



Missouri Clean Energy Coalition Launched

By Sara Edgar, Beyond Coal Campaign

In honor of the 45th Earth Day, on April 22 the Missouri Sierra Club partnered with approximately 30 other organizations and supportive political leaders to launch the Missouri Clean Energy Coalition in our state capitol.

For over 6 months the Missouri Sierra Club has been working with coalition partners to develop a strategy to achieve a strong Clean Power Plan in our state and transition Missouri to be fossil fuel free by 2050. After months of planning, training, outreach, and coordination, the public launch of the coalition in Jefferson City was an exciting first step to building a more unified force in our state in support of clean energy and climate action.

Over 130 people attended, with many Sierra Club members attending from all parts of the state. By all accounts the day was a great success. We met with 86 legislators and staff, dropped off literature to all 196 legislative offices, secured

support for the solar bill of rights from 25 legislators, 23 vowed to support the Clean Power Plan, 16 took group photos with us, and 7 joined the coalition.

The day culminated with a rally, with speeches from Osage Chair, Carolyn Amparan, and member Dr. John Kissel. Two great environmental champions and coalition

partners, Representative Judy Morgan from Kansas City and Representative Clem Smith from St. Louis both spoke as well. After the rally, THB member and Kansas City Music Hall of Fame inductee Winston Apple led the group in a hearty round of “Power to the People” and “This Land is Your Land”.

The press took great interest in our



Rep. Clem Smith speaks at the capitol Earth Day rally. Photo: Sara Edgar

efforts with nearly 10 tv, radio, and print pieces across the state covering our efforts. A special thanks to all our members and supporters that helped ensure the event was a success - from posting flyers, making phone calls, collecting petitions, and spending a long day marching through the halls of the capitol.

Attention Electric Cooperative Member-Owners

By John Delurey, Beyond Coal Campaign Representative

Do you wish that cooperatives had more energy efficiency and renewable energy options? Are you frustrated with the propaganda campaign that the co-ops have used to bash the EPA? Concerned that the cooperatives are using member-owner money to fund dirty energy lobbying?

We have been asking these questions throughout the state this spring and have started to see things move in the right direction. The Thomas Hart Benton Group recently endorsed John Graff, a candidate for the board of a cooperative

north of Kansas City. The candidate, with support from the Beyond Coal Campaign and local leaders, became a serious threat to an incumbent of 24 years in what would have otherwise been an uncontested race.

The rural electric cooperatives are rooted in a tradition of collective decision-making and rural advocacy. Let's use our authority as member-owners to have them understand and embrace the cost-savings and health benefits of clean energy. If any of this is of interest, or if you have any additional concerns about the electric

cooperatives, please contact John Delurey at john.delurey@sierraclub.org or (781) 439-7272.



Sierra Club members support John Graff's candidacy for the board of a rural electric cooperative north of Kansas City.

Chair's Column

By James Turner, Missouri Chapter Chair



For a livable Missouri, we must

- Ramp up the role of solar and wind energy, and achieve more energy efficiency;
- Reduce the use and political

dominance of fossil fuels;

- Protect wildlife habitats and fresh waters everywhere from degradation – and often it is fossil fuel extraction that does the long-lasting damage.

2015 is a critical year to expand our work. With Pope Francis's leadership and his planned visit to the White House in September, more faith communities are stepping up beside us, to denounce the immorality of privileging coal and oil use. Millennials know that their future is threatened by climate disruption; if we keep acting vigorously in rallies and in the halls of power, the millennials will get out to vote in 2016, reinforcing policy improvements like the EPA's Clean Power Plan. Furthermore, Sierra Club, labor unions, and faith leaders are joining in a Democracy Initiative, to overcome obstacles to installing wise government.

Bolstered by some grants, Missouri Chapter recently hired two additional staff organizers for 2015. Let's aim to keep supporting this fine enlarged staff's work into 2016 and well beyond! We all should raise Missouri Chapter to even higher positions on our donation plans.

Like us on Facebook



The Missouri Chapter now has a Facebook page with interesting and regularly updated content.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriSierraClub>

The Missouri Sierran is published two times a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$15 per year.

Items for publication: Contact our Chapter Office via E-mail at Missouri.Chapter@sierraclub.org or phone 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333, 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.

Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad.

All submissions must include name, E-mail or street address, and phone number of the author. Only your name will be printed in the newsletter. If you want your submission returned (including your CD), please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

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Thank you everyone

who has contributed in response to the
Sierra Club Missouri Chapter March Appeal.

So far we have raised \$20,403.

This is excellent

– but we are still short of our goal of \$24,000.

If you have not already donate, please considering donating today.

You can send a check to:

Sierra Club Missouri Chapter

2818 Sutton Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63143.

Building Codes in St. Louis County

By Gretchen Waddell Barwick, MO Chapter Staff

Energy efficient homes help keep our air clean and prevent the overuse of natural resources. In turn, this keeps our planet clean, our bills low and our bodies healthy. Energy efficiency benefits our planet, our pocketbooks and our community.

One way to increase energy efficiency in our communities is through building codes. Saint Louis County has started the process to update their building codes from the 2009 international standard with multiple amendments to the new 2015 international standard--this would mean a 35% increase in energy efficiency.

Unfortunately, special interest groups like the St. Louis Home Builders Association proposed dozens of amendments that stripped the code of nearly all energy-saving measures. In one particularly egregious move, the Building Codes Review Committee voted to remove programmable thermostat requirements from new homes. Programmable thermostats are a highly cost-efficient tool that allows consumers to save money. In addition, programmable thermostats create a more comfortable home and are an inexpensive way to make a large impact in efficiency.

Fortunately, the fight is not over. Join the Sierra Club at the 14th Annual Green Homes Festival on Saturday June 20 at the Butterfly House in Faust Park and sign our petition to the Building Commission. Or, to learn more contact Gretchen at (800) 628-5333, gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org.

Student Activists Gather Signatures against KC Air Pollution

By Gretchen Waddell Barwick, MO Chapter Staff

Parts of downtown and North Kansas City have levels of air pollution that are unsafe for human health. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency have designated this region as having dangerously high levels of sulfur dioxide air pollution. This pollutant comes from burning coal and causes breathing problems in as few as 5 minutes.

Eight UMKC Urban Planning Students volunteered on a rainy

Saturday in April to spread the message to the community—hold polluters accountable and demand clean air! In just 2 short hours, these volunteers got 85 signatures from people breathing this polluted air demanding action from the polluter, Veolia Energy.

This issue will be discussed in June in front of the Missouri Air Conservation Commission. To learn more or get involved, contact Gretchen at (800) 628-5333 - gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org.



UMKC Students brave the rain to spread the word about clean air in Kansas City

St. Charles County Membership Meeting

By Segolene Renazé

The Sierra Club invites Saint Charles County members to a membership meeting on Thursday, June 11th at the Spencer Road Branch Library in Saint Peters, Room 212, at 7 pm. We will discuss what actions can be taken to

support the Clean Power Plan, and how to deal with the various environmental issues in Saint Charles. For further information, please contact Segolene Renazé by email: segolene.renaze@hotmail.fr or by phone: (314) 239-0014.

Missouri Sierra Club Talks to Congress



Sierra Club members meet with Congressman Cleaver in Kansas City



Sierra Club members meet with Senator McCaskill in Washington, DC

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Eastern Missouri Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>

Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns or pets are allowed on trips. Use of audible electronics must be approved by the leader. Participants must sign a liability release. Outings Leaders are volunteers. Outings officially start at the trailhead or river access. Carpooling is encouraged but not the responsibility of the Leader. For more information contact the Leader of a particular Outing or for general information contact Mike Bollinger at (636) 938-6594.

Jun 12 (Fri) Day hike. Join us for a 7-10 mile early hike near the St. Louis area. Contact thississuzanne@yahoo.com

Jun 14 (Sun) Bike Trip - We may do a ride to Edwardsville, IL - or could do a shorter ride if we choose to. Meet at Laclede Landing Metro Station at noon. For more information contact Tim Pekarek, (314) 445-9058

Jun 17 (Wed) Mina Sauk Falls Trail with side trip to the Devil's Tollgate for a 5 mile trek in the Saint Francois Mountains. For this trek we begin at the highest point in Missouri at Taum Sauk Mountain and travel down some 400 feet to Mina Sauk Falls which is Missouri's highest waterfall. We will see some great views of the surrounding countryside, several glades and massive vertical rock faces as we traverse the trails. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jun 19 (Fri) Day hike or bike ride depending on the temps. Contact jleachcross@hotmail.com for more info as time gets closer.

Jun 26 (Fri) Day hike. Join our weekly group for a summer hike. For more info contact thississuzanne@yahoo.com

Jul 1 (Wed) Little Grand Canyon, Illinois. For this hike we will be climbing down into a 300 foot limestone canyon, traveling through the moist bottom land

To participate in 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 before the outing, please see:

<http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5528.

In the interest 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. CST 2087766-40

and then hiking out of the canyon to a spectacular panoramic view the the Mississippi River valley. A fun hike for something that you do not normally see in our hikes. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 3 (Fri) Hike or bike. Not sure who will be available on this holiday weekend but try jleachcross@hotmail.com for event info.

Jul 10 (Fri) Day hike. Our weekly 8-mile hike might be shortened and start earlier. For info contact thississuzanne@yahoo.com or jleachcross@hotmail.com

Jul 11 (Sat) Cool off in the Castor

River Shut-ins at the Amidon Memorial Conservation Area. We will first do a 2-mile hike on the Cedar Glade trail and then we will enjoy the shut-ins and swim if anyone would like. Call Jim Rhodes at (314) 821-7758.

Jul 15 (Wed) Lake of the Ozarks State Park. To keep cool during the Summer we will be around a lot of water by hiking several of the trails that border the lake. The land around the lake is gentle hills with elevation changes of less than 50 feet. So for an easy hike around a wind swept lake, come join us for a day at the lake. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 17 (Fri) Probably a bike ride on the Katy trail. Contact thississuzanne@yahoo.com to find out time and place.

Jul 24 (Fri) Day hike. Morning hike near the St. Louis area. Contact jleachcross@hotmail.com or thississuzanne@yahoo.com

Jul 26 (Sun) Escape the heat of the city on this one day canoe trip on a

river in the Meramec Basin. This trip is be good for families. We will have plenty of time to stop and swim and enjoy the river. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Jul 29 (Wed) Wakonda State Park.

This park is located just West of Quincy, Illinois and South of La Grange, Missouri. We will be walking around two lakes in this water world state park, Agate Lake and Jasper Lake. For this hike, we will be walking at lake level which makes for an easy hike with breezes off the water. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 31 (Fri) Hike or bike. Join us for an adventure of some sort. Contact jleachcross@hotmail.com for more info.

Aug 7 (Fri) Day hike. Early morning hike in one of the St. Louis county parks. For more info contact jleachcross@hotmail.com

Aug 8 (Sat) Enjoy a quieter time on the Meramec River as we put in late afternoon and take off the river shortly before dark. We will stop for dinner on a gravel bar. You must have your own canoe or kayak. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Aug 12 (Wed) Lake Murphysboro State Park, Illinois. This week we will be traveling South to Southern Illinois for a walk around a popular lake just outside the city of Murphysboro. Like some of the other lakes we have walked, the land is flat with lots of breezes to keep you cool. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 14 (Fri) Hike or bike depending on the temps and who is available to lead but contact jleachcross@hotmail.com for the update.



River Turtle

Photo: Becky Denney

Aug 21 (Fri) Day hike: is it fall yet??
Probably not, but contact jleachross@hotmail.com or margot107g@gmail.com for the scoop.

Aug 22 (Sat) Operation Clean Stream, day canoe trip on the Meramec River. Join us as we scout for trash treasures from our canoes. A limited number of free rental canoes will be available. Optional picnic following the clean up. Renee Mettle & Greg Rigelman, (636) 940-8985, or rmettle@sbcglobal.net

Aug 26 (Wed) Long Branch State Park. This state park is located North of Columbia and just West of Macon off Hwy 36. We will be hiking the Bee Trace Trail that goes along a peninsula into the Long Branch Lake for an easy hike with plenty of water views for a Summer day. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 28 (Fri) Day hike. Since I should be back from Colorado, a not so early day hike or bike ride. Contact thisisuzanne@yahoo.com

Sep 5-7 (Sat-Mon) Canoe/kayak trip on the Mississippi River. Enjoy the wide open spaces and sand bars of the big river. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Sep 25-27 (Fri-Sun) 14th Annual Car Camping Fall Celebration Campout at Hawn State Park. Great for beginner campers and families. Bring your own food and gear. Call if you need advice or suggestions. You are also welcome for come for short laid back day hikes if you don't want to camp. Small camping fee to be determined. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton/outings>

The Thomas Hart Benton Group has all their outings on Meetup.com. You can find the latest scheduled outings at

[Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/](https://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/)

June 6 (Sat) Bike Ride to Powell Garden, Kingsville, MO - Cycle 25 miles of rolling hills & rural settings from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will lunch at Café Thyme, followed by a hike through the gardens. A trailer for bikes and car rides will be available for our return. \$5 donation requested. Paul Gross (816) 985-2339 wildwoodp@hotmail.com

June 13 (Sat) Bike the Mill Creek

Streamway Trail, Shawnee, KS - The Mill Creek Streamway Trail runs more than 17 miles from the Kansas River in the north to Olathe in the south. We'll meet at the Barker Road access point north of Shawnee Mission Parkway and pedal south about 8 miles then return. This ride will be leisurely and family friendly. Bring water and snacks. We'll head to lunch afterward for those who are interested. \$5 Sierra Club donation requested. Melissa LaSage jmfamily76@hotmail.com

June 27 (Sat) Prairie Center, Olathe, KS - The hike is on 300 acres of land under management by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. In the 1980's the Sierra Club was instrumental in preserving and acquiring the 300 acres for the Prairie Center. Michael Miller - 913-424-8530 mrmiller1@mindspring.com

Osage Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/osage>

Please see Osage Group website for updates.

White River Group

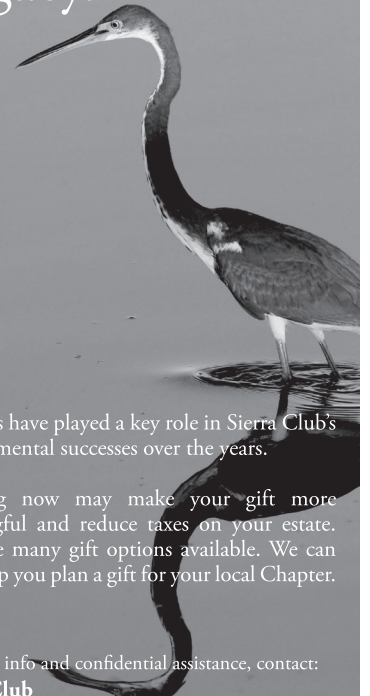
<https://missouri2.sierraclub.org/content/white-river-group-homepage#>

The White River Group currently has no outings listed. Please check the website for the latest updates.



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October 2015 Trail Work Week

Save the Date — October 17-25

Attend Ozark Trail Maintenance in the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry

Register early to stay at the lodge at Current River State Park.

Tent camping is also available.

Tools will be furnished. Some meals will be furnished. Bring your snacks, water, good boots, work gloves, rain gear, sleeping bag or camping gear.

Attend for a day or all week but you must register.

Contact Paul Stupperich

(314) 429-4352

lonewolf@earthlink.net
for information.



2014 Legislative Report

By Michael Berg

Despite the large number of Missouri legislators hostile to the environment, there is good news to report from Jefferson City:

- The 2015 session could have been much worse
- Our legislative program is stronger than ever.

Last session, Missouri legislators proposed several bills designed to make it more difficult for Missouri to implement the Clean Power Plan - America's first national effort to reduce climate change causing carbon emissions. Only one passed - in a form that could have been worse.

In addition, the legislature introduced a whopping 17 separate bills meant to weaken our award winning Department of Conservation (MDC). This includes bills to eliminate the conservation sales tax, ban communication between non-profits and MDC, eliminate the Conservation Commission's ability to acquire land, and force MDC to pay \$500 to every motorist who hits a deer. None of these bills passed.

With a focus on these key issues, our legislative committee made sure the legislature heard our message of environmental stewardship. We organized 13 in-district meetings with legislators, with 203 members and supporters participating. Over 170 people attended one of our four lobby days, meeting face to face with almost every Senator and Representative, and leafleting the capitol each time. Over 1400 members contacted their legislators on issues concerning the Clean Power Plan, factory farms and voting rights. The Sierra Club provided crucial testimony at several House and Senate hearings.

White River Group Activities

By Judy Dasovich

The White River Group continues to fight a dangerous proposal by Springfield's City Utilities to site a toxic coal ash dump on fragile karst landscape. We are trying to educate the community about the issue. This spring, we hosted "Coal Ash Stories" at the Moxie Cinema in Springfield, a series of short documentaries about people and places affected by coal ash toxicity. We also hosted two representatives from the EPA who discussed the new coal ash ruling. Both events were well attended, with good questions and discussion.

After year of litigation, environmental groups gained a victory in the Missouri Supreme Court over Empire Electric's legislative manipulations. As a result, Empire now offers rebates for both past and future solar installations. The per-watt rebates approved are: \$2 for systems installed from May 1, 2010 through December 31, 2014; \$1.50 for systems that are "operational" by June 30, 2015, and \$1 for applications filed

by December 31, 2015 and systems installed by June 30, 2016. Call Empire for more details and take advantage of these rebates.

The White River Group endorsed and campaigned for Mike Schilling. He is a Sierra Club member who won a seat for the Springfield City Council in early April. We are pleased to have a strong environmental advocate on the council.

We are now working with the O'Reilly Hospitality Management, both for fundraising and to increase awareness among customers at their restaurants and hotels in Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and Kansas. Local students created artwork now on display with the theme: explore, enjoy and protect our waters. The artwork will be auctioned in the fall with proceeds going to the Sierra Club. In addition, they are also displaying Sierra Club posters and membership pamphlets. Please show your appreciation to their environmental focus by patronizing their establishments.

This year's legislative program accomplished much more than in previous years, thanks to the work of our legislative committee: Mike Diel (Chair), Ray Anderson, Carolyn Amparan, Dan Reed, Barb Yates, James Harmon, Foster Speichinger, Caroline

Pufalt, Paulette Zimmerman, Henry Robertson, Ross Hunt, Juli Viel, Patricia Schuba, Claus Wawrzinek, Steve Mohler, Anne McGregor, Winston Apple, Myra Scroggs, Vicke Kepling, Jim Arneson, and Hugh Shields.



Sierra Club members meet with Sen. Joseph Keaveny on the floor of the Missouri State Senate

New People at the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter New Staff

Rajiv Ravulapati

Hi Sierra Club! My name is Rajiv Ravulapati. I grew up as a city boy in Chicago, but the urban lifestyle doesn't sum me up. I can swim in the ocean all day or enjoy climbing a mountain. The real perfect outdoor day for me though?



Swimming in Lake Michigan and laying out on the sand dunes.

With my experience in energy efficiency outreach and utilities, I am thrilled to be advocating the club's clean energy campaign. With my expertise and excitement, here's to helping Missouri have a clean energy future!

Sarah Gentry

Sarah is a native Missourian and has lived in St. Louis for 6 years. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Missouri State University and a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to joining the Sierra Club, Sarah was most recently the Public Policy Manager at the National MS Society, and she has been involved with feminist and local philanthropic organizations. When she's not working for social and environmental justice, Sarah enjoys reading and semi-successfully pursues DIY projects.



Interns

Claire Briggs

My name is Claire Briggs. I'm an intern in Jefferson City, though I'll be coming up to St. Louis, periodically. I attend Truman State University in Kirksville and I major in Communication and Political Science.



Previously I interned at the Missouri Democratic Party Headquarters for three years, doing everything from answering phones and sending out mailings to managing timesheets and managing bank accounts. I was also briefly the Deputy Director of the Voter Access Network when it was new. I love nature and care deeply about protecting it, so I am really looking forward to helping work towards productive goals!

Segolene Renazé

Hi ! My name is Segolene Renaze, I come from France, and I am pleased to do my internship here with the Sierra Club, in order to finish my Masters degree in Environment and Law. I am currently working on Saint Charles County, where I hope to bring the Saint Charles members together to find solutions to environmental issues. I am looking forward to meeting you!

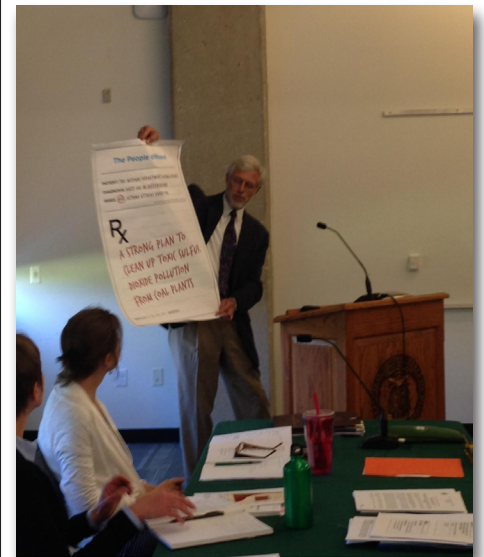


Honor the Whitley Legacy - Protect Open Space in Mid Missouri

By Hank Ottinger

Jim Whitley, a charter member of the Osage Group, passed away in 2010, leaving almost a half million dollars and a 102-acre tract just north of Columbia to North Central Missouri College, his alma mater (then Trenton Junior College). His (and his wife Joanne's) bequest made a provision for a land conservation easement, a restriction that NCMC is doing everything it can to undermine in order to realize the maximum value of the land.

Enter local Sierrans Ron Kucera, Dave Bedan, Ken Midkiff, and Hank Ottinger who formed "Friends of Jim and Joann Whitley" to fight for Jim and Joanne's wishes. Working with the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri, the newly formed group is making significant headway in seeing to it that the Whitleys' legacy is honored, and that the land is preserved in perpetuity allowing visitors to explore and enjoy what the Whitleys worked so hard for.



At the April 30th meeting of the Missouri Air Conservation Commission about air pollution in Jefferson County, Sierra Club activist Dr. John Kissel spoke out on the need to reduce sulfur dioxide pollution from Ameren's Rush Island and Meramec coal plants. Dr. Kissel explained that the EPA Clean Power Plan, by reducing air pollution, would avoid 1200 premature deaths in Missouri by 2030.



In December of 2014, 48 health professionals in the St. Louis region delivered a letter to Ameren Missouri calling for an end to health harming coal use.



Missouri Chapter
2818 Sutton Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63143

**NEWSPAPER
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St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 3274

Green Thumbs Needed

The Sierra Club office is planting a new native garden! Using native plants in your garden benefits the environment by using fewer chemicals, increasing biodiversity and using fewer resources (such as water) to maintain your garden. The Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter is honored to be working with Scott Woodbury of the Shaw Nature Reserve to design, plant and maintain a native plant garden at our new office in Maplewood. We need volunteers to help us prepare, plant and establish this garden. Can you join us? Contact Gretchen at gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org for more information or call the office at (314) 644-1011.



Prem Barton, Scott Woodbury and Penny Holtzmann pot native seedlings at the Shaw Nature Reserve for the new garden. Not pictured: Other Sierra Club members helping with this project: Caroline Pufault, Jim Rhodes, Martha LaFata, Kathy Bildner and Fran Glass.

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