We support our causes with money, working in the trenches, cheering on the sidelines, and exercising whatever power we have accumulated. We’re getting older and we’d like to pass the torch one day. We’ve built something important. But we haven’t quite figured out how to connect to those illusive Millennials, the ones coming up behind us. Most worrying, those young folks aren’t sure they want our torch and even if they did, we can’t find them to hand it over.

Well, that’s not entirely true. A few of us have found them and our role model has become Bill McKibben. Bill is a professor. In his 50s. He hangs with college students and he started his climate movement with just 7 of them. He’s learned how to engage them.

See Boomers on page 10
Report on the Shut Down of the Konza Prairie Ozone Monitor.

By Craig Volland, Chair of the Air Quality Committee of the Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club

In the summer, 2013 issue of Planet Kansas we reported the shutdown of the Konza Prairie monitor which had regularly measured high levels of ozone smog near Manhattan, KS, and that we had initiated an investigation of this controversial action by KDHE and EPA. It took the national EPA a year to comply with our Freedom of Information Act Request, but here is our report that was released to the public in August.

In the meantime, the 2014 Flint Hills burn season caused a number of air pollution episodes in both Kansas and Nebraska that sent us scrambling for information again. A detailed analysis of these episodes is nearing completion and will appear in the next issue and on our website. The good news is that new research continues to support the efficacy of far less intensive and damaging approaches to the burning of rangeland in the Flint Hills.

The Chapter’s Press Release.

Based on our review of documents, the Konza Prairie ozone air quality monitor was turned off on April 5, 2013, at the beginning of the Flint Hills burn season, after a concerted campaign by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment who feared that new data would lead to restrictions on range-burning. Based on KDHE’s arguments, officials at Kansas State University arranged for the monitor to be turned off not only because they feared limitations to their prescribed burning research but also because of possible political repercussions from EPA sanctions.

The monitor had been collecting valuable data since 2002 and indicated ozone levels during certain times of the year that could cause significant health impacts in the area.

The Kansas Sierra Club’s conclusions are based on documents obtained from the US Environmental Protection Agency, KDHE and Kansas State University. The Chapter also found that the EPA entities that manage the national system of such monitors were unprepared to facilitate a measured and open debate of the issues that might have led to a satisfactory solution to the controversy.

“Nobody distinguished themselves during this episode,” said Craig Volland, Kansas Chapter Air Quality Chair and author of the report. “As far as we can tell the public health concerns are still not being addressed.”

An Executive Summary of the report follows and includes a link to the full report on the Kansas Sierra Club website.

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Results of Sierra Club’s Investigation into the Removal of the Konza Prairie CASTNET Ozone Monitor on April 5, 2013

By Craig Volland, Chair of the Air Quality Committee of the Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club

Executive Summary

Introduction and Background.

Without prior public notice the US Environmental Protection Agency authorized the discontinuance of the Konza Prairie ozone air quality monitor near Manhattan, Kansas on April 5, 2013. This monitor, which was part of USEPA’s CASTNET national monitoring network, had been collecting valuable data since 2002. It had consistently indicated levels of ozone pollution high enough during certain times of the year to cause significant health impacts in the area.

In response to our inquiry after the fact, EPA said they complied with a request from the monitor-site landowner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and from Kansas State University (KSU), the operating agency, to remove the monitor. Documents attached to EPA’s response indicated that TNC and KSU were concerned that the ozone monitor would be used for regulatory compliance purposes and interfere with research on rangeland burning. Such research is being conducted to assess new management techniques and different time cycles for the burning (both in years and seasons of the year).

Initial information we received from KSU personnel conducting research at the Konza Prairie Research station indicated they had acted at the urging of KDHE who complained that the ozone monitor had been designated as a compliance moni-
It’s All about Being Part of Something

Field Notes from the DD…

By Robert F. Sommer, Director of Development, Kansas Chapter

This issue of Planet Kansas includes a great story by Elaine Giessel, the Kansas Chapter’s Wetlands and Water Quality Co-Chair, about how she first became active with the Sierra Club. It’s not a complicated tale—someone called and asked for help, and Elaine stepped up to the task. Now, thirty years later, she’s still on the job. Elaine is well-known among regional Sierra Club members. As a wildlife expert, community activist, and Club leader, she is surely one of the bulwarks of the Kansas Chapter.

It’s our members who make the difference. Currently the Kansas Chapter has about 4,200 members statewide. While some members come and go (and often return), that number has remained fairly steady for the past ten years, with little net growth.

I was chatting with another of our Club leaders recently about this issue. Many of our members are fifty-plus and mostly white, and we compared this to the demographics of the first Earth Day forty years ago, when so many young people were active in the environmental movement. Many of those activists were also engaged in the Civil Rights and Antiwar movements. “Yes,” my friend said, “and it’s those same people who make up the majority of activist members in the Sierra Club now!”

Whoa! I guess that much was obvious, but I hadn’t thought about it until that moment. So what can we do about it?

The Sierra Club has created a special incentive to boost membership. You may hear it called ezFRIP—as in ez-Field Recruitment Incentive Program. Here’s how it works: Beginning October 1st and running through March, the Kansas Chapter and each of its five Groups will receive 100 percent reimbursement on dues for new members, with the exception of Life Memberships. Currently, we only receive a fraction of new-member dues. This is a significant incentive to enroll new members!

Have you considered a gift membership for family members? Do you have friends in community and church groups who are already Sierra Club members in spirit, if not in fact? Now is the time to reach out to them.

Yes, the financial incentive is important, but getting people active to preserve planet Earth has never been more critical.

Activism comes in all shapes and sizes—stuffing envelopes, making calls, or helping with hospitality at a Group meeting. Reach out to the people you care about and give them an opportunity to get involved too. Who knows? Maybe someone you touch will become the next generation’s Elaine Giessel. You won’t know if you don’t ask. Time is short and there’s much to do!

To join or to get your recruitees to join, type in this link so that the Kansas Chapter will get full benefit from the new ezFRIP program: http://goo.gl/3dmSe7

Please remember, too, that when you contribute directly to the Kansas Chapter, 100 percent of your donation to stays right here in Kansas!

Donate on-line at kansas.sierraclub.org (click the DONATE button). Please make checks payable to the Kansas Sierra Club and mail to:

J. Scott Smith, Treasurer
Sierra Club – Kansas Chapter
2111 Snowbird Dr.
Manhattan, KS 66502

And thank your for all you do to protect planet Earth!

“That 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.

More Than Just A Weatherization Program

By Reuben Eckels, Deputy Director for Sunflower Community Action

Sunflower Community Action and Kansas Sierra Club Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Program has weatherized over 60 homes this year. The typical home participating in the EEC program is characterized as low-income family residents with homes that have flaws such as cracks around the doors and windows; filled with energy draining light bulbs; hot water heaters set on the highest level; and dirty filters in their heating and air conditioning units. Sunflower has been able to give out thousands of dollars worth of weatherization kits, light bulbs and filters to help lower the cost for these families, making an important difference for these residents.

The program has brought our volunteers into contact with members of the community that live in substandard living conditions. Participants of the program have real needs and find this program helps them financially. For example, one participant is a lady who has suffered a divorce and an abusive relationship. She welcomed us into her home to help her save on her energy costs. Others have suffered layoffs and found themselves in homes that are on the verge of falling apart.

See Weatherization on page 23
Kansas Chapter Fights Delisting Redbelly And Smooth Earth Snakes

By Felix Revello, Sierra Club member, Larned, KS

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (DWPT) is proposing delisting the redbelly and smooth earth snakes from “threatened” status to “species in need of conservation”. DWPT Secretary Robin Jennison and commissioners held their latest public hearing on August 21st at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in Cheyenne Bottoms just north of Great Bend to discuss these and other issues. As the Sierran living closest to the meeting, Yvonne asked me to represent our Chapter in opposing the delistings. (Sierrans are pretty scarce out here in western Kansas.)

Background information that might be helpful in understanding this issue…

Review of the listing status for Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species is conducted every five years by the Threatened and Endangered Species Task Committee (TESTC). TESTC is composed of biologists inside and outside DWPT. At this time species can be added, removed, or moved within their current designated listing based upon submitted petitions. Petitioners requested moving the snakes from “threatened” to “species in need of conservation” (SINC). Johnson County Wastewater, WaterOne and City of Olathe are the petitioners. These entities have incurred costs associated with habitat mitigation. But, these costs are miniscule (less than 1%) compared to overall project costs… $95,000 (.32%) for a $30 million project sewer project; $50,000 (.8%) for a $6 million sewer plant expansion; $130,000 (.19%) for a $67 million water line. I suspect that they are also doing this on behalf of developers, landowners and other commercial interests not wanting to be identified with this controversy.

Removing species from Kansas “threatened” status eliminates requirements for developers to obtain DWPT permits specifying mitigation measures for habitat disturbance. Mitigation might include moving threatened species to undisturbed habitat, restoring habitat, creating new habitat, etc. As you might imagine, many developers and government officials detest any increase in project costs stemming from required mitigation actions.

The move to delist the snakes seems to originate in Johnson County, where government projects and developers have been encountering related mitigation requirements over several years. A proposed sewer line project to support a commercial retail development in Shawnee is the latest project to potentially face mitigation requirements, as it is routed through oak-hickory forest, redbelly and smooth earth snake habitat. The project has extremely strong support by Shawnee city government and economic development commission. So, it’s not surprising that local Kansas Senators Mary Pilcher-Cook (R-Shawnee) and Rob Olson (R-Olathe) wrote legislation banishing these inconvenient snakes from T&E listing. Although this legislation eventually metastasized into a bill entirely repealing Kansas’s endangered species law that was eventually defeated, the crusade to delist these species continues.

Secretary Jennison unflinchingly admits that he intends to delist the redbelly to appease legislators to reduce the risk of their repealing Kansas’ endangered species law or establishing precedence within the legislature for delisting species individually. Some enlightening quotes are: (1) “The thing I’m concerned about is the precedent we’re going to set if we have the Legislature start listing and delisting threatened and endangered species. Because we have thrown science out the window if that’s what we do, if we make the listing of threatened and endangered species a political decision.”; (2) “Science clearly shows the redbelly snake is clearly jeopardized in Kansas.”; and (3) “… The department’s recommendation to the commission will be that the status of the redbelly snake be reduced from Threatened to Species in Need of Conservation (SINC)… There will be those who will say this is a political decision and they would be partly accurate.” To his credit, the DWPT is contracting with the Kansas Biological Survey to produce recovery plans for both snakes.

The hearing and our testimony…

The session on reviewing recommendations for T&E listings began with Ed Miller, TESTC Chair, explaining the process. He explained that this is the fourth and last workshop for this review. He referred to the controversy of this issue and potential “legislative retribution” by the Kansas legislature. Commission
Sierra Club Comments on Induced Seismicity for Proposed Action Plan by KCC Task Force

Submitted on 9/14/2014 to Jesse Borjon, Induced Seismicity Task Force, from Yvonne Cather, Kansas Sierra Club

The Sierra Club of Kansas is pleased to submit comments on the proposed Action Plan suggested by the KCC Task Force on Induced Seismicity. We have many concerns about the action plan. The primary problem we see is that the Plan does little to address the property damage resulting from earthquakes caused by disposal of fracking waste fluids into injection wells.

The primary focus of the Action Plan seems to be to obtain funding from the legislature to pay for earthquake monitoring equipment and for additional research into the geological structures underlying Kansas. While this creates the illusion of doing something about the problem of induced seismicity, the work needed to protect the people of Kansas from damage to their property is largely ignored.

We recommend that the studies on induced seismicity already done in other states, such as Arkansas, Ohio, Colorado, and Oklahoma, be used to form the basis of a plan to protect the people and property of Kansans. Those states, and their scientists, have concluded that there is a direct connection between the disposal of waste fluids from fracking into injection wells and resulting earthquakes. If the people of Kansas and their property are a top concern of the Task Force then the more sensible action to take by the Task Force is to impose a moratorium on the use of injection wells to see if the earthquakes are reduced. We are confident you will find, as other states found with their moratoriums, that the earthquakes are reduced.

While the moratorium is in place, the Task Force could establish a Financial Risk Pool funded by the oil and gas companies using the injection wells. The earthquakes we have been experiencing in Kansas, while not of a magnitude high enough to cause a risk to human life, are definitely severe enough to cause damage to the foundations in homes, to roofs, to windows, to walls, to driveways, to power lines and gas lines, and to roads. The people of Kansas should not have to pay for damages like these. The Financial Risk Pool could also help pay for additional people needed at KDHE to monitor the safe operation of fracking wells and the use of injection wells, and the staff needed to check the complaints from people who are victims of damage from earthquakes resulting from induced seismicity. Most importantly, the Financial Risk Pool should pay for a four-year publicity campaign that reaches all Kansans and all property owners of land in Kansas, that explains the risk of damages from induced seismicity and who they should contact if they suspect they have such damages to their property. The people of Kansas need to know how they would be compensated for their damages.

The other potential problem from induced seismicity is with the Wolf Creek nuclear plant. A study needs to be done to make certain that there is no possibility of tremors affecting that plant and its stored radioactive waste. Any release of radioactive material from Wolf Creek into the atmosphere could be catastrophic.

We do support the idea of getting Task Force input from the Kansas Water Office.

One important error by the Task Force needs to be corrected. The Task Force erroneously believes that the Safe Drinking Water Act protects our water supplies from fracking activity or disposal of fracking fluids. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 passed by Congress exempts oil and gas industry fracking companies from the Safe Drinking Water Act. So, Kansans are not protected by regulations. Since no state regulations address this matter, our water supplies are at risk to contamination by fracking by oil and gas companies. This should be made clear to all Kansans.

We believe that the Task Force should shift its focus away from geologic research and to creating the Financial Risk Pool which would really protect Kansans. If there is any doubt that the disposal of fracking fluids into injection wells causes earthquakes, then a moratorium on the use of injection wells is the best way to find an answer to that question. Until the Financial Risk Pool is established the people of Kansas will be paying a very high price for the damages they get from the induced seismicity. Protecting Kansans should be our top priority, ahead of getting more geological information.

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Climate Change Commands Attention in New York

Sierra Club Members from Kansas and Surrounding States Head to the Big Apple to Join 400,000

On Friday, September 19, 70 brave souls ventured to New York via a bus load of 48 people and two vans to accommodate an additional 22 individuals from Kansas (20), Missouri (43), Oklahoma (4), Arkansas(1), and Nebraska (2). Along with some 400,000 activists from all over the world, we joined the two-and-a-half mile march through the streets of New York to demand action on climate change. We returned from Manhattan, New York after attending the “People’s Climate March” safely Tuesday morning at 2 a.m. in Wichita, Kansas after driving all day and night.

Thanks for Mary Jane and Mark Pringle for driving the van for the grueling last leg of the trip from KC to Wichita! At about the last 20 miles, folks had to have Connie Mann improvise playing the drums and splash driver Yvonne Cather with cold water from the cooler to keep her awake and safe of the road. THANKS to all the drivers: Mary Jane Shanklin and Mark Pringle, Kate Becker, David Vance, David Auner, Jim Turner, Zay Thompson and Melissa Vaughn!!!

Chapter Chair Yvonne Cather took a “No Tar Sands” banner, which got a lot of attention. Here is a link to what VICE News printed about the march after interviewing Yvonne. http://goo.gl/3x6B0f

For more photos of the Peoples Climate March, go to our photos and albums on our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/KansasSierraClub
What part of 400,000 folks looks like up and down the NY street.

KC Activists meet near the Plaza in support of the March

I'm From Missouri
SHOW ME!

What part of 400,000 folks looks like up and down the NY street.
because he is immersed in their culture. To the astonishment of many of us, he’s built that movement without any physical presence anywhere. Yes, he’s a single issues guy - “arrest Climate Change” - but still, he’s learned how to mobilize people and educate them. He can pull together a rally overnight not just in the U.S. but worldwide. Look at the photos from his rallies (www.350.org). You’ll see mostly young faces, the people we want to reach. In fact, some rallies have excluded anyone who wasn’t college age or younger. But recent audiences at his speaking tours are trending very diverse - people of color, people way past retirement age, families, and college kids. He is a constant media presence. And this is good for all of us who want to push for change.

While Bill made the existential threat of Climate Change real and brought young people into the streets, he is also smart enough to recognize that he needs the support of organizations like the Sierra Club to turn a movement into legislation, lobbying, and ongoing projects that have concrete outcomes. Though he is beginning to expand his reach (he has an online tool that provides a way to organize at the grassroots level), he doesn’t have the infrastructure that Sierra Club has. Or the brand name. We have always thrived at the Grassroots level and we excel at Grassroots Action. We need to exploit the awareness he has built and leverage it into local initiatives. And that means we’ll have to change so we can mobilize all those younger people into actually doing stuff. Hard stuff.

Activism today operates much differently from the way we did things in the ‘60s. We worked through institutions: labor unions, the Democratic Party, and churches. Those are not viable options today. Millennials are not interested in institutions and yet we’ve become one. Mature organizations, whether they sell soap or a cause, have to evolve to stay in the game. We’re no different. Our product has to evolve and so do our marketing strategies.

Effective activism requires: 1) stirring passion and building awareness, then 2) coupling that with a willingness to do the day-to-day grueling tasks like legal action, testifying at hearings, building political coalitions, and fighting to keep gains we’ve already made. We need both. We need to be in the streets and in the corridors of power without being corrupted by them. Youthful energy is great at doing the first part but inexperienced at the second. Virtual organizing and marches are necessary but not sufficient. Momentum must turn into political power that passes legislation to regulate and limit corporate greed and to create incentives to fuel new sustainable technologies. All of us in Big Green have joined Bill and his minions in the streets, risking arrest, to demonstrate that we are serious about stopping Climate Change. But when the banners come down and the buses go home, we have to codify those demands into something that we can easily articulate and fight for politically. And that’s where we, the Sierra Club, have a lot to offer. We have been doing that for decades.

Boomers are winding down careers and hopefully will reclaim what we once stood for — change, responsibility, a rejection of the religion of corporatization and consumerism. Retirees are notorious for their willingness to embrace activism to achieve goals that matter to them ...they have the time, the money, and the numbers to kick some ass, and they care a lot less about who they offend. We need more of them too. But they still don’t have the physical advantages of youth and the natural organizing environment that a college or university provides. Many of us are lined up ready to pass on hard-won wisdom and experience but we are largely invisible to the generation that must carry on.

We need a cross-generational militia. We may look like those Millennials’ grandparents but research shows that they respect older adults and aren’t alienated from us. That’s the good news. Now we have an obligation to make an effort to embrace the realities of Millennial culture. We have to meet them on their turf and invite them into ours. If we don’t, we will be doomed. We need to learn about social media and use it to reach out to students, teachers, other activists, our grandkids. Just like our parents before us, we have to be willing to challenge the status quo and our own assumptions. If we do that, we can build our credibility with the generation that will pay for the poor decisions many Boomers and our politicians have made. We will win their respect and hopefully overcome their resistance to operating in a solidly built organization. Back in the day, there were older leaders who jumped in and showed us the way. They helped groom those who fought for civil rights and the environment. Now it’s our turn to lead and collaborate. Those youth can’t do it alone. And neither can we. We need each other.

The existential threat of Climate Change intensifies every day. Boomers have a lot to contribute to effectively meet the challenges ahead. We are a powerful political force … older people vote more than almost any other age group. We must engage in political activism to ensure that our friends and family vote for candidates that support climate action. That’s the easy part. We also have to overcome our fear of new technology and virtual organizing so we can breach the gap between young and the not-so-young. That’s the hard part for many of us. We need to get on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram so we can connect all the people we know, across generations. That’s where conversations happen. That’s how coalitions are built today, in real-time, online. And those new coalitions can make a difference. But our virtual connections have to turn into face-to-face experiences in schools, coffee shops, on outings that interest them, and wherever else they live and play. We need to get their opinions. Ask them how we can help them and show them how vital they are to their communities. We can do this. Solving this dilemma is a major push at the national level and we must enthusiastically embrace it here, in Kansas. When we’re done, we’ll have The Millennial Boomers, two powerful forces working together to adapt to the greatest challenges that humankind has ever faced.
Monitor Shut Down, continued from page 4

tor without their knowledge or consent and that the monitor was improperly located for regulatory purposes.

The Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club alerted the public and launched an investigation to determine whether the closure of the monitor was justified in view of the public health impacts of ozone pollution on Kansans who live in or around the City of Manhattan and the large number of students who attend the University. The Chapter requested the relevant documents from EPA, KDHE and Kansas State University, the last of which was not obtained until May of 2014.

CASTNET. This is a system of air quality monitors managed by the USEPA (57 sites) and the National Park Service (25 sites). The purpose is to provide data to assess trends in air quality and atmospheric deposition in order to evaluate the effectiveness of national and regional air pollution control programs. LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) monitors are concerned with long-term ecological research and the Konza Prairie was one of only three such sites in the United States. http://epa.gov/castnet/javaweb/ozone.html

Rangeland Burning in the Flint Hills of Eastern Kansas. The burning of grasslands in April of 2009, 2010 and 2011 had led to numerous "exceedances" of the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) at several monitors in Kansas including the Kansas City and Wichita metro areas. EPA rules allow states to prepare a report analyzing conditions relating to such exceedances in order to justify a request that the data be "flagged" or exempted from inclusion in the calculations that determine whether a "violation" has occurred. This is called an "exceptional events" report. A violation leads to an enforcement process by USEPA.

EPA denied KDHE's exceptional events request after the 2009 & 2010 exceedances on the grounds that KDHE had not prepared a "Smoke Management Plan" (SMP). So a SMP was completed in the Fall of 2010. Nonetheless the Flint Hills burning in 2011 resulted again in numerous exceedances of the ozone NAAQS. Based on the existence of the SMP, KDHE requested that the 2011 data be flagged. Over the strong objections of Kansas Sierra Club, KDHE's petition was approved by EPA Region 7.

Conclusions

The preponderance of evidence demonstrates that KDHE campaigned to remove the Konza Prairies ozone monitor in order to avoid the strong likelihood that ozone standard exceedances there could lead to tighter restrictions on range burning in the Flint Hills. KDHE's assertion that the monitor did not meet EPA rules for locating a regulatory monitor is substantially without merit.

EPA Region 7 essentially facilitated this process even to the extent, at one point, of incorporating KDHE into the line of authority and communication with the site operator, Kansas State University, even though it was an EPA-owned monitor.

Administrators at KSU overruled reservations expressed by their research personnel who operated the monitor, because they feared political repercussions from an ozone standard non-attainment designation. Without any evidence we could find, KSU administrators accepted KDHE's claim that continued regulatory status of the Konza Prairie monitor could lead to interference with range burning research in the Flint Hills when, to the contrary, this research would likely become more important.

The national EPA entities that managed the Konza Prairie monitor as part of their CASTNET system were insufficiently proactive in notifying state regulators about the change in the regulatory status of the CASTNET monitors. They were unprepared to deal with this controversy because they have not required landowners and operators to give sufficient notice before shutting monitors in their care. Thus EPA was unable to enforce their plan for public notice and comment, which in this case, could have countered some of the misinformation and led to a more satisfactory solution. For example, EPA officials might have clarified that a much milder range of sanctions would apply for violations at a rural monitor used primarily to assess long-range transport of pollutants, as opposed to an urban monitor. Finally EPA-HQ's policy of imposing onto state agencies certain costs of dealing with exceedances at EPA-owned monitors increased the risk of conflict with state officials.

Despite considerable data demonstrating that people in the Manhattan, Kansas, area are at times exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution during the April - September ozone season, few participants in the controversy examined this part of the issue. A primary purpose of the Clean Air Act is to protect the public health and welfare. As far as we can tell this serious problem for the public health is still not being addressed.

1. Link to full report, ozone information, map of Kansas ozone monitors and KDHE's presentation to KSU officials:
   http://kansas.sierraclub.org/shutdown-of-the-konza-prairie-ozone-monitor

For more information contact Craig Volland at 913-334-0556 or at hartwood2@kc.rr.com.
Delisting, continued from page 6

Chairman Gerald Lauber questioned Miller about a recent report by a herpetologist that redbelly snakes are more abundant than recognized. Miller explained that the herpetologist found several redbelly snakes during “road cruising” but explained that such surveys have little value for population trend data. He added that recent data shows redbelly populations are not doing well and not rebounding from recent droughts. Chairman Lauber replied that he personally supports the Secretary’s recommendation to delist redbellies from threatened status to SINC. Chairman Lauber’s following statements were (paraphrased): (1) while scientifically falling into the category as threatened in Kansas, redbelly populations are healthy elsewhere; (2) wants to believe that, as drought conditions abate, the Kansas population will recover; (3) redbelly is short in number in KS but not in the Midwest; (4) concerned that in an area (Johnson County) of the State which has a substantial amount of economic activity, requiring more responsive mitigation may cause a backlash that I want to avoid and don’t want to fight.

Public testimony began with a PowerPoint presentation by Joni Johnson-Godsy, a resident in Shawnee, whose property would be damaged by a sewer line project to support a proposed commercial business district. Joni skillfully related the beauty of her area through pictures and words, explaining that failing to protect the snakes will allow unwanted development by wealthy interests willing to sacrifice nature for profit. It bothers her that delisting is not based on science. She says developers are tired of paying for mitigation.

Kansas Wildlife Federation Troy Schroeder followed to voice his organization’s support for maintaining the “threatened” status of the redbelly. He advises that “in uncertainty, we need to be conservative and err on the side of preservation.” Secretary Jennison responded that the decision to remove the smooth earth snake was scientific, but not for the redbelly. He’s very concerned about “public backlash” against Kansas’ endangered species law. He referred to moves in Kansas legislature to repeal the endangered species act. We can’t continue to “use the hammer.” We need to work in a way that doesn’t harm the economy or social structure in a small area.

Elmer Finck, a TESTC member, followed to address the herpetologist finding six snakes along a road. He also advises that such information is not useful for providing population estimates.

A synopsis of our testimony

Regarding the redbelly specifically, Jennison recommends that the redbelly be delisted for “social/economic/political” reasons, overriding the TESTC’s recommendation to maintain its threatened status. This rationale disregards requirements of KSA 32-960 to use the “best scientific” data for delisting on at least two points. First, the TESTC’s recommendation was science-based. Secondly, “social and economic” standards the law apply only to listing species, not delisting.

Regarding the smooth earth snake, the petitioner states that there is “…an increase in forestland habitat in eastern Kansas…” Bringing us to ask if there is more forested habitat; if so, is it habitat this species requires? The statement that the smooth earth snake, “…appears to recover more quickly from drought stress…” is tenuous. Managing threatened species requires more rigorous answers than “maybe”, or some unidentified “forestland” and “appears”.

Continued severe loss of habitat caused by population growth (56% predicted for Johnson County between 2010 & 2040) combined with unpredictable effects of a changing climate on snake species with limited range in Kansas requires more protection than SINC status provides. Nothing in the proposed delisting of either snake relieves these concerns. The current political climate seems to be driving decisions to down list both snakes. (Only the Sierra Club supported maintaining “threatened” status for the smooth earth snake.)

Delisting removes almost all protection threatened status provides from habitat damage from development by requiring permits for mitigation action such as selecting best alternatives, habitat replacement and more. Although recovery plans for redbelly and smooth earth snakes are planned, it is unlikely that SINC species can successfully compete with T&E species for funding implementing those plans.

Based on our stated concerns, we recommend maintaining the “threatened” status for both redbelly and smooth earth snakes until more is known about them to be certain they are maintaining viable self-sustaining populations as required by law. We do not have the right to decide for future generations which species they will inherit. Instead, we are obligated to pass on the healthiest most complete environment as we possibly can to future generations, just as they will be obligated to do for succeeding generations.

Commissioner Don Budd followed by suggesting that the Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club fund population studies for the snakes, putting a “little skin in the game”. Chairman Lauber wishes the Sierra Club would use some of our “litigation money” for research.

Chester Alan Godsy followed by testifying that developers should pay for studies.

At one point Commissioners expressed concerns about litigation by the Sierra Club and complained about our “thinly veiled” threat of legal action.

Statements by Secretary Jennison and Commissioners throughout the hearing revealed that: (1) they recognize that the delisting the redbelly is not based on science; (2) redbelly population density has not been researched and so is unavailable to guide their decisions; (3) political and economic pressures are driving their decision process.

The preceding discussion informs us of the forces driving this issue and the probability that neither science nor law alone will protect the “threatened” status of either the redbelly or smooth earth snakes. Losing this fight risks establishing precedence within our Kansas legislature of effectively pressuring the DWPT to remove species from listing ad hoc by merely threatening legislative action as they become minor economic annoyances to developers.
How Not to Buy Free Range, Humanely Produced Animal Products

By Craig Volland, Agriculture Committee Chair

With the possible exception of Whole Foods Market and couple other small natural food stores, all the grocery stores in the Kansas City area have been selling factory meat, eggs and dairy products for years. These are products that come from animals raised in CAFOs, confined animal feeding operations, using intensive confinement technology. That involves cramming as many animals as one can get away with into confined spaces and hauling or sluicing way tons of waste.

Caring and discerning eaters have reacted in a range of ways, i.e. becoming vegan or vegetarian or reducing their animal product consumption and eating only products labeled organic, free range or pastured. But it’s a jumble of labels out there! Corporations are seizing upon some of the buzzwords that have come to symbolize the sustainable food movement.

For example, in May, Hen House* markets came out with a new promotional platform called From Farm to Fork. If you do a search for that term you get a long list of references to local and sustainable foodie groups, networks and specialty restaurants. The first Hen House brochure I saw was for “Kansas City’s Best Chicken that Just Got Better.” The brochure listed the following terms:

- All-Natural
- Cage-Free
- Fresh, Never Frozen
- No Added Hormones Ever
- No Added Antibiotics Ever
- Raised on family farms the old-fashioned way
- Gluten-Free
- No animal by-products (in the feed)
- Treat yourself to chicken that’s been well-treated.

And at the end of the brochure was the Buy Fresh - Buy Local trademark.

I asked the meat counter manager where they were getting this new chicken, and he said Forester Farmer’s Market in Arkansas. I thought, hey . . . it’s from a farmer’s market!

Well, No. Forester Farmer’s Market® (FFM) is actually a brand of Ozark Mountain Poultry (www.ompfoods.com) that has revenues of $240 million and runs 3 million pounds of chicken per year through its two processing plants. It obtains broiler chickens from at least eight different producers who use confinement methods. That’s quite small by Tyson* standards, but it’s not your local farmer.

You’d never know this by looking at the warm and fuzzy FFM brand website (www.foresterfarmersmarket.com) which is careful not to actually show chickens in their barns. To its credit they use no antibiotics or animal by-products in feed. That’s important, but even Tyson chickens are “cage free”, because it is laying hens that are caged, not “broiler” (meat) chickens. There’s nothing “old fashion” about the way FFM’s chickens are raised though they may be produced on family farms that host the barns.

“Gluten” is found in wheat and certain other grains, not meat. Synthetic hormones are given only to cattle, not chickens, so that claim is also meaningless. The term “natural” is usually meaningless with regard to a meat product. It means only that the product contains no colorants, artificial flavors, or synthetic substances. As to whether these chickens are well-treated, there is no legal definition, and one would have to view the operation to make up your own mind. So at best, Forester Farmer’s Market R chicken can be described as chicken CAFO lite, a step up from Tyson* commodity chicken.

So in August Hen House comes out with a new From Farm to Fork promotion. This time it’s Prairie FreshR Premium Pork. It didn’t take long to find out this is a brand of Seaboard Foods, Inc. (http://www.seaboardfoods.com/), the third largest producer of pork in the country and a subsidiary of the global trading giant, Seaboard, Inc. The principal claims for this product are:

- grain-based diet
- humanely treated
- no added hormones
- all (100%) natural
- raised on local farms
- hand selected
- superior marbling

All factory pigs are fed GMO grains (corn and soybeans). Seaboard doesn’t want them rooting around in the woods like they evolved to do. Last year the Humane Society of the US filed a complaint with the FTC and SEC alleging that Seaboard falsely advertised humane treatment of their pigs.1 In 2011 a HSUS undercover investigator had documented serious abuse on one of their producer’s farms. Seaboard is also resisting calls to get rid of gestation crates (cages) confining their sows and even has a video on their website defending this practice.2 The local farms claim is suspect because the nearest Seaboard owned or licensed hog feeding operation we are aware of is 300 miles away.

We have already explained that “no added hormones” and ‘all natural’ are meaningless food labels for pork. But also there’s absolutely nothing natural about how Seaboard raises their pigs. Seaboard is currently building an operation in Greeley County, Kansas which will house up to 396,000 pigs on only 4 1/2 sections of land, to be the second largest such operation in the United States.3 Finally, their claim about hand-selected and superior marbling is ironic, since this industry spent decades breeding fat out of their animals to support their claim as the “other white meat,” after chicken cut into their market.

After the Kanza Group sent a complaint, Balls Foods, the owner of Hen House, appears to have removed the humanely-treated claim from subsequent Prairie FreshR pork ads and the product appears to have been removed from the Farm to Fork and local farms promotional platform. The Animal Welfare institute recently published a detailed analysis on the labeling of meat:

See Free Range on page 15
**Annual Gyp Hills Hike**

By David Kirkbride, Chapter Outings Chair

All Sierra Club members and friends are invited to join our annual Gyp Hills Hike on October 18th & 19th. The topography of the area is both beautiful and unique and is located in Barber County which is about an hour and a half southwest of Wichita. We will hike for approximately five hours each day and spend the night in tents next to a pond. Participants will be able to prepare supper over a campfire on the 18th as well as breakfast on the 19th.

We will gather at the ranch house at 10:00 a.m. on the 18th. We will drop our tents at the camping location, and lunch will be provided prior to the hike. In addition to tents, rain gear, backpacks, sleeping bags, and hiking gear, participants should bring water and snacks as well as food for supper and breakfast. Layered clothing and jackets are recommended.

A $5.00 donation to the outings program will be requested.

The above photograph was taken during one of our previous hikes.

Please RSVP by October 10th to the contact information below. We will send detailed directions as soon as we receive your RSVP.

Dave Kirkbride, Chapter Outings Chair
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
316-945-0728

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**One Phone Call Changed Everything**

By C. Elaine Giessel - Kansas Chapter Wetlands and Water Quality Co-Chair

*It's our stories that matter. They reveal our passions. Here's a story by one member of the Kansas Chapter's corps of dedicated leaders about how an unexpected phone call led to a lifetime of commitment to the Sierra Club and all it stands for.*

It began on a winter's night in 1982 with the first Sierra Club phone call. The weather-beaten beach cottage where Richard and I lived with our toddler was on an isolated stretch of the Texas mid-coast. The controversy described to me had all the classic ingredients of a modern range war: whooping cranes and cattle, wildlife habitat versus historical grazing rights.

We had joined Sierra Club a year earlier, when James Watt was appointed Secretary of the Interior under President Reagan. Watt, a blatant anti-environmentalist, endorsed development of federal lands by mining, drilling, ranching, forestry and other commercial activities. We recognized the need to put our financial donations where they'd do the most good. *But I never anticipated the Sierra Club needing me personally!*

The call from the Lone Star Chapter sounded urgent. To make a long story short, I did what I could to support efforts by the Sierra Club to remove cattle from the nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, which was designated as critical habitat for the whoopers. It was a nasty fight, but eventually we won.

So began our relationship with the Sierra Club and the iconic bird that still teeters on the brink of extinction.

For the past 15 years we’ve lived in the Midwest, volunteering for the Kansas Chapter. Last year, more than 30 years after that first call, I found myself re-connected with whooping cranes, only not on the Texas coast this time, but in the wetlands of Kansas.

Cheyenne Bottoms and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge near Great Bend, Kansas, are internationally recognized wetlands of critical importance to the waterfowl and shorebirds that migrate from Canada through the Heartland to the Gulf Coast. The issue now is the impact of oil and gas drilling on stopover habitat for whooping cranes and other endangered species. Again, Sierra Club members rallied to the call for action. For now, the permit application to drill in the wetland is on hold.

The Sierra Club has a history of looking at local issues as part of the larger picture. Each Sierran may choose an individual role to play in the nation’s oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. I urge you to help support these efforts with your activism and your dollars. The whooping crane has made it personal for me—for over three decades!
Free Range, continued from page 13


Grocery stores have the right to advertise and sell pretty much whatever they want, but they also have the responsibility to be truthful and transparent to their customers.

References:

Questions to Ask a Farmer or Grocer When Buying Meat.
1. Did you (the farmer) raise the animals that supplied this product? If not, how do you know how it was raised?
2. Did this meat, eggs or dairy come from animals that have regular access to out-of-doors? Please describe their housing or shelter, their bedding, and their access to pasture.
3. Were any antibiotics added to the animals’ feed? Do you regularly use chemicals that kill parasites, or only in response to an infestation?
4. Were the animals fed animal by-products mixed in feed, such as from a rendering plant?
5. Beef and dairy: Were these animals ever given synthetic hormones?
6. Did the animals’ feed contain any genetically engineered grains?
7. Pork: were the sows on the farm ever confined in crates or cages?
8. Eggs: were the laying hens kept in cages; did the hens have regular access to out-of-doors?

Sierra Club/Cromwell Solar Partnership Finalized

The Sierra Club has entered a partnership with Cromwell Solar, the largest installer of solar in Kansas, to donate money to the Kansas Chapter for each homeowner or business that installs solar on their property.

For each qualifying installation, Cromwell Solar will donate $200 dollars to the chapter and the customer will get 5 LED light bulbs and a review of their building’s envelope for more money-saving ideas. Another $1,000 will be donated after the 10th, 20th, 25th, and 50th installation making this a win-win for our Sierra Club members, the Kansas Chapter, and, oh yes, our fight against climate change. Also, any member that refers a friend or neighbor will have this counted just as if it was a member.

What makes this even more exciting is that Cromwell Solar is the only company in the state that offers a 0 down solar lease through Mid-America Bank. Homeowners with 20% equity can get this deal and have no up-front, out-of-pocket expenses and have solar installed in as quick as 60 days. Our Chapter Chair Yvonne Cather guided the process between National Sierra Club and Cromwell Solar after the Kansas Chapter selected the firm as its preferred vendor. “Partnering with Cromwell solar has made it possible for our members and supporters to become a part of the solution by switching from coal power to solar power with its exclusive no-money down lease option.”

The amount of pollution that can be saved varies with the size of a system but a 6 kW system (24 panels) can offset around 500,000 pounds of pollutants over the 25 year warranted life of the panels. Over time, it will also drive utilities to revamp their business models to a cleaner design.

1. If you would like to see a proposal for your home or business please email Bill Griffith at bgriffith@cromwellsolar.com or call 913-702-4611.

Kanza Winter Solstice Party
Saturday, December 13

The Fun Starts at 6:30
Overland Park Lutheran Church
7810 West 79th Street, Overland Park
Park on north side

• Potluck Dinner - Bring your favorite dish
• Volunteers Awards - Honor our hard work
• Music - Green Spirit Band returns
• Program for the Kids - Slide show “Wildlife in the Park”
• Door Prizes - Win a brand new car!!
(Well... you might win a cool T-shirt)

vegan/vegetarian recipes appreciated.
Bring your own tableware. Help us reduce waste.
Kanza Day II and the Wilderness Act a Perfect Marriage

Kanza Day II celebrated our nation’s Wilderness Act and Endangered Species Act on September 27 at Black Hoof Park in Lenexa, KS. National Sierra Club produced a short and very effective video of our wild places that we shared with our attendees at the Oak Shelter after the sun went down. It was a Sierra Club potluck so, as always, the food was GREAT!! We especially want to thank our dynamic event duo Elaine Giessel and Richard Voss for taking the lead on the event organization.

The City of Lenexa continues to lead the way in innovative, environmentally sensitive, and architecturally spectacular parks. Where to start? Certainly, the dam structure for Lake Lenexa could be from a set from Star Trek... unusual, beautiful and functional. The shelters for public use are creative and well designed. Educational features, children’s areas, and hiking trails are worth any family’s visit. And to think that I was not even aware of this park. If you have never been Black Hoof Park, you owe it to yourself to check out this great contribution to the public for yourself!! To find out more, type in this link, which will send you to a map and brochure from our website: http://goo.gl/G4UJUc

[Image of people canoeing and at picnic tables]

Fall - 2014
Sierra Club Endorses Paul Davis for Governor

As of this writing the Chapter is optimistic that we will have a new chief executive in Kansas. Davis continues to hold onto a lead in the polls, and Brownback has managed to split his own party as is evidenced by Republican defections. Democrats aren’t the only ones wanting Kansas to go in a different direction. To help the Paul Davis campaign, go to http://davisforkansas.com/ to learn more about Paul Davis and get involved in his campaign.

Sierra Club Endorses Margie Wakefield for U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District

The Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, working to preserve and protect the environment for all Kansans, has announced its endorsement of Margie Wakefield for election to the House of Representatives from the 2nd District of Kansas. This Sierra Club is confident that Margie will work to protect the health, air, and water for Kansas, as well as work to build a clean energy economy that works for Kansas. To find out more about Margie or help with her campaign, go to http://wakefieldforkansas.com/.

Sierra Club Endorses Kelly Kultala for U.S. House of Representatives, 3rd District

LATE BREAKING NEWS. National Sierra Club has now approved our recommendation, and Kelly Kultala is now endorsed by Sierra Club. To find out more about Kelly or help with her campaign, go to http://www.kellykultala.com/

House Endorsements

Endorsements for incumbents are based primarily on voting records on a number of issues of importance to the Sierra Club, including the Renewable Portfolio Standards for adoption of renewable energy into the grid. Endorsements for challengers are based on a questionnaire sent out by the Club and filled out by the candidates, covering such issues as the RPS, support of incentives for the faster development of renewable energy, and the candidate’s understanding of the science behind human-caused climate change.

Members of the Sierra Club will be volunteering to canvas and make phone calls in each of these districts in advance of November’s election. If you would like to help, contact Moti Rieber, Political Chair, at Moti.Rieber@gmail.com

Endorsements for the Kansas House of Representatives

* = incumbent

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<tr>
<th>District Location</th>
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<td>Lucas Cosens</td>
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<td>Annie Kuether*</td>
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* = incumbent

See Endorsements on page 19
Hope for Wolves, Grass Eating Criminals, Mother Earth, and Us

Eating as Though the Earth Matters

By Judy Carman, M.A.

At a rest stop on I-70 not too far west of Topeka, I saw something so peculiar I had to make a note of it. It was a quote from a man named Carl Becker whose words were immortalized on a plaque there. To paraphrase, his statement was this: When you look at wilderness, you lose hope. So see it not for what it is but for what it can be. Having just driven from Yosemite where I was overcome at each turn of the road by the majesty of the place, it was a jolting reminder that not everyone was a John Muir fan. It was Muir, as you know, who helped save Yosemite from those who would have only “found hope” in greedily taking it apart piece by piece for profit.

Those two world views reveal a lot about our challenges today as we seek to save our precious earth from the ravages of the human propensity to look at everything as objects put here just for our use. The fear of and estrangement from nature, coupled with our seemingly endless ideas on how to use it to our benefit has spelled disaster for ecosystems everywhere.

But is the tide turning in favor of Mother Earth? Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, quotes President Obama as saying to new college graduates, “You’re going to have to push those of us in power to do what this American moment demands.” He was referring to the environmental crises. Brune points out that 70% of U.S. adults polled, across party lines, agree that greenhouse gases from power plants should be limited. His hope and belief is that the U.S. can get all its electricity without coal or gas by 2030. He could be right. Already there are more people working for solar companies than there are coal miners.

The world view that our species is the center of the universe and that everything is here simply for us to use—appears to be losing ground, perhaps just in the nick of time. Animals, of course, both wild and domesticated, have been victims of that “all for us” belief system for thousands of years.

A recent example is the killing of the alpha female of the Huckleberry wolf pack by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). According to Defenders of Wildlife, WDFW had assured the public that no alpha wolves would be killed because they are so crucial to any pack’s survival. As you know, wolves are being killed at a devastating rate all over the northwest.

Why? Big Agriculture and small ranchers, including those who claim to be humane. A federal agency known as Wildlife Services, using our tax dollars, and other agencies are at their beck and call. The wild carnivores are killed to prevent them from killing cows, goats, sheep, chickens, etc. all of whom are going to be killed themselves by human beings for profit. Or, in the case of prairie dogs (58,000 of whom were killed in 2013 alone), bison, and other herbivores, their crime was eating grass. Such is the “hope” of animal producers—that they can control and manipulate nature and those who live in it to make a financial profit. The mindset behind it is that the oppression and domination of those who can’t defend themselves is acceptable as long as it benefits the oppressor. Shooting entire families of wolves from helicopters and/or poisoning them in their dens is an example of this moral and ethical abyss.

In other articles I have shared with you, we have looked deeply at the many water, air and earth catastrophes caused by animal agriculture. So in this article we will just focus on the devastation it causes to wildlife and ecosystems.

According to Norm Phelps in his book The Longest Struggle, the well-known environmental group known as Greenpeace began a unique campaign. Paul Watson, one of the founders, convinced his fellow activists that defending the environment and ecosystems involved defending the individual animals as well and indeed seeing them as individuals with feelings, families and lives of their own.

So in 1975 they acquired a ship which they named “Greenpeace V” with a plan to stop Soviet, Japanese, and Icelandic whalers from killing whales. Using inflatable zodiacs, they attempted to place themselves between the whales and the harpoons. Not caring about the protesters, the Russians fired anyway. This group also attempted to place themselves between baby harp seals and their killers and famously sprayed nontoxic red dye on the babies to make their white coats worthless to the seal killers. Greenpeace eventually stopped that kind of activism designed to raise public awareness and save individual animal’s lives along with their ecosystems. Paul Watson resigned from Greenpeace and formed the now world famous “Whale Wars” environmental and vegan group, Sea Shepherd.

Paul teaches and demonstrates the new world view that we human beings are not the center of the universe and that animals are not here for us to use. He and many other wise environmentalists are making it clear that “protecting ecosystems”
is not enough. Our ethics, as Einstein, Gandhi, Schweitzer and many others have made clear, must expand to include nonviolence to all living beings, not just people. Without such an ethic, we are mired in violence. When entire families of prairie dogs and wolves are killed so that we can kill cows, we have to ask ourselves—What is wrong with this picture?

Most of our cultures down through the ages have programmed us from early childhood to accept the domination dogma that Carl Becker and so many have unquestioningly lived by. But always in the background there have been those iconoclasts who questioned authority and looked more deeply at who we are and what our place in the world’s ecosystem really is. It takes a lot of courage to step out of the mainstream and as Walt Whitman penned, “dismiss whatever insults your own soul…” I believe our souls cry out at the news that mother wolves and their babies are killed by guns and poisons against which they have no defense—just so we can kill more cows.

Reporter Stephanie Lee covered a story for the San Francisco Chronicle in August about some new companies that are making a profit without harming wildlife or other animals. Hampton Creek has developed an egg substitute made from plant proteins. They are rethinking, as Lee says, “the way food is made.”

She states, “…high-tech food makers, backed by the likes of Bill Gates and the co-founders of Twitter, are finding a place on supermarket shelves. Hampton Creek’s mayonnaise and cookies, both plant-based, are in 10,000 stores worldwide. Plant-protein-derived chicken and beef by Beyond Meat in Southern California will soon be in 6,000 stores nationally.” Recognizing the environmental, health, and nonviolence benefits of plant based foods, these company founders and investors are taking a stand for a better world.

Hampton Creek is being backed by some very forward looking investors, including Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing, Jerry Yang who co-founded Yahoo, billionaire Tom Steyer, Gates, as well as Khosla Ventures, and others.

Some of these same investors are backing Ethan Brown’s company, Beyond Meat. He started the company, he says, because he cares about animals and wanted to help them and the Earth. Biz Stone, founder of Twitter, a vegan and an investor in Beyond Meat, calls it a “disruptive technology company,” in essence questioning the status quo, dismissing what is so deeply insulting our souls, and creating a new way to bring food to all tables (including the worlds’ hungry) without violence to the earth, wildlife, and other animals.

Beyond Meat’s research has found that 4% of the U.S. population is vegan. Brown points out that the meat people are eating is causing serious health and environmental issues. Yet many do not want to give it up. His answer to that: ‘…so why give it up? Why not try plant-based meat?’

As environmentalists, our “hope” is not Carl Becker’s “seeing [wilderness] for what it can be” after we manipulate it, but rather to be caught up in the awe and wonder of wilderness and the animals who live on this planet with us, to be able to live lightly upon the earth, indeed to do everything we can to bring back the clean air, water, and soil that once blessed our earthly home.

As I have said in all my previous “Eating As Though The Earth Matters” articles, the good news and the “hope” is close at hand. Three times each day, starting now, each one of us can make an astounding impact for good by eating vegan, plant based, nonviolent meals and committing ourselves to nonviolent practices toward this sacred Earth and all who live here.

© 2014, Judy Carman, M.A., is author of Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken’s Soul and co-author of The Missing Peace: The Hidden Power of our Kinship with Animal; 2014 winner of the Henry Spira Grassroots Animal Activist award; and owner of a truck and a car powered by used veggie oil and house powered by solar. Her primary websites are circleofcompassion.org and peacetoallbeings.com.
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
Mike Kozisek***, Secretary, Kanza Group Rep, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com
Scott Smith***, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
Stuart Bolt*, ExCom Member, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Gary Anderson***, PAC Treasurer, Topeka Group Rep, (785) 246-3226, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
David Kirkbride*, Outings Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Lori Lawrence***, Southwind Group Rep, (316) 688-1484, lawrencelorid@gmail.com
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
Kent Rowe*, ExCom Member, harkglider@yahoo.com
Duane Schrag*, Conservation Co-Chair, (785) 263-4002, schrag.duane@gmail.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Helen Woerner**, ExCom Member, (785) 250-4104, woernerhelen1@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
Bob Sommer, Director of Development, 816-898-1100, bobsommer09@gmail.com
Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Wolfe, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Director (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)
Carol Barta*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8068, 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
Ken Schefer*, Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer, (913) 780-6878, purpleroc1@gmail.com

(Kanza con't)
Richard Voss*, Treasurer, (913) 888-8517, vossrico@everestkc.net
Bob Fritsch*, Outings Chair, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com
Elaine Giessel*, Environmental Justice Co-Chair, Hospitality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Mike Kozisek*, Secretary, Chapter/Group Rep, (913) 788-2957, kozisek@hotmail.com
Mike Miller*, Conservation Co-Chair, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com
Gary Mass*, ExCom Member, 913-338-4990, gmmass2@yahoo.com
John Neuberger*, ExCom Member, (913) 492-1723, jneuberg@kumc.edu
Sarita Singh**, ExCom Member, (913) 563-4437, sarita888@hotmail.com
Craig Wolfe*, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Stuart Bolt*, Chair, Fundraising Chair, Communications Chair, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
Yvonne Cather*, Treasurer, Co-Conservation Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Dave Kirkbride*, Political Chair, Outings Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Lori Lawrence*, Chapter/Group Rep, (316) 688-1484, lawrencelorid@gmail.com
Kent Rowe*, Co-Conservation Chair, harkglider@yahoo.com

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
Ramon Powers*, ExCom Member, (785) 224-9225, ramonpowers@sbcglobal.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Helen Woerner*, ExCom Member, (785) 250-4104, woernerhelen1@gmail.com
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Duncan Whittier*, ExCom Member, (785) 334-6819, duncan888@aol.com

Wakarusa Group
The Wakarusa Group is in the process of reorganizing. They are looking for folks ready, willing, and able to lend a hand. Interested? Contact Chair Randy Kidd at (785) 863-3425 or email at drrkidd@gmail.com
General Meetings

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Tuesday, October 14, 6:45 pm
Preserving the Prairie Chicken
6:30 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Stephen Buback, Natural History Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), will talk on efforts to preserve the Greater Prairie Chicken (GPC), a major indicator species in the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem, whose numbers are declining throughout its range due to lose of habitat. Activities include habitat restoration, transplanting birds from neighboring states, and monitoring bird locations with radio collars.
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)
Tuesday, November 11, 6:45 pm
Alaska Up Close!
6:45 pm - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program.
7:00 pm - Kanza Group member Dennis Aguiar will share pictures and stories of his two Sierra Club outings via bush plane to the remote Arctic National Wildlife Reserve.
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)
Saturday, December 13, 6:30 pm
Kanza Winter Solstice Party
6:00 pm - Doors open.
7:00 pm - All members and their guests are invited to our annual holiday season party/potluck supper. We will have a slideshow of “Wildlife in the Park”. Bison chili and drinks will be provided. POTLUCK. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share; vegan/vegetarian recipes appreciated. Please bring your own tableware to help us reduce waste. Green Spirit Band provides music.
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th St. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side.
Contact - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Friday, October 10, 6:30 pm
General Meeting TBA
6:30 - There is a social hour that begins at 6:30 pm. Salad, pizza and pop will be available.
7:00 - Program TBA
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street North & Woodlawn
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Friday, November 14, 6:30 pm
Photographer Jim Griggs
6:30 pm - Salad, pizza and pop will be available.
7:00 pm - Jim Griggs will give another great program on a trip that he has taken. There is a social hour that starts at 6:30 pm. Salad, pizza and pop will be available.
Where - Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E 29th St. N., Wichita
Contact - Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 pm
Vanishing of the Bees
6:30 pm - “Meet and Greet and Gather”
7:00 pm - “Vanishing of the Bees” We will view the documentary and then have a discussion with people involved in beekeeping in our area. Come and join us for this event which affects agriculture including fruit farms and gardens. Thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka for providing a place for our meeting this evening.
Where - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka, KS
Questions - Gary Anderson at (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@hotmail.com

Topeka Group
November - No General Meeting

Topeka Group
Friday, December 5, 6:30 pm
Topeka Group Holiday Dinner
6:30 pm - We will meet at 6:30 pm and have dinner at 7 pm. Come join Topeka Group members to celebrate the year and the holidays. (Dinner and beverages are no-host.)
Where - Tup Tim Thai Restaurant 220 SW 29th, Topeka, KS
Questions - Gary Anderson at (785) 246-3229; gjanderson1963@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. 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 Meetup webpage for the latest outings updates at:

http://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/. Outings are also listed at http://kansas.sierraclub.org/outings/.

Oct 03. to Oct 05.. Kanza. AT CAPACITY Backpack the Hercules Glades Wilderness, Taney County, MO. Michael Reed mereed@runbox.com. Kick off the local backpacking season with a 2-night trip in the heart of the Ozarks. 8 person limit. $10 donation requested.

Oct 04. 9:00 am. Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Part 2. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com. This 5-hour class, will offer hands on demonstrations of pack loading, tent pitching, water treatment, cat holes, food, repair basics. Completion of Part 1 is a prerequisite.

Oct 11. 10:00 am (Time Tentative). Kanza. Champion Tree Dayhike, Kansas City, MO. Eileen McManus 816-523-7823 eileen4250@sbcglobal.net. Hike three miles through the Loose Park and Linda Hall Library Arboretums to see a variety of Kansas City Champion Trees in beautiful fall colors. $3 donation requested.

Oct 12. 1:00 pm. Kanza. Autumn Amble at Jerry Smith Park, Kansas City, MO. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com. View the prairie's autumn colors on a short hike of 1 to 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon. Rain date 10/19. $3.00 donation requested.

Oct 18. 9:00 am (Time Tentative). Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Shakedown Hike. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com. The goal of this outing is to get you more familiar with your gear, wearing and adjusting your pack, hiking on a rocky trail, and setting up camp. Many participants have found this exercise very helpful in preparation for their upcoming backpack trip. Completion of Parts 1 & 2 is a prerequisite.

Oct 24. to Oct 26.. Kanza. Family Camping in the Flint Hills, Elmdale, KS. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 randri4445@gmail.com. We'll stay at the YMCA scenic Camp Wood and enjoy hiking and horseback riding on the prairie. Two hours SW of KC. Bring a tent or stay in a cabin. Camping and riding fees apply. $10 donation requested.

Oct 31. to Nov 02.. Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Backpack Trip. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com. Apply what you learned in the backpacking classes. The trip will focus on applying the knowledge you have acquired. We will be applying map and compass skills. Completion of Parts 1 & 2 is a prerequisite.

Nov 01. 10:00 am (Time Tentative). Kanza. Eddy-Ballentine Trail Dayhike, Kansas City, MO. David Anderson 816-561-0626 kobecobra76@gmail.com. Hike three miles through limestone outcroppings, glades and valleys. $3 donation requested.

Nov 07. to Nov 09.. Kanza. Women's Backpacking, Buffalo River Trail, Ponca, AR. Melissa LeSage 913-219-6941 jmfamily76@hotmail.com. Join us for a beautiful fall hike on the scenic Buffalo River Trail. We'll backpack a 10 mile section from Ponca to Kyle's Landing. 8 person limit. $5 donation requested.

Nov 15. 9:15 am. Kanza. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com. Join us on a fall day as we work on maintaining part of the trail. Bring lunch, water, snacks, work gloves, and if you have them, a lopper or bow saw. Weather postponement date is Nov. 22.

Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

Nov 28. 1:00 pm (Time Tentative). Kanza. Black Friday Dayhike on the George Latham Trail, Clinton Lake, KS. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 randri4445@gmail.com. Skip the shopping madness and walk off your turkey dinner on the West side of Clinton Lake. 4.5 mile loop with varied terrain and nice views of the lake. Finish with campfire and hot chocolate. Dogs are welcome. $3 donation requested.

Dec 05. to Dec 07. Kanza. Bell Mountain Wilderness Backpack, Potosi, MO. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com. Let’s continue with our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act as we enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain. On Saturday we will bushwack to Lindsey Mountain. 10 person limit. $10 donation requested.

Dec 05. 6:30 pm. Topeka. Topeka Group Holiday Dinner. Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 gjanderson1963@hotmail.com. We will meet at 6:30pm and have dinner at 7pm. Come join Topeka Group members to celebrate the year and the holidays. (Dinner and beverages are no-host.) Please contact Gary Anderson with questions - 785-246-3229 or gjanderson1963@gmail.com

Dec 13. 10:00 am. Kanza. Rockhaven Trails Hike at Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com. We'll explore the three parallel trails on the scenic & rugged south shore of Clinton Lake that transverse the Rockhaven Public Use area. Connecting passes between the trails allow us to tailor hike length to the day's conditions. Bring lunch, snacks, water. $3 donation requested.

Dec 13. 6:30 pm. Kanza. Kanza Winter Solstice Party. C Elaine Giessel 913-888-8517 ecos@everestkc.net. All members and their guests are invited to our annual holiday season party/potluck supper. We will have a slideshow of “Wildlife in the Park”. Bison chili and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share; vegan/vegetarian recipes appreciated. Please bring your own tableware to help us reduce waste. Sat, Dec. 13, 6:30pm, OP Lutheran Church, 79th & Lowell

Weatherization, continued from page 5

of dilapidation and welcome any help that will save them on energy and will help preserve their home. Our participants have learned that they can save money on their energy bills as they learn the importance of conservation.

Another example is Mr. Allan Taborn who has been disabled for over 20 years. Mr. Taborn has a huge black Labrador who not only is a great watch dog, but a great companion who loves to sit in Mr. Taborn's lap when he sits down. When I went to Mr. Taborn's house to do our first energy upgrade along with our energy review using the Clipboard Home Energy Checklist, I also noticed that there was a lot of old items all around the house.

I eventually asked Mr. Taborn if he had any family that came by to help him. He told me that his son paid his bills for him, and he had a home health aide that did light cleaning. Knowing Mr. Taborn to be a proud man, I did not know how he would take my next question, but I asked him if he would allow me to bring some of my volunteers to help clean his home. To my surprise he said he would like it.

But before I could get the volunteers to clean the home, Mr. Taborn went into the hospital from complications from diabetes. He was recently released and on the first Saturday in September volunteers from all across the city came to help him clean out the clutter. These volunteers were solicited from our Facebook page.

Sunflower Community Action and Kansas Sierra Club EEC Program is more than just a weatherization program. It is a community service that goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Go Digital
See the Planet Kansas in Color
Save Trees. Save Us Money.
It’s the Smart Thing To Do!!
Send us your email to info@kansas.SierraClub.org
Tell us you’re Going Digital
We’ll send you the PK online.
**Calendar of Events**

**Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events**

Below is a listing of all General Meetings, Outings, and Committee Meetings for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 21 and Outings page 22. For the latest update on events, go to http://kansas.sierraclub.org/calendar/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 02. 5:30 pm</td>
<td>000-Non Club Sponsor Activist Event. Prairie Village Environmental Forum. Mrs Kathy Riordan <a href="mailto:kfriordan@kc.rr.com">kfriordan@kc.rr.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kfrriordan@kc.rr.com">kfrriordan@kc.rr.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 03. to Oct 05.</td>
<td>Kanza. AT CAPACITY Backpack the Hercules Glades Wilderness, Taney County, MO. Michael Reed <a href="mailto:mreed@runbox.com">mreed@runbox.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mreed@runbox.com">mreed@runbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 04. 9:00 am</td>
<td>Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Part 2. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 <a href="mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com">wildwoodp@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulgpaul@gmail.com">paulgpaul@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 05. 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind’s Executive Committee Meeting. Stuart Bolt 316-682-4722 <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 10. 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind -. Stuart Bolt 316-682-4722 <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 11. 10:00 am</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Kanza. Champion Tree Dayhike, Kansas City, MO. Eileen McManus 816-523-7823 <a href="mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net">eileen4250@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net">eileen4250@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12. 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Autumn Amble at Jerry Smith Park, Kansas City, MO. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 <a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14. 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Kanza Gen Mtg -- Preserving the Prairie Chicken. Craig Lubow 913-299-6620 <a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14. 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind’s Conservation Committee Meeting. Yvonne A Cather 316-204-8920 <a href="mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18. 8:00 am</td>
<td>000-Non Club Sponsor Activist Event. OP Recycling Extravanganza. Jim Twigg <a href="mailto:jim.twigg@opkansas.org">jim.twigg@opkansas.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jim.twigg@opkansas.org">jim.twigg@opkansas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18. 9:00 am</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Shakedown Hike. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 <a href="mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com">wildwoodp@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulgpaul@gmail.com">paulgpaul@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18. 10:00 am</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Kanza. Corporate Woods to Blue River Parkway Bike Ride, Leawood, KS. John Haynes 913-742-0100 <a href="mailto:jhaynes5018@everestkc.net">jhaynes5018@everestkc.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhaynes5018@everestkc.net">jhaynes5018@everestkc.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24. to Oct 26.</td>
<td>Kanza. Family Camping in the Flint Hills, Elmdale, KS. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 <a href="mailto:randri4445@gmail.com">randri4445@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:randri4445@gmail.com">randri4445@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Oct 27. 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Topeka. Vanishing of the Bees. Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 <a href="mailto:ganderson1963@hotmail.com">ganderson1963@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ganderson1963@hotmail.com">ganderson1963@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30. 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Kanza ExCom. Craig Lubow 913-299-6620 <a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 31. to Nov 02.</td>
<td>Kanza. Beginning Backpack Class Series, Backpack Trip. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 <a href="mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com">wildwoodp@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulgpaul@gmail.com">paulgpaul@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 01. 10:00 am</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Kanza. Eddy-Ballentine Trail Dayhike, Kansas City, MO. David Anderson 816-561-0626 <a href="mailto:kobecobra76@gmail.com">kobecobra76@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kobecobra76@gmail.com">kobecobra76@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 02. 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind’s Executive Committee Meeting. Stuart Bolt 316-682-4722 <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 07. to Nov 09.</td>
<td>Kanza. Women’s Backpacking, Buffalo River Trail, Ponca, AR. Melissa LeSage 913-219-6941 <a href="mailto:jmfamily76@hotmail.com">jmfamily76@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmfamily76@hotmail.com">jmfamily76@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11. 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Kanza GenMtg -- Alaska Up Close !. Craig Lubow 913-299-6620 <a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:alanskoalas@yahoo.com">alanskoalas@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14. 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind - Jim Grigg's Presentation. Stuart Bolt 316-682-4722 <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15. 9:00 am</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Chapter. Kansas Chapter ExCom Meeting. Yvonne A Cather 316-204-8920 <a href="mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org">yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org</a></td>
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<td>Nov 15. 9:15 am</td>
<td>Kanza. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 <a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
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<td>Nov 23. 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Dayhike at Overland Park Arboretum, Overland Park, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 <a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28. 1:00 pm</td>
<td>(Time Tentative). Kanza. Black Friday Dayhike on the George Latham Trail, Clinton Lake, KS. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 <a href="mailto:randri4445@gmail.com">randri4445@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:randri4445@gmail.com">randri4445@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Dec 05. to Dec 07.</td>
<td>Kanza. Bell Mountain Wilderness Backpack, Potosi, MO. Paul Gross 816-228-6563 <a href="mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com">wildwoodp@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulgpaul@gmail.com">paulgpaul@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Dec 05. 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Topeka. Topeka Group Holiday Dinner. Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 <a href="mailto:ganderson1963@hotmail.com">ganderson1963@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ganderson1963@hotmail.com">ganderson1963@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Dec 07. 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Southwind. Southwind’s Executive Committee Meeting. Stuart Bolt 316-682-4722 <a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net">stuart.bolt@cox.net</a></td>
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<td>Dec 13. 10:00 am</td>
<td>Kanza. Rockhaven Trails Hike at Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 <a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassler@planetkc.com">hassler@planetkc.com</a></td>
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<td>Dec 13. 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Kanza. Kanza Winter Solstice Party. C Elaine Giessel 913-888-8517 <a href="mailto:ecos@everestkc.net">ecos@everestkc.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecos@everestkc.net">ecos@everestkc.net</a></td>
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