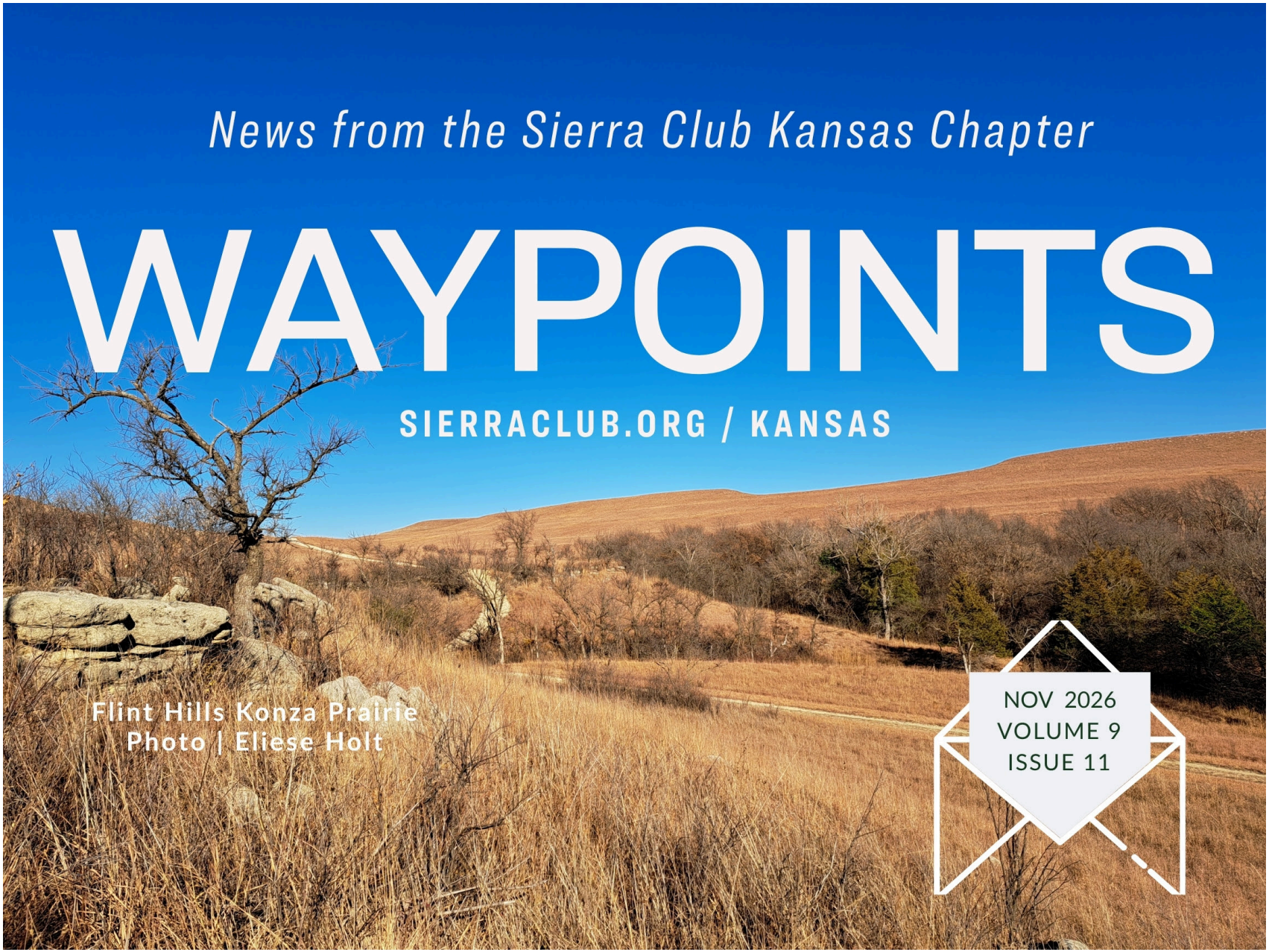

News from the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter
WAYPOINTS
SIERRACLUB.ORG / KANSAS
Flint Hills Konza Prairie
Photo | Eliese Holt
NOV 2026
VOLUME 9
ISSUE 11



Director Dive-In

Zack Pistora, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director

Option: Watch me dive into Sierra Club Kansas's priorities now that it's November!

Happy November, everyone!

Big election, huh? I'm glad we can now move past it and transfer that momentum to our upcoming legislative session. Please get involved with SierraKan, our citizen lobbying group, if you're not already involved. We can make a big difference when we go speak at the state capitol in January.

Pre-sale for WEALTH day 2027 has begun.

Save the date: January 19, 2027 and get your discounted ticket now.

Speaking of elections, we got the most candidates I can remember for our Chapter election! **November 5th at midnight is your last call to get in your vote.** Help decide who the governing team of Sierra Club Kansas will be.

And finally, we can't think about November without feeling a little extra thankful. Thank you so much for your involvement, all the actions this year, and your financial support. It means a lot that you're involved with us and contributing to the cause.

Want to volunteer with the Kansas Chapter?
Let us know HERE.

Fill out this form to set up an introductory meeting with our Chapter Leaders. We want to hear about your interests, experience, and availability!



Kanza Network Forest Bathing event Oct 24 | Photo Eliese Holt

Still Fighting and Not Defeated In Pawnee County

Felix Revello, Sierra Club Kansas Feedlot Fighter



Screenshot of KDHE video footage of Ward Feed Yard South two days after a 3.5” rain | Photo posted by Pawnee Citizens Advocating for Rural Environment and Economy Facebook Group

You may remember the ongoing Pawnee County Feedlot Fight we began in 2025. [Listen to this short clip for review]. I and my local trail pard Merrill Cauble continue our community organizing, partnering with other organizations, and promoting citizen science and citizen empowerment.



Left to right, Felix Revello and Merrill Cauble

Kansas Chapter Sierra Club CAFO specialist Craig Volland is our go-to expert on KDHE permitting processes. Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) keeps us on target by strategizing with us, maintaining our Facebook page and helping us develop designs for flyers and mailings.

This was and remains a fight to motivate our Governor, KDHE Secretary, Pawnee County Commissioners and bureaucrats to protect citizens instead of protecting the corrupt CAFO industry - an industry that profits while destroying rural air, water, human health and rural main streets.

Read more about our two-year quest for environmental justice in rural Kansas here.



How many turtles are killed every time a race is held?

Sierra Club Kansas is working with other groups to stop turtle racing in Kansas.

Check out this map of active turtle races in the US:
Turtle-conservation.com/map

We need your help. **Please join our Turtle Team** (we meet virtually!).

Plastic doesn't Belong in Your Body



Photo | Marc Newberry on Unsplash

Nancy Muma, Wakarusa Group Chair

Dr. Muma is professor emerita of the University of Kansas Department of

Pharmacology and Toxicology

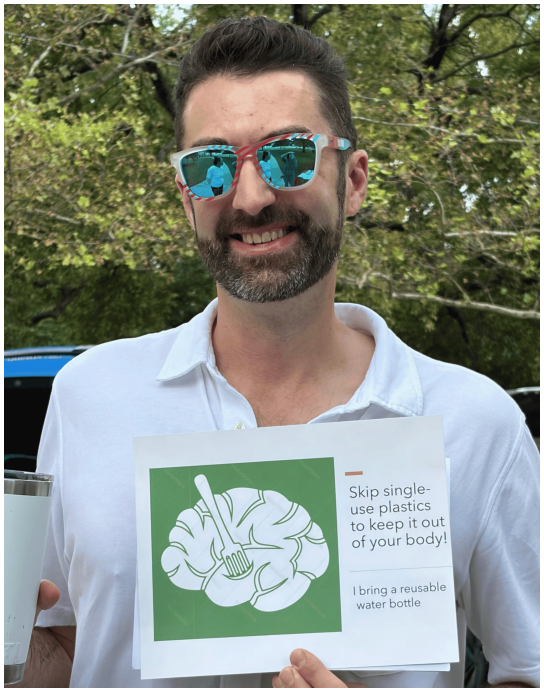
Did you know that the amount of plastic in our brains is about the same as that of a sturdy plastic fork? Although plastics are durable, they eventually break down into smaller and smaller particles known as micro- and nanoplastics. Micro- and nanoplastics are in our bodies: in our blood, lungs, intestines, liver, kidneys, placentas and even in our brains.

This plastics invasion is getting worse. Just 8 years ago, we had half as much plastic in our bodies. Scientists are in the process of uncovering the health consequences of these microplastics, but the data so far is dire.

How can we address this problem? Read here.







Volunteers holding anti-plastic signs | Photos courtesy of Nancy Muma

---

Wakarusa Wetlands Update



Baker Wetlands | Photo courtesy of Baker University

Dominique Sexton, Wakarusa Group member

As reported in our March 2026 Waypoints article, Wichita developer Phil Bundy has sought approval since 2023 for a project on land directly west of the Haskell-Baker wetlands at the junction of US 59 and K10 highways. The most recent iteration of this project has been dubbed “The 1059” (formerly the New Boston Crossing and TEN59).

The current proposal was for a Star Bond incentive which would be paid for by siphoning off the tax revenue from a new Costco store. On October 13, 2026, The Lawrence City Commission voted unanimously to deny the project application.

Read the full article.

More Wakarusa members Join City Board



Lawrence, Kansas CIty Hall | Bhall87, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Two Sierra Club Wakarusa Group members, Patrick Ross and Dominique Sexton, have been appointed to the City of Lawrence Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board. The Board is chaired by Nancy Muma, who also serves as chair of the Wakarusa Group.

Congratulations to these appointees. If you live in Lawrence, please consider learning more about this opportunity for civic engagement and environmental activism.

Information about meetings and minutes can be found online. Public comment can be submitted by email to sustainability@lawrenceks.gov

---



Chapter Director, Zack Pistora and Johnson County Commission Chair Mike Kelly | Photo Eliese Holt

The Topeka Network is hosting Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director, Zack Pistora, Thursday, November 19 to discuss environmental priorities and legislative strategy now that midterms have concluded.

The event will be held in-person for Topeka Network members and available over Zoom for all subscribers outside of the Topeka area.

RSVP here to receive the Zoom link and/or attend in-person.

Is "advocate for the environment" on your bingo card?

We're starting to strategize for the 2027 Legislative session!

Join SierraKan

Help us expand the Club's capacity to influence decision-making on environmental policy and provide leadership for member engagement in targeted efforts with state Legislators.

SIGN THE PETITION
DATA CENTER MORATORIUM NOW

Pass a moratorium on new large-scale data center projects until significant guardrails to improve transparency, local control, and responsible oversight can be implemented.

SIGN THE PETITION NOW.

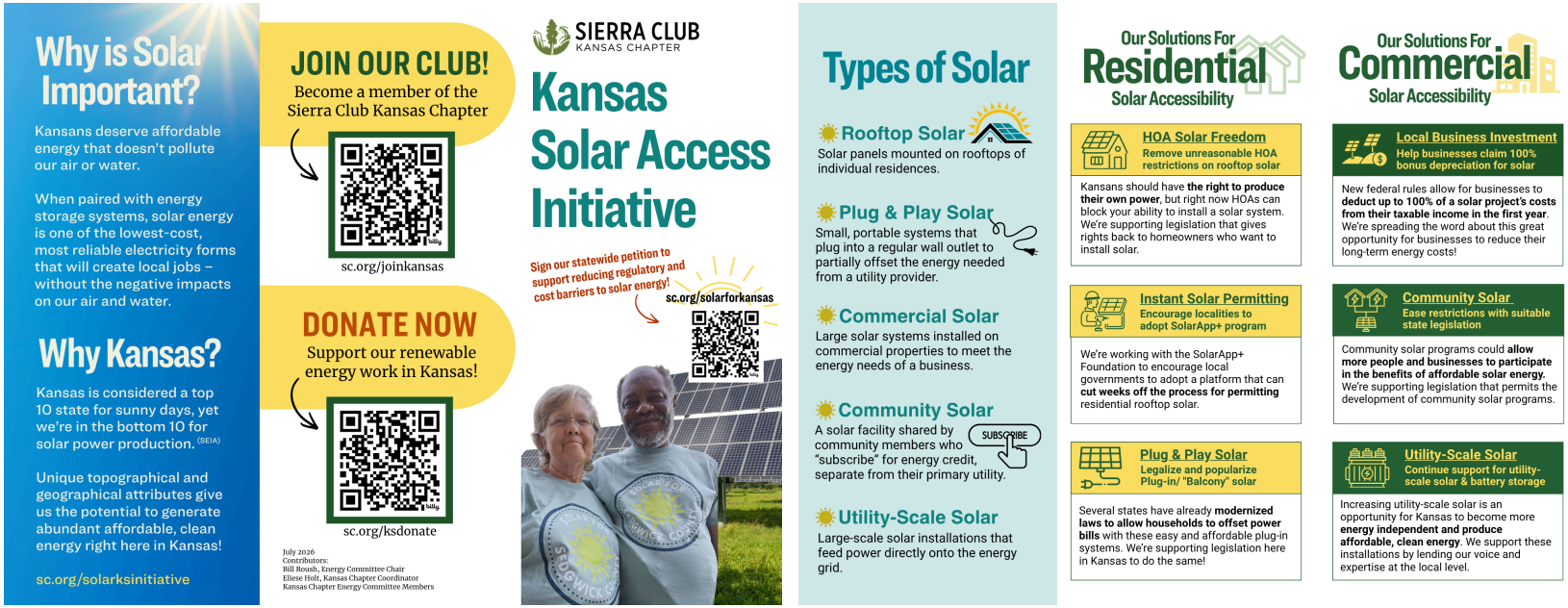


Chapter Director, Zack Pistora in Gardner, KS | Photo Elie Holt

The Kansas Chapter is working on a coordinated, collective strategy for our legislative action in 2027.

If you're advocating in your local community and want to work together on a state strategy and share best practices, please join our Data Center Community Action Team.

Kansas Solar Access Initiative



Pamphlet Design | Eliese Holt & Sarah Cain

Want to help make solar more accessible in Kansas?

Join the Energy Committee

SIGN THE PETITION:

Tell Kansas Legislators We Need Solar Energy!

Sign the statewide petition

Events Coming Up!

Friday, November 5

6:30 P.M. (Kansas City)

Intro to Birding with Master Naturalist Dave Miller

Would you like to know more about identifying bird species, tracking behaviors, and listening to calls? The Kanza Network welcomes Master Naturalist Dave Miller to share his birding expertise.

Friday, November 13

6:30 P.M. (Wichita)

Southwind General Meeting: Renewables are Funding Schools

Kent Rowe, retired Professor of Aeronautical Science for the US Air Force, long-time Sierra Club member, and former Green Party mayor of Langton, Kansas, will present how renewables have garnered revenue by shaping social and technological practices within urban, rural, and tribal schools.

Sunday, November 15

1:00 P.M. (Kansas City)

Ernie Miller Park Walk & Talk

Our very own Kanza Network leader, Tim McCoy will lead a nature hike at Ernie Miller Park in Olathe to talk about the flora and fauna of the park.

Thursday, November 19

6:00 P.M. (Manhattan)

Flint Hills Group Social Hour

Wrap up the season with a fun evening of dinner, conversation, and camaraderie with fellow Flint Hills members at Liquid Art Winery.

Thursday, November 19

7:00 P.M. (Topeka)

2027 Kansas Legislative Preview w/ Sierra Club Director, Zack Pistora

The election is over. Now what!? Kansas Chapter Director Zack Pistora shares his analysis of the election results and the prospects for beneficial policies to protect water, reduce energy bills, regulate data centers, and more.

Monday, December 7

5:30 P.M. (Kansas City)

KC Holiday Party with Kansas and Missouri Chapters

Come celebrate the end of the year with the Kanza Network and the Thomas Hart Benton Sierra Club groups at this joint Holiday Potluck at Fountain City Winery in the Westbottoms. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware. Donations from this event will be split 50/50 between both groups.



what is a WAYPOINT?

Waypoint: *noun.* A stopping place on a journey; an endpoint of the leg of a course, especially one whose coordinates have been generated by a computer.

Submit Waypoints Content

Waypoints is the monthly newsletter of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter.

Articles are edited for style and content and may be rejected at the discretion of the editors.

Editors: Eliese Holt and Mimi Moffat.

Events Calendar | Go on an Outing | Join Sierra Club Kansas | Donate Today

FOLLOW SIERRA CLUB KANSAS