

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



SIERRA CLUB

MISSOURI CHAPTER



Photo Credit: Missouri Sierra Club & Missouri Beyond Coal

SIERRAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 53, Number 2

October 2022

Defending Missouri's Places and People Since 1972



By *Gretchen Wadell Barwick*
Chapter Director

This fall I brought my kindergartner, Betty, with me to Tower Grove Pride Fest. We were there gathering petitions in support of 100% clean and renewable energy. It didn't take long for Betty to get bored with her stickers and toys – she wanted to help mommy! So she picked up a clip board and started asking people to sign our petition. It was adorable. And hilarious. And effective – she got 30 signatures! Seeing my daughter ask people to take action on climate change made me think about the future of our state and our world. As we celebrate the Missouri Sierra Club's 50th anniversary, I am excited about the future of our organization and the opportunities for action in our communities. I also know, as a parent, that we need to take strategic and swift actions so Betty has a healthy planet as she grows up. I know that together, we can make that world for her.



Today, the Missouri Chapter is stronger than ever before. We have learned from our predecessors and continue to grow in numbers, power, and resources. More Missourians than ever believe in climate change, and we need to take action to stop the worst impacts from devastating the people and places in Missouri. More than ever, Missourians support clean energy. More than ever, Missourians understand the importance of protecting our natural spaces and ensuring access to all in these spaces.

We have opportunities to take action at a federal, state, and local level. And, we're prepared to seize these opportunities for many years to come.

I won't lie; there are barriers in our way. As a life-long Missouri resident, I have seen the obstacles firsthand. Yet, I have faith that by working together we can make real, strategic change in this state. Thank you for being part of it. I am honored to be leading the Missouri Chapter into our next chapter of history and I am excited to see the next 50 years of victories.

To read more about our successes over the years, visit pages 4 and 5 as well as our website, sierraclub.org/missouri.



CHAPTER CHAIR'S COLUMN

Electing for Change

*By Kevin Grooms,
Chapter Chair*

This year, we mark our 50th year as a chapter, and I'm as impressed as ever with the ambition and dedication of our members, staffers, and volunteers. Our organization is evolving, locally and nationally, and many of us are still finding our footing after the challenges of recent years. I admire the persistence of folks who have been here through it all, and the fresh perspective of new leaders.

Facing the election ahead, I want to lift up our political team for another great job managing our endorsements. Thanks especially to the political committee, and longtime political chair Ross Hunt, political director Michael Berg, and our group political chairs Myra Scroggs, Debi Pratt, Dan Mandel and Claus Wawrzinek.

Now that they've done the work of vetting the right candidates, many of whom are eager every election to receive the official Sierra Club endorsement logo, it's up to all of us to get these important allies over the finish line next month. We will certainly be doing our part to knock on doors and get environmental voters to the polls in big, big numbers. I hope you will join us in canvassing activities



Photo Credit: Michael Burton

across the state to help reach voters.

I can speak from experience about the joy and satisfaction that comes from being a part of something, particularly when it appeals to my sense of civic duty. The fight against gerrymandering in 2018 is one way I connected with the Missouri Chapter in the first place, and I spent what seems like half that year gathering petition signatures. Sadly, I know what regret feels like, too, when 2020 robbed me of the motivation I felt before and I didn't give as much time to defend our electoral reforms, and we lost them (to fossil-fuel funded

politicians who took advantage that year). This year, you can bet I will not miss my chance give my fellow Missourians whatever extra nudge they need to show up on Election Day.

Once again, I'm incredibly proud of our members - those I know very well, and folks I have yet to meet - for their personal investments on behalf of a healthy planet. To all of you who continue to stick it out, year after year, and election after election, it's a privilege to work alongside you. From my heart, thank you.

THE SIERRAN A biannual publication of the Missouri Sierra Club

MISSOURI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chapter Chair: Kevin Grooms
Vice Chair: Caitlin Zera
Treasurer: John Kissel
Secretary: Tim Elwell
CC Clark
Christine Doerr
Helen Host
Debi Pratt
Cathy Primm
Rajiv Ravulapati
Sarah Richmond
Stephanie Todd

STAFF
Michael Berg
Leah Clyburn
Billy Davies
Jenn DeRose
Sara Edgar
Marisa Frazier
Andy Heaslet
Andy Knott
Natalie Johnson
Ashton Kuehnel
Rajiv Ravulapati
Kane Sheek
Brian Smith
Ed Smith

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Political: Ross Hunt
Energy: Henry Robertson
Conservation: Caroline Pufalt
Democracy: Nikki Pearl
Governance: Kevin Grooms
Development: Debi Pratt

Chapter Director:
Gretchen Waddell Barwick



Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's Missouri Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.

To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.

SIERRA CLUB
MISSOURI CHAPTER

Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • giftplanning@sierraclub.org • myplansierraclub.org

Sierra Club Endorsement Guide for Nov. 8th, 2022

The Missouri Chapter actively works to endorse and promote candidates for political office. We do this in order to help our members and others interested in protecting the environment make informed decisions about candidates.

Please don't forget to vote on November 8th!

★ U.S. ★
Senate



TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE (D)
U.S. Senate

★ Missouri Senate ★



AYANNA SHIVERS (D)
District 18



TRACY MCCREERY (D)
District 24



JOHN KIEHNE (D)
District 26

★ U.S. House of Representatives ★



CORI BUSH (D)
District 1



PATRICIA WASHBURN GUNBY (D)
District 2



EMANUEL CLEAVER (D)
District 5

Missouri House of Representatives

- District 1 - Jess Piper (D)
- District 12 - Jamie Johnson (D)
- District 14 - Ashley Aune (D)
- District 15 - Maggie Nurrenbern (D)
- District 17 - Mark Ellebracht (D)
- District 21 - Robert Sauls (D)
- District 23 - Michael L. Johnson (D)
- District 24 - Emily Weber (D)
- District 25 - Patty Lewis (D)
- District 26 - Ashley Bland Manlove (D)
- District 27 - Richard Brown (D)
- District 28 - Jerome Barnes (D)
- District 29 - Aaron Crossley (D)
- District 34 - Kemp Strickler (D)
- District 35 - Keri Ingle (D)
- District 37 - Mark A. Sharp (D)
- District 44 - David Raithe (D)
- District 45 - Kathy Steinhoff (D)
- District 46 - David Tyson Smith (D)

- District 47 - Adrian Plank (D)
- District 50 - Doug Mann (D)
- District 65 - Eric Nowicki (D)
- District 69 - Jessica DeVoto (D)
- District 70 - Gretchen Bangert (D)
- District 71 - LaDonna Appelbaum (D)
- District 72 - Doug Clemens (D)
- District 79 - LaKeySha Bosley (D)
- District 80 - Peter Meredith (D)
- District 81 - Steve Butz (D)
- District 82 - Donna Baringer (D)
- District 83 - Sarah Unsicker (D)
- District 86 - Joe Adams (D)
- District 87 - Paula Brown (D)
- District 88 - Kyle Luzynski (D)
- District 89 - Luke Barber (D)
- District 90 - Barbara Phifer (D)
- District 91 - Jo Doll (D)
- District 92 - Michael Burton (D)

- District 93 - Bridget Walsh Moore (D)
- District 94 - Kyle Kerns (D)
- District 95 - Ann Zimpfer (D)
- District 96 - Leslie Derrington (D)
- District 98 - Deb Lavender (D)
- District 99 - Ian Mackey (D)
- District 100 - Colin Lovett (D)
- District 101 - Melissa Greenstein (D)
- District 104 - Gregory Upchurch (D)
- District 105 - Cindy Berne (D)
- District 106 - Ron Odenthal (D)
- District 132 - Crystal Quade (D)
- District 133 - Amy Blansit (D)
- District 134 - Samantha Deaton (D)
- District 135 - Betsy Fogle (D)
- District 136 - Stephanie Hein (D)
- District 140 - Amy Freeland (D)
- District 143 - Bernadette Holzer (D)

Paid for by the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, Kevin Grooms, Chapter Chair - PO Box 432010, St. Louis, MO 63143

★ **Other Local Elections** ★

- St. Louis County Executive - Sam Page (D)
- St. Louis County Council District 3 - Vicki Englund (D)
- St. Louis City Board of Aldermen President - Megan Green (D)

Want to get involved?

Join us for canvassing!

Canvassing or door-knocking is an effective way to meet Missourians and discuss how they may vote in the upcoming election. It is an opportunity to have a dialogue about candidates and present Sierra Club's endorsements. It's a lot of fun and creates real change!

Canvassing opportunities are happening across the state. For more information about canvassing happening near you and how to volunteer, contact Michael Berg, Political Director, at (314) 644-1011 or michael.berg@sierraclub.org.





1978. Organized with citizens and like-minded organizations to stop the Meramec Dam project and maintain a free-losing Meramec River and tributaries. This paddling haven would look much different today without intervention. (Photo: Natalie Johnson)



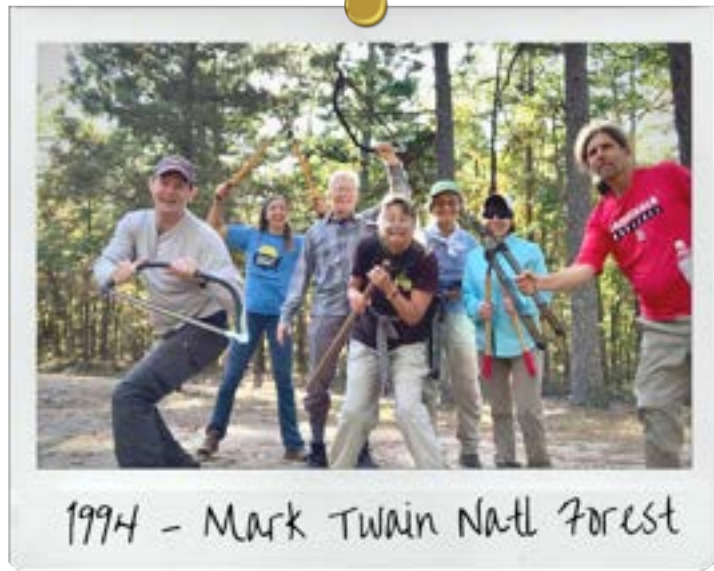
1984. Advocated for the adoption of the parks, soils and water tax - a dedicated tax of one-tenth-of-one-percent which funds the majority of our state park system and keeps them free for you and your family. We have successfully called for its renewal time and time again. (Photo: Missouri Inspiring Connections Outdoors)



2007. Secured a groundbreaking agreement with Kansas City Power and Light to settle differences about a new 850MW coal-burning power plant in Iatan, MO. This agreement laid the groundwork to ensure that this one coal plant will be one of the last (if not the last) coal plant built in the MO/KS region. (Photo: Missouri Beyond Coal)



2016. Stopped the New Madrid levee project that would have closed off the last natural connection the Mississippi River has its floodplain in the state, destroying many wetlands for very little benefit. (Photo: Mike Hurd)



1994. Opposed the establishment of a 300+ mile ATV trail system through the Mark Twain National Forest, protecting lands from extensive damage. We proudly organize stewardship days to make sure this land sees continued protection. (Photo: Missouri Sierra Club)

50 Years of Environmental Activism

A brief snapshot

“ In the early years of the Missouri chapter, we faced both challenges and opportunities. It all started with the Meramec River being threatened by a major dam project. The term "biodiversity" had not yet been coined, but we knew public lands and wilderness needed better protections. Since then, we have faced up to and faced down the challenges of the times. Still, current issues of climate change, biodiversity loss and a threatened democracy seem more daunting than any earlier concerns. Today, we have more legal tools and new community partners to get work done. Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, our organization, will continue to show up EVERY SINGLE DAY to protect Missouri's future. Together, we'll fight for our communities. Together, we'll explore the places we love. And together, we'll come together to speak truth to power. And, we're prepared to do so for another 50 years and more - whatever it takes to get the job done. ”

- Caroline Pufalt, Conservation Committee Chair and Longtime Member



2021. After years of advocacy, Ameren Missouri announced they will close the Rush Island coal-fired power plant 15 years earlier than planned. This was a huge victory for public health and the fight against climate change and the fossil fuel industry! (Photo: Missouri Beyond Coal)

What is your favorite win for Missouri? Visit our website for more 50 year highlights or to submit your own story!
sc.org/octsierran22

Cast Your Vote for Missouri Chapter Leadership



The Missouri Sierra Club's Executive Committee is elected to serve you and fellow members in deciding policy, conducting governance, and keeping the Club effective in pursuing our key mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. We have some excellent candidates this year for your consideration. We hope that you will review the following statements and vote on or before December 31, 2022 (instructions located on ballot page 7).

Executive Committee Candidate Statements



Rajiv Ravulapati

I am a born and bred Chicagoan who has called St. Louis home since 2014. I have worked exclusively for nonprofits and government since 2011. I have worn many hats during my professional career such as program manager, analyst, organizer, lobbyist, policy lead, and consumer advocate. On a more personal note, I love everything about food and it's primarily how I access the world and culture. I live in the Hill neighborhood in Saint Louis with my girlfriend and our 4 animals (1 dog, 3 cats). If not hanging out with them or eating food, then I'm working on my house, traveling, running races, hiking, going to the local YMCA, or taking culinary classes.



Christian Sasse

I currently live in Columbia, MO and I've been active in environmental conservation since high school. I graduated from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale with a Bachelors in Environmental Geology and have been trying to use to use the skills and knowledge I developed there to better help the community. In my free time I enjoy cooking, hiking, and nature photography. In the future my goal is to either start my own non-profit or be heavily involved in one that focuses on community based environmental conservation in historically underprivileged communities.



Caitlin Zera

I'm deeply passionate about environmental protection, and I appreciate the way Sierra Club connects issues of public health, justice and the environment at a local level. I have served several terms on the Missouri Executive Committee, holding the leadership roles of secretary, Council of Club Leaders Delegate, and most recently Vice Chair. I also assist with both the *SierraScape* and the *Sierran* print newsletters. Though we face many challenges in Missouri, being a part of the Sierra Club community gives me hope for a world in which everyone has access to clean energy, clean air and the outdoors. I am constantly inspired by the incredible work Sierra Club volunteers and staff do. If elected to the Executive Committee again, I would look forward to continued collaboration with staff and other volunteers on local elections, climate solutions, educational outreach and protection of public lands.

MO Executive Committee Ballot

HOUSEHOLD VOTER 1 Individual Membership, use this column. Joint Membership, voter 1 use this column.	HOUSEHOLD VOTER 2 Individual Membership, use this column. Joint Membership, voter 2 use this column.
<input type="checkbox"/> Rajiv Ravulapati	<input type="checkbox"/> Rajiv Ravulapati
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Sasse	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Sasse
<input type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Zera	<input type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Zera
Vote for up to THREE (3) One voter per household, per side.	Vote for up to THREE (3) One voter per household, per side.

MO Chapter Executive Committee Ballot Instructions

Carefully read ALL instructions before completing or mailing your ballot. Ballots must be received by Saturday, **December 31, 2022** in order to be counted.

- To vote by mail you must use the ballot above with your address label attached to the back. This identifies you as an eligible voting Missouri Sierra Club member. You can also send by mail this entire page if that is easier. Ballots without the correct name and/or member ID will not be counted.
- Vote for up to THREE (3) candidates. Indicate your choices by marking an X through the box to the left of the candidate's name. If yours is a joint membership, two (2) members may vote, each in their own column.
- Put the ballot into an envelope, write **BALLOT** on the outside, and mail it to: **Elections Committee Sierra Club PO Box 432010, St. Louis, MO 63143**. Be sure your address and/or membership number are included on the back of your ballot.
- You can also vote online at: sc.org/votemoexcom22. You can only vote one time.
- For questions, including the date, time, and place of ballot counting, please call (314) 399-9705 or email Natalie Johnson at natalie.johnson@sierraclub.org.

MEET OUR INTERNS



EILEEN

SHE/THEY
PRACTICUM STUDENT

Hi there! I am a Master of Social Work student at Saint Louis University interning at the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter. I'm from Dallas, TX, and a fun fact about me is that I'm certified to teach yoga!



CLARA

SHE/HER
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING INTERN

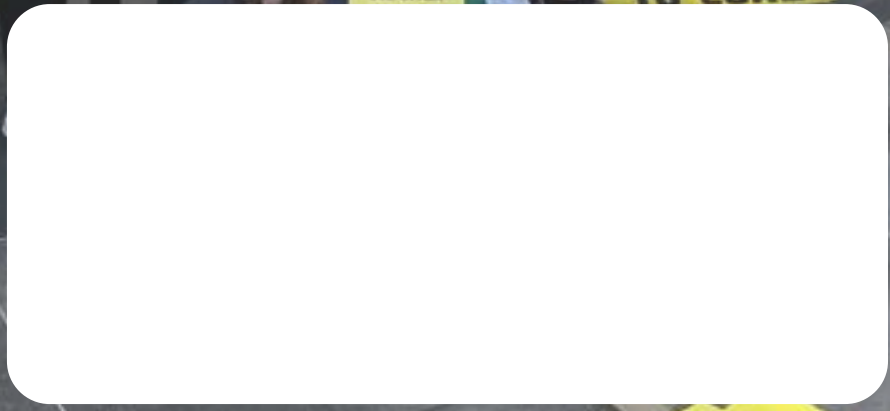
Hello! I am a junior at Washington University in St. Louis majoring in Environmental Analysis. As an intern with the Sierra Club, I'm excited to engage with the Missouri community, especially on issues of environmental justice.



SIERRA CLUB

MISSOURI CHAPTER

PO Box 432010
St. Louis, MO 63143



ADVANCING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



Big Win for Kansas City, MO
By Billy Davies, Kansas City Organizer

Last month, Kansas City officially adopted a Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan. The Plan is a roadmap of specific policies to help the city take major steps to improve people’s lives and address climate change, impacting almost every aspect of city operations, from energy supply to parks and buses, to make sure it works for all people, not just a few.

The Plan is the result of over two years of advocacy by volunteer leaders who spent hundreds of hours attending public meetings and collecting comments so that everyone has a chance to be heard and that Missourians most impacted by the climate crisis are centered in the solutions. The hard work enabled the city to overcome fierce opposition from fossil fuel lobbyists, who used their resources to demand the city stay hooked on fossil fuels.

Photo Credit: Billy Davies, Organizer

“Victories like this don't just happen. They take time, dedication, and, vision. It starts with belief in a vision for a better future. In Kansas City, neighbors came together, seeing the world as it is and envisioning how it can be better. This vision inspired community action until it became reality.”

As Kansas Citians celebrate this milestone, there are lessons for all of us as we consider how we can build the environmental movement in our communities. This can feel overwhelming, but we must remember that these campaigns all start the same: with a vision. We can close our eyes. Imagine the world in two years, or ten years, after we have our community goals. See the change you want to achieve. Then, begin.



Want more Sierran News?
Scan for our bonus content!