

OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth

One Chance

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<http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

The St. Johns Basin-New Madrid Floodway Project

The Gap that's far from the Mall: Part II—Project Update

by Alan R.P. Journet, Trail of Tears Group Conservation Chair

The St. Johns Basin–New Madrid Floodway Project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USA–COE) Memphis District is designed to protect certain agricultural and residential areas of Southeast Missouri from the frequent severe flooding that they currently experience. Although the project promises significant human benefits and is extremely popular in the area, it threatens considerable environmental cost. This series, originally scheduled to run two parts, described the nature of the project (Part I), pro-

vides an update (Part II) and will then explore environmental and other concerns (Part III). The series extension is because the author has been developing a presentation for the Administrative Law Judge hearing the case (see below for explanatory details).

Summary from Part One:

In the first part of this three–part series (Ozark Sierran Volume 35 Number 2 pages 3-4, 8-9) I presented an outline of a project designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to close an engineered gap in the Mississippi River levee system in Southeast Missouri and prevent flooding on the last stretch of Mississippi River floodplain that maintains connection with the river during flood phase. The gap in question separates the front-line levee that generally follows the Missouri bank of the river from a set-back levee that cuts across land from Bird's Point to New Madrid as the river loops south and back north. From here downstream, the set-back levee continues as the one

main levee (Figure 1). This arrangement created the New Madrid Floodway between the two levees over ten miles apart at their greatest separation. This floodway was designed such that should severe floods threaten Cairo, located just upstream of Bird's Point, the front-line levee could be blown (crevassed) at the upstream end allowing the river to spread across the floodway and exit through the 1500 foot gap at the downstream end thus relieving the flood threat confronting Cairo and other towns. This feature was used once in 1937, but its use has been considered since then— most recently in the 1990s (though ultimately it was not employed).

The gap in the levee at New Madrid (Figure 2) has the design consequence (for landowners and residents) of allowing Mississippi River water to flow backwards up the New Madrid Floodway causing backwater flooding (Figure 3). Over the last century, especially with the extensive and successful drainage afforded the region by ditches developed by the Little River Drainage District,

continued on page 6...SJB–NM Floodway Project

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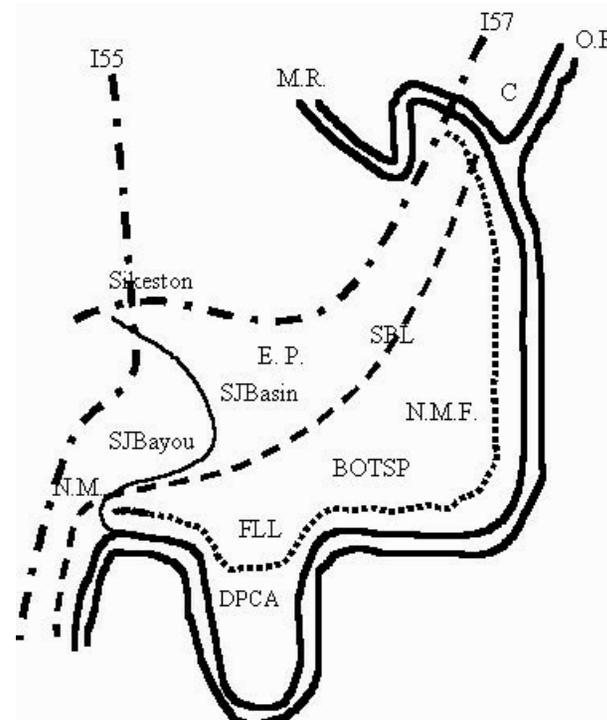


Figure 1: The St. Johns Basin and New Madrid Floodways in Southeast Missouri. BOTSP – Big Oak Tree State park, FLL - Frontline levees, SBL - set-back levee, C - Cairo, DPCA - Donaldson Point Conservation Area, E.P. - East Prairie, I55 - Interstate 55, I57 - Interstate 57, N.M. - New Madrid, N.M.F. - New Madrid Floodway, SJBayou – St. Johns Bayou, SJBasin – St. Johns Basin

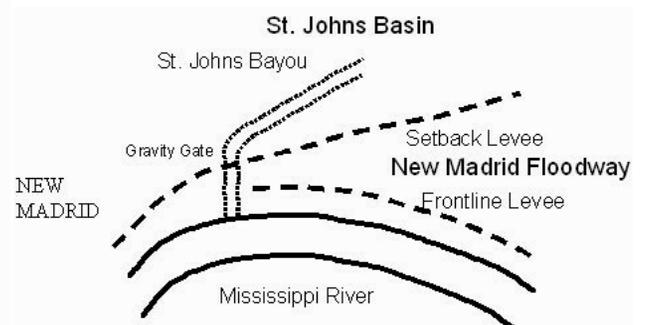


Figure 2. Detail of the Levee gap at New Madrid and the St. Johns Bayou exit through the set-back levee.

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Organize Now To Act Next Year

by McNeer Dillon, Ozark Chapter Political Chairman

Defense of the environment has become much more difficult in Missouri because a majority of antienvironmental legislators have been elected in both houses. Their interests now involve voting for proposals that result in damage to the environment. Hardly any amount of complaining by us will change this. The best that we can achieve with these kinds of legislators is to impede or delay their actions and the collateral abuses of the environment. We cannot dependably stop them and we cannot get good legislation passed.

Must we then accept that the environment will inexorably be degraded? Yes, certainly for the two years of this legislative session, political force will be directed against the environment. Furthermore, we will accept this as long as we remain unwilling to take that particular kind of action that will prevent it—political action. So I urge the Sierrans in each group to consider forming active, effective political committees. I hope you will be willing to undertake this action. I volunteer my good offices to each political committee to help achieve this.

We must take political action, electoral action. Elections are profoundly consequential for us. I call for volunteers to come forward in each group to aid their political chairman. I hope that this thrust to get organized and into action may receive your good will and support. It is important that every group be roused to a new political awakening. —

Midwest Region Sierrans Meet in Alton, Illinois

by Roy Hengerson, MRCC Alternate Delegate

On June 6–8 over 50 Sierra Club members from the Midwest and beyond gathered in Alton, Illinois near the confluence of three mighty rivers, the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Illinois. In addition to a meeting of the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee, a Big Rivers Workshop was held.

For a number of years, the Sierra Club held the annual Big Rivers Workshop in Washington, DC. Last year it was decided to return to the big rivers, and the Workshop was held in Wisconsin. This year the greater St. Louis area was selected. In addition to interesting and informed presentations by people who have been working on river and watershed issues for years, the Workshop featured a tour of the river environment in the confluence area.

Representatives from two federal agencies that have a lot to say about how the big rivers are managed participated in the Workshop. Mike Thompson and Chuck Theiling with the Army Corps of Engineers discussed their views on inte-

grated river planning and other aspects of the Corps' river management. Joyce Collins with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talked about river restoration and what considerations should guide this work.

On Sunday the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee (MRCC) held their business meeting. The MRCC meets three times a year at various locations around the nine states that comprise the Club's Midwest Region. After that, activists from the Mississippi River Basin Eco-Region discussed ways to revitalize Sierra Club efforts to protect and restore the environment of the nation's big rivers, particularly those in the Mississippi River Basin. —



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Items for publication: Contact **Keet Kopecky** via E-mail at kkopecky@kc.r.com or phone (816)966-9544. **PRIOR TO SENDING**, for information on how to submit articles.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles! Material may be edited for length, content, or clarity. It is our job to help you communicate. If you have strong creative ownership of your writing, and wish to review your edited article before publication, *consider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline*. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

Reproduction quality photographs (prints) or artwork are dearly welcome. Please send us photos...

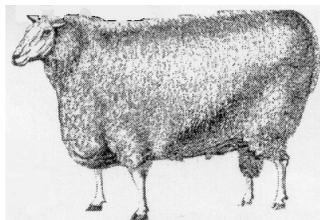
OZARK SIERRAN

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the newsletter will come out on time!

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a Mac or PC disk (3.5"), WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your disk), please include a SASE.

Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: Keet Kopecky, Editor; Bob Sherrick, and Claus Wawrzinek

Thank



For Remembering the Sierra Club!

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting the Ozark Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own back yard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Thank you.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Saving the Meramec River—25 Years Ago Today

by Dorothy K. Stade, Ozark Chapter Leader & Activist Emeritus

There have been many memorable days in the life of the Ozark Chapter, but none more memorable than August 8, 1978. That was the day the voters, given the unusual opportunity to vote on an Army Corps of Engineers project, said NO to the Meramec Dam. An overwhelming 64% of the voters sounded the death knell, not only for the Meramec Dam, but also for the much larger Meramec Basin Project because without the Meramec Dam, there was little likelihood that any others would be built.

The Meramec Dam was to be the first and the largest dam in the project. It was to be built near Sullivan, Missouri just upstream of Meramec State Park and would have created a reservoir with a shoreline of 175 miles inundating 12,600 acres (normal pool) of farmland, wildlife habitat, the Upper Meramec, and the lower Huzzah and Courtois — all to protect 11,500 acres downstream.

Severe flooding on the lower Meramec in the 1930s provided the Corps with an opportunity to propose dams in the Meramec Basin; the Flood Control Act of 1938 authorized dams on the Meramec and the Bourbeuse. A war intervened, but in 1943, the plan re-surfaced with an additional dam on the Big River. Corps plans do not shrink; they only expand in size. More plans were offered, and finally in 1963 the Corps offered up the new Meramec Basin Project which called for a total of 31 dams! There were to be seven main-stem dams on the Meramec, Big, and Bourbeuse Rivers, a dozen smaller dams on tributaries, and a dozen higher in the basin for erosion control. The Corps touted the usual benefits: flood control, flatwater recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Later water supply and economic stimulation in the area were added to the list. The Corps was on a roll during this time, and in 1966 Congress authorized the Meramec Dam and began appropriating funds for planning and land purchase.

It appeared that all the movers and shakers favored the Meramec Dam: the Missouri Congressional delegation, the Governor, the Conservation Commission, the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, the two major St. Louis newspapers. Every year the Meramec Basin Association dutifully sent someone to Washington to lobby and testify in support of more appropriations. Appearances are deceptive. Not everyone supported the Meramec Dam. Many landowners were not “willing sellers” and did not want to lose their land. The Citizens’ Committee to Save the Meramec was formed in the Bourbon–Sullivan area. Canoeists did not want to lose these free-flowing miles of river so close to St. Louis. Cavers were concerned about the loss of dozens of caves in the area including Onondaga, and the loss of bat habitat. Float fishermen envisioned the loss of excellent small mouth bass habitat on the Courtois and Huzzah. And environmen-

talists simply did not want to see the Corps mess up another beautiful area. Even the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had doubts about the so-called “benefits” of the project, but there was no organized opposition, and the project moved forward.

The opponents needed someone with vision, perseverance, and a personal commitment to see the effort through to the end. In the Meramec Dam campaign, that person was Jerry Sugerman. Many hundreds of people contributed to the eventual victory, but it was Jerry who was the glue that held it together through all the years. He had gotten his environmental feet wet during the aborted Scenic Rivers drive, and in 1971 shifted his energies to saving the Meramec. Well-meaning friends tried to dissuade him, believing that the Meramec Dam was a *fait accompli* since Congress never deauthorized Corps projects once work had begun. Fortunately, Jerry was not dissuaded and the rest is history.

Sugerman developed a plan for involving every individual and group possible in the effort to stop the Dam. And he used every technique available to acquaint the public with what they would lose if the Dam were built. In 1971 he led a large delegation to Washington, D.C. to testify against further appropriations for the Dam. It made headlines because this was the first real evidence of an organized opposition. In 1972 the Ozark Chapter filed

ty and more supporters for the anti-dam effort.

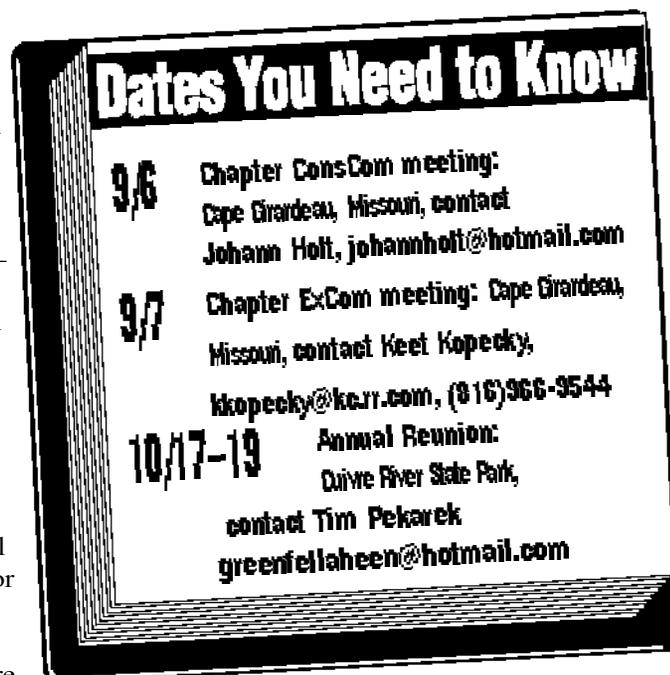
During this time Sugerman and his committee had not been idle. There were letter and phone campaigns, opportunities for distributing leaflets and bumper stickers, programs and slide shows to be given, field trips and float trips to be organized, and regular contacts with the media and government officials to be maintained.

By 1975 approximately 22,000 acres had been purchased by the Corps, and some work had begun on access roads and what was to be the visitors center. But things were changing. At its spring meeting, the Conservation Federation of Missouri resolved to change its position and oppose construction of the Meramec Dam. Later that spring a group from the Citizen’s Committee presented Governor Bond with petitions containing 45,000 signatures of citizens opposing the Dam. The 70s were becoming the environmental decade and more and more people were expressing doubts about this kind of project, but that did not slow down the Corps.

By 1976 the Corps was moving dirt at the Dam site, but this was an election year, and the dam became an issue in several races. In his successful race for the U.S. Senate, John Danforth built part of his campaign on opposition to the dam and reservoir. And Jimmy Carter, who campaigned against federal water projects, was elected President. He had presented his “hit list” of nineteen projects, including the Meramec, and true to his pledge, omitted funding for them in his first annual budget in 1977. (By 1977, the project cost had risen to \$124 million from the 1966 estimate of \$38 million). With funding suspended, everything stopped. Public opinion was shifting and Senator Thomas Eagleton said he would no longer support the Meramec Dam unless a public referendum showed support for the project. The Missouri General Assembly very reluctantly approved a non-binding referendum to be held in the city of St. Louis and 12 Meramec Basin counties on August 8, 1978.

Now Jerry Sugerman, the Sierra Club, and its allies had their work cut out for them. They had to raise enough money to fund a winning election campaign. And they did it! Only Jerry could describe how a last ditch effort paid off, and they were able to achieve the impossible and beat the Corps. Even the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reversed its long-standing position and came out against the project, as did the Missouri Department of Conservation. What a feeling of accomplishment pervaded the Club—an “Ozark Mountain High” worth celebrating.

But it wasn’t really over. It took three more years before all the details were worked out to deauthorize the project and dispose of the lands the Corps had purchased. The deauthorization bill was signed by Ronald Reagan on December 29, 1981. Finally, after 43 years, the Meramec’s right to flow freely to the sea had been guaranteed. —



suit seeking an injunction against Corps activity in the Meramec Basin because of the totally inadequate environmental impact statement. It was eight pages long! The hearing was not held in St. Louis Federal District Court until 1975. Meanwhile, in 1973 the Endangered Species Act had become law, and Indiana bats, which hibernated in Meramec Basin caves, were being considered for endangered species status. It was hoped this would have some impact on the court case. Unfortunately, the judge rejected the environmentalists’ arguments, but the case had gained publici-

MERAMEC

25th Anniversary Celebration of a River Saved

Miracles & Milestones The Rebirth of a River

"Meramec", Miracles & Milestones-The Rebirth of a River, includes a series **25th Anniversary Events** for a river long revered, but almost lost. A full summer of activities and programs designed to celebrate the conservation and outdoor recreation value of the Meramec River and its tributaries. Twenty-five years ago, on August 8, 1978, Missouri voters made the decision to stop a dam and keep the Meramec River a free flowing stream. We hope that you will plan to join us as we celebrate the renaissance of the Meramec in these and other events.

7th Annual Watershed Celebration, Meramec State Park - Saturday, July 26, 2003

Join Meramec River friends and Stream Team members for a full day of river related family activities at Meramec State Park which includes children's activities, naturalist programs, canoeing award presentations, food and refreshments. Advanced registration required.

"Meramec", Past, Present & Future—A special evening program is planned this year to highlight the 25th Anniversary of the successful referendum held on August 8, 1978 that stopped the construction of the Meramec Dam and allowed the Meramec River and its tributaries to remain free flowing streams. This event is scheduled from 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center in the Park includes; light refreshments, entertainment and program. Bring your dam stories and join us for this event. Advanced registration required.

Cost Adults \$15.00 Children \$5.00 (Dinner is available at the dining lodge prior to the evening event reservations are required).

"Meramec" Miracles and Milestones-The Rebirth of A River, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Friday, August 8, 2003 - 6:30-9:30 P.M.

Meramec Miracles & Milestones- The Rebirth of a River, is a 25th Anniversary Event. It is the Story of A River Saved. This event includes an evening of entertainment, exhibits, refreshments and a truly unique once in a lifetime presentation by noted river advocates and several key individual leaders who worked tirelessly during the 1970's. Their efforts halted the construction of the Meramec Dam, a measure that would have inundated thousands of acres of beautiful Missouri landscape and many natural wonders. Registration required.

Cost \$25.00 per person.

For additional information on the above programs or for registration, please call The Open Space Council at **1-866-983-9900** or e-mail us at **openspace@accessus.net**. Or you may complete the form below and mail your information, along with payment, to: **The Open Space Council, PO Box 1478, Ballwin, MO 63022**

MERAMEC 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF A RIVER SAVED EVENTS REGISTRATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of persons: _____

Adults: _____ Children: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

7th Annual Watershed Celebration, Meramec State Park - Saturday, July 26, 2003, Meramec State Park

"Meramec", Past, Present & Future—6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center in the Park

Cost Adults \$15.00 Children \$5.00 (Dinner is available at the dining lodge prior to the evening event reservations are required).

Number of persons: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

"Meramec" Miracles and Milestones-The Rebirth of A River, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Friday, August 8, 2003 - 6:30-9:30 P.M.. Cost \$25.00 per person.

Join us October 17-18-19th for our Annual Ozark Chapter Campout and Reunion!

It's that time of year again. The leaves on the trees will soon be turning and Sierrans will be gathering for our annual campout and retreat. It will be held October 17-19 at that great spot, beautiful Cuivre River State Park! We will be housed at Camp Cuivre.

Cuivre River is one of the state's largest and most pleasant parks, nestled in the Lincoln hills north of St. Louis. The karst geology and accompanying ecology make it a good example of classic Central Missouri deciduous forest ecosystem. There is a restored prairie, an oak savannah, sinkholes, woodlands, and a clear, rock-bottomed stream. There are many miles of well-marked, easy hiking trails suitable for every level of adventure.

As always, we'll have plenty of good food prepared by friendly fellow Sierrans. If you like to cook, feel free to volunteer to help. There will be special activities for kids and indoor stuff to do in the event of less than perfect weather.

Send in the registration form with your check by September

Join us Oct 17-18-19 for our annual Ozark Chapter Campout and Reunion.

We will lodge at Camp Cuivre in beautiful Cuivre River State Park, one of the state's largest and most rugged parks. Hike scenic trails and enjoy plenty of good food prepared by fellow Sierrans. Activities for children. Everyone is welcome.

Registration for '03 Camp-Out

Deadline September 15th

Send in your registration form today! Sorry we can't accept payment on the web. Please print out and mail to the address below.

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Address:	<input type="text"/>		
City/State/Zip:	<input type="text"/>		
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	child 3-6 yrs.	\$8	\$
	child 6-12 yrs.	\$15	\$
	adult 13+ yrs.	\$30	\$
	adult partial weekend *	\$20	\$
	limited income	\$15	\$
	Saturday dinner only	\$10	\$
	total fee enclosed \$		
Maximum fee for a family \$80			
Fees include cabin camping, and 5 meals (Sat. breakfast through Sun. lunch) * partial weekend defined as less than 3 meals.			

- 1 Make checks payable to "Ozark Chapter Sierra Club"
- 1 Print and mail form and checks to:
EMG Office, 7164 Manchester Ave, St. Louis, MO 63143
- 1 Any questions, phone: Tim Pekarek at (314) 621-4052 or email
greenfellaheen@hotmail.com
- 1 We must receive your reservation by Sept 15th.
- 1 Camping fees will be refunded for cancellations received prior to Sept. 22nd.
- 1 We will mail you an information packet containing map in advance of the Campout date.



SJB-NM Floodway Project.....continued from page 1

many landowners have taken advantage of the fertile floodplain soils to grow crops: notably corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

The problem for these farmers is that the frequent flooding (Figure 4) induced by a swollen Mississippi River reduces the profits that they potentially could gain from their farmlands. In addition, the economically depressed communities of Southeast Missouri, which are largely dependent on agriculture for their survival, enjoy less benefit from the vast acres of fertile soils surrounding them than they feel they should. Small rural residential communities, particularly those at the gap end of the New Madrid Floodway, also suffer at the hands of backwater flooding from the



Figure 3. The Swollen Mississippi River backs up through the gap into the New Madrid Floodway. The St. Johns Bayou gravity gate through the set-back levee is at the left.

Mississippi River. Meanwhile, communities such as East Prairie, located in Saint Johns Basin on the landward side of the set-back levee, suffer from headwater flooding (Figure 5) caused by the heavy seasonal rains of the region flowing through over-burdened channels and ditches to the Mississippi River. These ditches and channels flow into St. Johns Bayou which then passes through a gate in the set-back levee (Figures 2 and 6) at New Madrid into the Mississippi River adjacent to the aforementioned gap. When the Mississippi River level exceeds the elevation of this bayou, the gates are closed and water accumulates behind the levee in the basin, backing up northwards to inundate croplands, and under severe flood conditions, ultimately to threaten East Prairie.

As reported in Part I, the project developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has two main components: one is designed to address headwater flooding in St. Johns Basin, and the other to address backwater flooding in the New Madrid Floodway. The initial stage of the project involves the construction of a 1500 foot levee to close the gap between the frontline and set-back levees just east of New Madrid. This incorporates gravity gates to allow limited floodplain connectivity with the river. Phase I of the overall project would then involve installation of two pumping stations: one to pump accumulated headwater flooding out of St. Johns Basin into the Mississippi River, and a second to pump accumulated headwater flooding behind the new levee out of the New Madrid Floodway into the Mississippi River. In addition, Phase I involves channel widening to promote the drainage of waters from St. Johns Basin into the Mississippi; this includes a plan to assist East Prairie by widening St. James Ditch, a drainage channel that skirts the east side of the city and carries water to the St. Johns Bayou. On a recent trip to East Prairie with David Conrad of the National Wildlife Federation and project maps in hand indicating the current and 'with project' flood lines, we estimated that the project would protect fewer than 100 homes from 25 year floods. Many of the homes in the zone to be protected, fur-

thermore, are mobile trailers or are dilapidated and abandoned.

It is instructive to note that the primary benefits from the New Madrid Floodway project component will be to farmlands within the current two year flood plain. These are the lands at the downstream end of the floodway in the vicinity of the gap itself (Figure 2). Closing the gap would make it possible for these farmers to impose more intensive, more profitable, cropping regimens on their land. Interestingly, immediately adjacent to the gap, some 50% or more of the land is owned by members of (or trusts of) the R.D. James family of New Madrid. In addition to his being an extensive landowner in the affected area, R.D. James is also a member of the Mississippi River Commission. This body is composed of federally appointed civilians and Corps representatives; it supervises and monitors the activities of the Corps of Engineers which manages the river. Given the lobbying opportunities enjoyed by Mr. James, there is little surprise that the Commission supports the project and accords minimal attention to the environmental and conservation hazards it will pose.



Figure 4. Flooded farmland adjacent to the frontline levee in the New Madrid Floodway within a mile of the levee gap.

Photo by David Conrad

Photo by David Conrad

Erratum:

In Part One I incorrectly reported annual benefits from the project. I indicated that the division of the \$885,000 in annual economic benefits between the two-part project were divided with \$113,000 coming from the New Madrid Floodway component, and \$772,000 from the St. Johns Basin component. Upon review, I realized this was incorrect, and that the division of benefits is actually reported as follows: the net annual benefit for the floodway levee closure component is \$113,000 while for the two pumping stations and channel widening component (Phase I) it is \$772,000.

On the basis of my incorrect assessment, I suggested that it would have been appropriate for the USA-COE to give more consideration to their Alternative 5, St. Johns Basin Component only, since this would involve just one pumping station and channel modifications in that basin – leaving the new Madrid Floodway as is.

According to the economic analysis provided by the Corps, the St. Johns Basin component alone offers a net annual benefit to cost ratio of 1.08 with an annual benefit of \$203,000. The reason it was rejected, it appears, is “because it does not address flood protection for agricultural areas in the New Madrid Floodway” (Final EIS, June 2002). It was also rejected because “it severely limits the potential to improve [East Prairie’s] quality of life and [offer] new economic development” and because it “does not address the purpose to reduce the duration and frequency of backwater flooding in the New Madrid Floodway.” (ditto).

Although my earlier simplistic economic reasoning for suggesting that the St. Johns Basin only alternative is worthy of consideration was based on a misinterpretation of the data, the economic analysis presented by the Corps, in combination with the reality that most wildlife concerns would result from the New Madrid Floodway component, still suggest that Alternative 5 deserves far greater attention than it was given.

Current Status:

As previously reported, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources refused ‘clean water’ certification of the St. Johns Basin-New Madrid Floodway Project. Following this sane act, where they served as the last standing guardians of the waterways and wetlands of Missouri against the juggernaut of the Corps of Engineers, Mississippi and new Madrid County landowners, and state and federal politicians, tremendous pressure was brought to bear on all manner of state employees by state and federal representatives exerting political clout. The corps then appealed the decision of the state DNR to the Missouri Clean Water Commission; this body has the ability to overturn or modify DNR water quality certification decisions. The state DNR

then re-visited the project and developed a set of conditions which, if met by the Corps, would lead to project certification. Although there were fears within conservation and environmental circles that DNR would cave in under pressure, to their credit they did not. Rather, they developed a proposal that they then submitted to the Corps of Engineers. The proposal contained a set of stipulations that, if met, would result in DNR granting conditional certification to the project. The term 'conditional' is because several elements of the proposal contain the caveat that monitoring is required, and should this monitoring indicate a failure in the future to continue to meet the requirements, DNR would "review, suspend, modify, or withdraw this certification." I infer that this language means that the Corps is on notice that any failure on their part to develop and demonstrably sustain the promised conditions could result in the project being de-certified. Although this presumably would not result in the destruction of the 1500 foot levee closure, I infer that it could require modification in the operation of gravity gates to reassert connectivity between river and floodplain and restore flooding to the area.

The conditions of the DNR proposal are summarized below:

Ⓐ Big Oak Tree State Park would be protected by the purchase as a matter of high priority, of approximately 1800 acres of frequently flooded land surrounding the park. These acres would then be reforested with seed from locally native individuals of species naturally growing in the park. Success in this mitigation effort would be acknowledged if seedling survival exceeds 70% after five years. Should survival fall below this criterion, additional planting would be required. To protect BOTSP, a commitment to completion of the proposed hydrology project would be required. This necessitates provision of access of Mississippi River water to the park through a levee gate and channels to the park. It also requires purchasing easements alongside the park that would allow construction of levees (or berms) to surround the park (on land outside the park itself) thus allowing water level management within. Finally, this proposal requires that the Corps provide fund design and construction of the levees.

Ⓒ Since DNR staff questioned the accuracy of the wetlands delineation methodology employed by the Corps in the area, the DNR proposal requires that agricultural wetlands be

delimited according to the National Food Security Act Manual while nonagricultural wetlands should be delineated with due consideration being given to a growing season of 11.25 days, the maximum two year flood elevation, and areas having saturated soil for 5% of the growing season. Any additional wetlands acres judged to suffer from the project as a result of this recalculation would need to be mitigated.

Ⓔ Rather than indicate somewhat vaguely where mitigation would be targeted, the Corps



Figure 5. When the gravity gates in the set-back levee close, headwater flooding overflows the St. Johns Bayou, accumulates, and backs up into St. Johns Basin.

Photo by David Conrad



Figure 6. The St Johns Bayou gate in the set-back levee. When the Mississippi River level is above the bayou, the gates are closed to prevent backwater flooding in the St Johns Basin.

Photo by David Conrad

would be required to submit a mitigation plan for wetland losses pursuant to the delineation methodology defined above in Ⓒ prior to certification. This plan would need to incorporate clear site locations and descriptions, a guarantee as to its completion, provision for long term management and maintenance, and a monitoring plan.

Ⓔ Mitigation sites would need to have conservation deed restrictions preventing their subsequent conversion to other uses.

Ⓔ A monitoring plan covering locations where any depositions of material might be made into jurisdictional state waters would need to be approved by DNR. The monitoring plan must ensure:

↳ that jurisdictional wetlands below 300 foot elevation in the St. Johns Basin retain their status. Any additional wetland drainage would need to be further mitigated,

↳ that the natural biological community within the two target basins shall not be adversely impacted; this would include assuring the re-establishment of aquatic populations similar to those present prior to the project. If successful re-establishment does not occur within two years, remedial action approved by DNR would be necessary,

↳ The Corps would enforce permitting and certification processes for any future wetland conversions.

Ⓔ Any channel widening imposed on the area shall only be undertaken if all other potential methods for improving water flow are reasonably excluded.

Ⓔ If the project is constructed according to the preferred alternative (3.1B):

↳ no material shall be sidecast along SJB waterways but shall be used in the project or disposed of in upland areas,

↳ artificial structures shall be constructed to create sinuous channel flow,

↳ excavation shall be limited to one bank,

↳ work shall be undertaken during low-flow seasons wherever possible.

Ⓔ Since the Clean Water Act (Section 402) requires a permit for land disturbances exceeding one acre, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is required and shall be submitted prior to the initiation of any regulated activities.

Ⓔ If jurisdictional wetland degradation results from the project, the Corps must modify operations of gates and pumps, and undertake additional mitigation to ameliorate the impacts.

Ⓔ Machinery and pollutants shall be kept out of waterways.

The stipulations of this proposal constitute a set of reasonable conditions that would minimize the impact of the project, and ensure that any excessive damage is detected and addressed. These stipulations certainly suggest that certification could be withdrawn if foreseen or unforeseen problems are identified and not resolved. However, proposals such as this tend to generate their own momentum. It is very difficult to imagine that once

continued on page 8...SJB-NM Floodway Project

SJB-NM Floodway Project.....continued from page 7 constructed, DNR could enforce a roll back of operations that would restore wetland function and wildlife habitat in a timely manner. Furthermore, noble and reasonable as they are, the requirements for mitigation suggest a well-documented and technologically feasible remedy. In reality, however, there is little evidence to suggest that wetland mitigation is successful; this, of course, is the reason that mitigation often imposes a requirement upon developers that more than one acre of mitigation for each acre lost shall be undertaken. Thus, even if the Corps lives up to the requirements of delineating wetlands more accurately, and then mitigating and monitoring, there remains no guarantee that vast ecological damage will not be the final result.

Neither does this set of requirements address the fundamental problem that this project poses. In its development of the project, the Corps simply added elements to the project that were desired by the local residents as long as the project overall maintained a positive economic benefit to cost ratio. Even the economically viable option of focusing project attention on the St. Johns Basin component of the project was rejected because local residents demanded that the farmland of the New Madrid Floodway be protected.

...the Corps failed to live up to its national and regional responsibility of protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat.

It remains a disappointment that the Corps failed to live up to its national and regional responsibility of protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat. Instead, the Corps appears to be catering solely to the economic desires of local landowners. As a result, a vast sum of federal taxpayer dollars will potentially be expended to impose considerable ecological damage for the economic benefit of a relatively small number of already wealthy landowners.

Although this proposal largely served to require the Corps to do what it said it would do, it was rejected by the Corps and the Clean Water Commission appeal was retained. As of this date, a Hearing is scheduled in early July before an Administrative Law Judge, designated by the Commission. This judge will listen to testimony from the Corps, DNR and those entities (such as Environmental Defense and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment) which filed as Defendant Interveners along with DNR. The judge will then make recommendations to the Commission on the appropriate disposition of the appeal. As of this submission, however, there is talk of a settlement being reached between the Missouri Attorney General's Office and the Corps with respect to this project. —



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Energy Notes

by Wallace McMullen, Energy Subcommittee Chair

Bad news:

In a survey of 175 Missouri utilities conducted by the DNR Energy Center in 2002, only three percent indicated plans to offer a renewable or alternative energy program or service. (Governor's Energy Policy Council Report, June, 2003).

In a newly released study from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Missouri received a grade of "F" and is one of six states listed in the "Hall of Shame" for a lack of commitment to renewable electricity. Thirty-four states received failing grades of D or F for their lack of commitment to renewable electricity. (Commitment was measured by the projected results of renewable electricity standards for electric companies, current renewable energy generation, and dedicated renewable electricity funds). (RenewingWhereWe Live, Union of Concerned Scientists, 2002).

Great Plains Power, more commonly known as Kansas City Power and Light, has applied for a

water quality permit needed to build a large new coal-burning power plant north of Kansas City in Platte County. Wetlands, groundwater, and air quality will be impacted by this plant if it is built.

Good news:

DNR has gotten a grant to do an improved map of wind resources in Missouri. The DNR Energy Center can now loan measuring equipment, complete with a tower to put it on, to people who have a windy location on their property. Renewable energy experts think this study may be a boon for promoting wind power in Missouri. If interested in participating call Rick Anderson at 573-751-3443.

Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack (D) has announced a plan for \$50 million in state investments in renewable energy as a part of his proposed Iowa Values Fund. The \$50 million for renewable energy will be designated for the following initiatives:

s\$10 million to help school districts use wind technology to produce renewable energy;

s\$10 million for grants and loans to develop transmission and distribution systems for

wind energy;

s\$10 million for constructing wind generation facilities;

s\$5 million to the Iowa Energy Center to construct distributed small renewable energy systems;

s\$10 million to encourage the use of biomass-powered electrical systems; and

s\$5 million for grants to purchase and install anaerobic digestive systems;

"This is a win-win situation," Vilsack said. "Energy-efficient schools use less energy and save money." (from a press release forwarded by Bill Roush)

The Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, founded by Lew Green, has taken an interest in helping the Kentucky Chapter fight a coal burning power plant that will impair the air quality in Mammoth Cave National Park. The Thoroughbred plant is proposed by Peabody Coal, (Peabody Energy), headquartered in St. Louis. —

Missouri gears up to confront sprawl—but will it be enough?

by Ron McLinden, Chapter Urban Issues Chair

Back in December, the Brookings Institution of Washington, DC, released a report on growth in Missouri. Entitled Growth in the Heartland: Challenges and Opportunities for Missouri, the report had been commissioned by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City.

To summarize in one sentence, the report says that Missouri is growing at a satisfactory rate, but the way in which we are growing—our cities and towns are spreading out—results in unwanted and

unnecessary costs that all of us pay, and that as a consequence we may be putting our state at a competitive disadvantage compared to other states and other parts of the world.

The report is couched in the most politically correct of language. The word "sprawl" is used sparingly—in most cases because the word occurs in the title or a key passage from another report from which the authors quote. Rather than illustrating the worst of sprawl and congestion and urban decline, the report includes images that might have come right out of an economic devel-

opment promotional brochure. No billboards, no fast-food strips or shopping malls, not even traffic signals—much less poorly-kept housing or down-and-out citizens.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch made it a one-day story, but followed up a week later (December 16) with an editorial expressing strong support for greater attention to how we are growing. This is "precisely the right moment," the paper wrote.

The Kansas City Star carried one story, but skipped the editorializing. That struck many people as odd since the Star had published an award-winning series, "Divided We Sprawl," in 1995.

The Business Journals in St. Louis and Kansas City carried just a blurb, with the emphasis almost totally on the report's reassuring opening that "Missouri is growing."

The Springfield News-Leader gave it a lot more attention, focusing largely on water quality issues in the booming Southwest Missouri region. Likewise, the Columbia Daily Tribune gave it better coverage than did the big urban papers.

Since then there has been some grumbling about the report in the halls of the Capitol. Senator Chuck Gross of St. Charles wrote an op-ed rebuttal (Post-Dispatch, December 29) to the Post-Dispatch editorial. But in general, the report has taken a back seat to state budget battles.

A year and a half ago, Governor Holden was on the verge of appointing a task force on "growth and development" to take a look at the problem and consider the potential for "smart growth" policies to reduce some of the unwanted costs of sprawl. Unfortunately, suburban St. Louis area home-builders and public officials went ballistic, thereby derailing the effort, at least for a time.

While resistance to smart growth is not limited to any one county, the "epicenter of sprawl denial" appears to reside in St. Charles County. The fastest

continued on page 10...**Missouri's Sprawl**

More Sprawl—or "Smart Growth"?

What you can do to promote smart growth—for livable communities, a more efficient economy, lower taxes, and a more sustainable environment.

Become informed:

Learn about smart growth principles. Know that the "where" of development is perhaps even more important than what it looks like.

Recognize features consistent with smart growth principles: located near existing development, walkable streets, availability of public transit, a mixture of land uses nearby, neighborhoods where porches greet the street instead of garage doors, re-use of vacant land in older areas instead of bulldozed meadows.

Speak out:

Attend public meetings (city council, planning commissions, etc) and speak out for smart growth and against proposed developments out in "nowhereland."

Visit a new display home and ask the agent if there's anyplace you can get to from there without driving.

Write letters to your local newspaper in support of smart growth and against more suburban sprawl.

Speak out against tax breaks and other subsidies for developments that don't follow smart growth principles.

Question whether it makes sense to keep expanding freeways so people can enjoy longer, faster commutes.

Question why regional plans are based on the

assumption that past growth trends will continue, without first considering the benefits of changing the pattern of future growth.

Write to public officials:

Ask your governor, state representative, and state senator what your state is doing to make sure its policies and programs don't subsidize sprawl.

Ask your mayor or city council person what they are doing to see that local development policies promote smart growth principles.

Vote with your dollars:

Even if you already live in "sprawl-land" and can't move right away, you can still vote against sprawl by choosing where you spend your time and money.

Spend in places that exemplify smart growth principles—a downtown or town square or neighborhood shopping district, for example.

Avoid spending money at businesses that don't offer a safe way to walk from nearby neighborhoods to their front door.

Be a deliberate pedestrian at least part of every day. Walk on some trips where you would otherwise drive.

Next time you move to a different place of residence, choose a neighborhood that embodies smart growth principles.

Useful web sites about sprawl:

www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/, www.smartgrowth.org, www.sprawlwatch.org

Missouri's Sprawl.....continued from page 9
growing part of the state for a couple of decades, that county's leaders have apparently come to believe that they embody the epitome of quality of life, that they are carrying the rest of the state on their backs, and that they deserve all of the state aid they can get to keep their boom going. (Remember the Page Avenue Extension?) If St. Louis City has declined, they would say, it's because of corruption and ineptitude, not because of a half-century of federal and state policies that have favored suburbs over central cities.

In fact, it's federal policies that have made suburbs grow at the expense of cities: the Interstate Highway Act; FHA and GI mortgage insurance programs whose implementing guidelines red-lined housing in older neighborhoods; and grants for water and sewer expansion.

Although opposition to the Governor's "growth and development" task force was a setback, he quietly passed the issue along to an existing body, the Missouri Commission on Inter-Governmental Cooperation. That commission has been working away for well over a year, and issued a preliminary report, "Partnership for Prosperity: A Framework for Progress," about the same time as the Brookings report.

Taking a cue from its own name, the commission has emphasized institutional problems resulting from rapid growth: challenges faced by local jurisdictions in counties that lack the power to prepare plans or implement them through zoning; increasing competition in the use (and abuse) of development incentives such as tax increment financing and transportation development districts; and development-related conflicts between local and county and state agencies. An overhaul of the state's planning and zoning enabling legislation may be among the first efforts to be undertaken.

Meanwhile, there is a move afoot to promote

greater awareness of the Brookings report and its implications. This spring the League of Women Voters sponsored a half-day forum in Kansas City on the report. Planned with active support from the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Club, the forum attracted nearly 100 citizens. At its statewide convention the following month the Missouri League decided to take on getting word of the report out statewide as a major project, and it's anticipated they will use the Kansas City model of local public forums to do so.

Where to find the reports

A Kauffman Foundation news release about "Growth in the Heartland" can be found at:

<http://www.emkf.org/pages/331.cfm>

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.brookings.org/es/urban/missouri/abstract.htm>

"Partnership for Prosperity: A Framework for Progress," the first report of the Missouri Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation, can be found at:

http://www.oa.state.mo.us/comofc/ir/MCIC_Final.pdf

There is also growing interest in establishing a broad-based citizen constituency for action. About a dozen other states have "Thousand Friends" organizations that work for reform in laws and policies and practices related to growth, and there is active talk of forming such an organization in Missouri. Actually, it might take at least two organizations: one a grassroots organization of ordinary citizens like you and me, and the other a less-formal coalition of "civic leader" types. While the former might follow a strong advocacy course of action, the latter are likely to prefer an un-apologetic pro-growth agenda—let's grow, but just do it

in a more cost-effective manner. (We've heard the name "Grow Missouri" floated for such a group.)

Meanwhile, Missouri may be on the verge of acknowledging that racial prejudice is a factor in sprawl. Over 300 people attended a half-day "Summit on Racism and Metropolitan Dynamics" in Kansas City to build awareness within minority and faith-based communities of the effects of continued socio-economic segregation that is institutionalized in the political and economic decision-making of fast-growing suburban areas of our major cities. This awareness evolved in St. Louis nearly a decade ago through MCU, Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis. Formation of a counterpart organization in Kansas City could raise the profile of issues related to growth—not the least of which is "access to opportunities"—throughout the state.

How Missouri responds to the challenges that accompany growth will somehow get worked out over the coming months and years. Setting aside a very legitimate environmental and philosophical question—"Should Missouri grow at all?"—it's essential that whatever growth does occur in Missouri take place in ways that have the least direct and indirect consequences for the environment and natural systems. It's important that we look beyond an "aesthetic environmentalism" that seems interested mostly in protecting unique species or landscapes or ecosystems, and that we work toward an "holistic environmentalism" that strives to reduce human impacts on nature everywhere.

How we answer these questions—not just in Missouri, but throughout the developed world—will determine the quality of our lives and, indeed, the very life expectancy of our species and our civilization on this planet. —

Bush Administration Action's Attack our Natural Heritage

Over the past months, the Bush Administration has issued a series of policy changes and settlement agreements that fundamentally undermine protection of millions of acres of BLM lands across eleven western states. Recent announcements regarding the inventory and interim protection of wilderness quality lands and the resuscitation of an obscure frontier-era statute called RS2477 mean that vast swaths of the American west are now vulnerable to roadbuilding and ORV abuse, oil and gas development, and destructive mining operations. To counter these brazen attacks, the Sierra Club is working on the national level with a number of coalitions to expose the magnitude of the threats and hold the Bush administration accountable for aggressively seeking to undermine protections for the public lands that American's cherish.

At the local level, it will be important to support defensive efforts as these policies play out around the country, mobilizing public lands activists and building broad public support for pro-

tecting these important pieces of our natural heritage.

Bush Administration says "No More Wilderness"?

Late in the evening on Friday, April 11, the Department of Interior entered into a settlement agreement with the State of Utah in which Secretary Norton 1) Revoked existing protections for wilderness-quality BLM lands called Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), renounced its obligations to conduct new inventories and wilderness reviews of BLM lands, and rescinded the BLM Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook — which outlines criteria for considering wilderness on a level playing field with other uses for public lands. This settlement, strips away special protections for millions of acres of pristine land not just in Utah but across the west. Moreover, it threatens citizen-proposed wilderness initiatives such as those in majestic canyons of Arizona and red rock country of Utah.

The Interior Department oversees 250 million acres of federal lands administered by the BLM in eleven Western states as well as Alaska. This is amazingly beautiful and ecologically diverse land — deserts, mountains, forests, redrock canyon country, sweeping grasslands, icy peaks and tundra. Of this BLM land, only about 6.5 million acres have been designated as wilderness by Congress. Another 15 million acres have been formally inventoried a designated as Wilderness Study Areas before the 1991 deadline. With the Department of the Interior's new policy, the rest of the BLM lands will not be studied for its wilderness qualities and not then recommended to Congress for protection. The bottom line: wilderness values that may exist on as many as 220 million acres of BLM lands (much of which has obvious and spectacular wilderness qualities) can no longer even be studied or recommended to Congress for it to designate additional wilderness areas.

continued on page 11...**Bush's Attack on Wilderness**

Outings Continued

July 26 (Sat) Morning Bike or Hike at Kill Creek Park, Lexington Township, KS. We'll take our first trip to the newest park in Johnson County. There are many paved trails to explore, so we can make this a bicycle trip if there is interest. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

Aug 9 (Sat) Deanna Rose Farmstead, Overland Park, KS. This 12-acre park is ideal for young children to see, feed and pet animals like ducks, peacocks, chickens, pigs, horses and cows. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

Aug 23 (Sat, 7:30 p.m.) Star Party, Powell Observatory, Louisburg, KS. Glorious Galaxies will be the program for the evening. If it's clear, we'll also spend some time outdoors observing. Be sure to bring mosquito repellent, and if available, a lawn chair that supports your head, a cheap flashlight that can be painted red, and binoculars. There is a \$2 donation requested. See map and full list of public programs at the hyperlink above, or check out the entire Astronomical Society of Kansas City website. Ellen Brenneman, (816)274-8062, ebrenn1@hallmark.com

Sept 6 (Sat) Apple Picking, Vaughn Orchard, Weston, MO. Join us at Vaughn Orchard and Country Store, 23200 Hwy. 273, Weston, MO, to pick apples and then head to Weston Bend State Park for lunch. Pay by the bag after you pick. Ellen Brenneman, (816)274-8062, ebrenn1@hallmark.com



Sept 7 (Sun, 9:30 am) Landahl Park, Blue Springs, MO. Landahl Park is located in eastern Jackson County, approximately ten minutes northeast of Burr Oak. The park has three good hiking trails. The trails are easy and make good hiking for the whole family. Bring your lunch. We will eat after the first trail, then do a second trail. Craig Lubow, (913)299-6620

Sept 13 (Sat, 9:00 am) Missouri River Clean-Up, Kansas City, MO. Meet us at Berkley Park at the base



of the Paseo Bridge to help remove trash on the banks of the Missouri River from Parkville to La Benite Park. Sierra Club will join forces with many local environmental groups and various agencies in this massive river clean-up in anticipation of the 2004 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. This project will be coordinated by Missouri River Relief and Living Lands & Waters. More details can be found at <http://www.riverrelief.org>. Eileen McManus, (816)523-7823, eileenm@planetkc.com



Sept 14 (Sun) 2nd Annual Powell Gardens Fall Bike Ride, Kingsville, MO. Join us for this 25-mile ride of rolling hills and rural settings, as we ride from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will reward ourselves to a delicious lunch buffet at Café Thyme, followed by a hike through the gardens and all its fall flowers and foliage. Car rides and a trailer for bikes will be available for the return trip. Paul Gross, (816)228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Sept 20 (Sat) Tour of Kansas City Community Garden, Kansas City, MO. The Kansas City Community Garden assists low-income households and other residents of the metropolitan area to produce vegetables and fruit from the garden plots located in backyards, vacant lots, and at community sites. We will tour these areas plus the passive solar structure they have occupied since 1987 to demonstrate energy efficient housing in the urban core. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

Garden assists low-income households and other residents of the metropolitan area to produce vegetables and fruit from the garden plots located in backyards, vacant lots, and at community sites. We will tour these areas plus the passive solar structure they have occupied since 1987 to demonstrate energy efficient housing in the urban core. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

of the Paseo Bridge to help remove trash on the banks of the Missouri River from Parkville to La Benite Park. Sierra Club will join forces with many local environmental groups and various agencies in this massive river clean-up in anticipation of the

Sept 20 (Sat) Mussel Hunt on the Marais des Cygnes River, Ottawa, KS. Visit the Marais des Cygnes River at Ottawa, where riffles and runs provide prime mussel habitat. An interesting diversity of species occur here, including the deertoe, threehorn wartyback, and mapleleaf mussel. Some mussels in Kansas are very rare, and the distribution of a few species in the state is limited to this drainage system. Trip led by Karen Couch, author of "An Illustrated Guide to the Unionid Mussels of Kansas" and recipient of the 1996 KWF/NWF Water Conservationist of the Year Award. Space for this outing is limited, so make reservations. Carey Maynard-Moody, (785)841-9594, careymm@ixks.com

Sept 27-28 (Sat-Sun) Hercules Glades Wilderness, Hilda, MO. Start the backpacking season off right with a trip to one of our favorite destinations. Located in the Missouri Ozarks east of Springfield, Hercules Glades is an ideal way for beginning backpackers to learn from the old-timers who usually go. Bob Wilshire, rjwilshire@yahoo.com, (913)384-6645

Trail of Tears Group

None submitted.

White River Group

None submitted.



Bush's Attack on Wilderness....continued from page 10 Outdated Statute Allows Roads to Ruin Across our Public Lands

A new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulation could lead to the giveaway of precious lands within our National Parks and Monuments, National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and protected Wilderness Areas. The final rule on "Conveyances, Disclaimers and Corrections Documents," issued on January 6, resurrects the 137 year-old Revised Statute 2477 (RS 2477), which allows individuals and local governments to lay claim to abandoned trails, cow paths, and even river beds on publicly owned lands, and convert them into damaging highways across our treasured National Parks,



Refuges, and Wilderness areas. The rule was originally promulgated to facilitate settlement across the west.

Although RS 2477 was repealed in 1976 and replaced with an updated process for addressing legitimate rights-of-ways across public lands, the new rule opens the door for states, counties, and

special interests to file thousands of unsubstantiated rights-of-way claims.

Uniting Against a Common Foe

The scope and breadth of the Bush administration's attack on our public lands may yield one positive, unintended consequence within the Sierra Club grassroots network. These threats provide a common ground for many different grassroots constituencies that work on a wide variety of issues affecting public lands — such as grazing, ORV abuse, national monuments, and wilderness — and unite us against a common foe. To fight these attacks, diverse grassroots activists will need to educate, train, and mobilize this grassroots army to defend our public lands. —

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Eastern Missouri Group

July 18 (Fri) Hike at Hawn State Park. Wear old tennies to cool off at the creek crossing. Lunch at St. Gen. at the "Old Brick House." Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

July 19 (Sat) Easy 5 mile canoe trip from Campbell Bridge to Blue Springs. Come help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Meramec Dam victory. Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758 or Ed Schmidt (314)647-1608.

Aug 2 (Sat) Day hike at Clifty Creek. Hike and wade under imposing cliffs to a natural bridge forty feet wide. Catch a view of the creek from the top of the bridge. This is a short hike with lots of exploring and swimming if you are so inclined. Kathy Wodell (636)240-0675.

Aug 8-9 (Fri-Sat) Perseid meteor shower campout at Council Bluff Lake and campground.

Canoes and paddle boats for rent. Great beach and swimming area. Canoe on Friday. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Aug 9 (Sat) Late afternoon/early evening canoe trip. Enjoy the early evening light as dusk approaches on the river. Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener (314)434-2072.

Aug 9 (Sat) Shut-ins to swim, play and just enjoy the scenery. We will leave early so we can beat the locals and maybe have Amidon to ourselves. After Amidon we will go to Hawn State Park and go out to eat afterwards. Good for beginners and ideal for cameras. Diane Favier (314)894-5549 (before 9 pm).

Aug 10 (Sun) Inner tubing on the Meramec River.

Enjoy the best of many worlds! On a hot summer day take a cool hike and tubing float. We will paddle with the power and control of special tubing paddles, walk on gravel bars and wade upstream as we



explore about one mile of Meramec River. We will leisurely float back down through a meandering run under 200 foot high bluffs. Bob Herndon (314)961-4811.

Aug 15 (Fri) Late summer color at Shaw Nature Reserve. Join us for a 6-7 mile hike. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Aug 17 (Sun) Inner tubing on the Meramec River. See description for August 10 above. Bob Herndon (314)961-4811.

Aug 23 (Sat) Operation Clean Stream. Have a great day on the river with friends figuring out creative ways to get more trash into your boat. Katie Pryor (314)727-6490.

Aug 30-Sept 1 (Sat-Mon) Annual Mississippi River canoe trip. Big beaches, sandbar camping, cool breezes, & musical festivities. George Behrens (314)821-0247 (after 6 pm only).



Sept 5 (Fri) Call for info. Maybe a bike ride or a hike. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Sept 6 (Sat) Upper Meramec River—Meramec Springs to Fagan's Bridge. Bring along a loaf of bread or a box of cat food to feed the trout at the Fish Fam. There will be a short-optional hike to Meramec Spring. On the way home we will stop for dinner at Homer's BBQ and maybe even a sermon. This trip is appropriate for beginners and families. Colin Maag (314)721-7397.

Sept 12 (Fri) Bike ride the Katy Trail on one of the scenic sections. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only), or Harry Tuthill, (314)389-8752.

Sept 13 (Sat) Highway cleanup. Let's clean up the view for all those migrating birdies. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

Sept 19 (Fri) Bike the 12 mile St. Joseph State Park bike trail and climb Hughes Mt. Lunch at the Chocolate Garage. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Sept 19 (Fri) The evenings have got to be cooler! We will do a night hike of about 4 miles at Shaw Nature Reserve. Helen McCallie, (636)451-3512 (w-toll free), or (636)742-4380 (h).

Sept 20 (Sat) Lets enjoy a beautiful fall day hiking in Kaintuck Hollow near Rolla MO. We will see caves, a natural bridge, a wonderful free flowing trout

stream and several springs in the area. We will have lunch at an old homestead along the trail. Call or e-mail Glenn at (314)845-5859, Glennkw31@excite.com

Sept 21 (Sun) Early fall hike at Hawn State Park. Enjoy the southern loop trail along with some cross country hiking. 6-8 miles. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

Sept 2 (Wed) Beginner backpackers planning meeting. This will be a show and tell of equipment and it's use. Most equipment will be available to loan or we can show you were to rent. You must attend this meeting if you plan to go on the backpack trip on October 11-12. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (636)296-8975.

Sept 26 (Fri) Pere Marquette State Park is where we are headed. Scenic overlooks, lunch in Grafton after our 7 mile hike. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Sept 27 (Sat) Day hike. Explore Lon-Sanders Canyon and other points of interest in and about Piedmont, Mo. See shut-ins and remnants of a day gone by. Possible side trip to Wappapello Lake area. Short hikes but a bit challenging at times. Optional overnight at Sam A. Baker State Park. Kathy Wodell (636)240-0675, before 9:00 pm.

Sept 27-28 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. We will start at the North box and work South. This is the date for our annual fish fry. Trout, hush puppies and cole slaw will be on the menu. New comers welcome. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (636)296-8975.

Sept 28 (Sun) Day hike. Take a short hike on the Mudlick Trail. You don't have to be Hercules to enjoy this well known trail. We will hike about five miles and see great views and a rocky canyon. There should be some nice fall foliage at Baker this time of year. A moderate challenge. Kathy Wodell, (636)240-0675, before 9:00 pm.

Osage Group

None submitted.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

July 12 (Sat) GPS (Global Positioning Systems) 101, Kansas City, MO. We'll cover basic information on how Global Positioning Systems work and how to relate the information they provide to maps and mapping software. Bob Wilshire, rjwilshire@yahoo.com, (913)384-6645 or Dave Patton, (816)461-6091, dgpatton@comcast.net