

# Missouri Sierran

One Earth, One Chance

Volume 50, Number 2 December 2019

# Protecting the Current and Jacks Fork

By Marisa Frazier, Chapter Organizer

On January 30, 2015 the National Park Service approved horsepower limits on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The 2015 General Management Plan placed restrictions on motorboats on a 35-mile stretch of the Current River and a 33-mile stretch of the Jacks Fork River during peak float season, April 1 to September 14. The horsepower limits have yet to be implemented & enforced.

Noise pollution, fumes, and petroleum-based pollutants disturb the wildlife that evolved to live in the natural river environment. Powerful motorboats generate wakes that erode the banks and disrupt fish nests on the river bottom.

These limits allow plenty of opportunity for motorboats on the Current River in the summer in the 50



Sierra Club leaders from around Missouri gathered on August 24 & 25 for our Public Lands Retreat to plan to protect public lands and to enjoy the spectacular beauty of the Current River. Photo by Nate Fulk.

miles downstream from Round Spring. They were decided after an extensive democratic process which included public meetings and comments. The decision to update horsepower limits has been made, and now it needs to be implemented for next year's float season.

# Defending CLEAN Missouri in 2020

By Ashton Kuehnel, Chapter Organizer Sierra Club members gathered over 10,000 signatures to help put Clean Missouri on the ballot in November 2018. The amendment passed with 62% support statewide. Despite that overwhelming support, Republican legislators attempted during the last legislative session to voters and undo ignore the redistricting portion Clean Missouri.

We believe that voters should choose which politicians we want, NOT that politicians should choose which voters they want. Our democratic system is based on the notion that Legislature should respect the will of the voters. That value will be tested in the upcoming Legislative session, which begins on Jan. 8, 2020. The Sierra Club needs



Sierra Club members show their support for Clean Missouri on January 15. Photo by Sara Edgar.

your help to protect the fair redistricting principles of Clean Missouri. Call the Missouri Sierra Club office at 314-644-1011 or email Missouri.Chapter@SierraClub.org to ioin our team of defenders.

### Chair's Column

By Jennifer Conner, Chapter Chair



our last newsletter talked with about you inspiration being the catalyst for action. During this season of gratitude.

would like to thank you for the all the actions you took that resulted in successes this year.

Due to grassroots action including attending public meetings, providing comments and reaching out to your lawmakers, you, our members, helped save Ozark Mountain State Park and Bryant Creek State Park. These parks are now officially in the state park system and currently going through the conceptual development plan. Two Sierra Club members were elected to the Missouri State House of Representatives and St. Louis, Columbia, and Kansas City made 100% clean all energy commitments, demonstrating opportunities for climate action at the local level, while progress is being stymied at the state and federal level. That's a lot to be proud of!

Along with gratitude, I find this time of year to be a season of introspection so I encourage you to look inside yourself over the next couple of months and think about your unique talents. Maybe you are a science educator who can give presentations and educate other Sierra members on environmental issues. Perhaps you are a bubbly people-person and can volunteer 2 or 3 hours on a weekend to get signatures for the Medicaid expansion initiative petition, or maybe you have some excess cash flow and can afford to donate a few extra dollars this year. Whatever you have to offer, whether it's your time or your voice or a monetary gift, know that your contribution will make a difference.

If this is the season for introspection, then January is the time for action. We welcome you to step up and take action next year by, harnessing your talents to protect our public lands, protect our environment, and make our state a more vibrant place to live. Thank you for being a Sierra Club member. Thank you for caring.

#### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT LARGE

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White River Group:

**Judy Dasovich** 

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation Chair: Caroline Pufalt

Finance: John Kissel

Legal Chair: Henry Robertson Legal Co-Chair: Jim Turner

Newsletter Editor: Claus Wawrzinek &

Caitlin Zera

Political Chair: Ross Hunt

Legislative Chair: Erica Hoffman Sierra Club Council Delegate: Caitlin Zera

Website Chair: Open

Energy Chair: Henry Robertson Outings Chair: Jim Rhodes Equity Chair: Maddie Price

Trailbuilding Chair: John Feldman

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Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Assistant

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Kane Sheek, Ready for 100 Organizer Marisa Frazier, Public Lands Organizer Billy Davies, Organizer

**Beyond Coal Campaign Staff:** 

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Representative

Trisha Boyle, Organizer

Leah Clyburn, Organzier

## About the Missouri Sierran

The Missouri Sierran is published two times a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club, in early June and early December. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. If you wish to submit an article or photo, contact our Chapter Office via email at missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org or phone 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333 prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.



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# Clean Energy: Electric Buses, Not Dirty Diesel

By John Hickey, Chapter Director

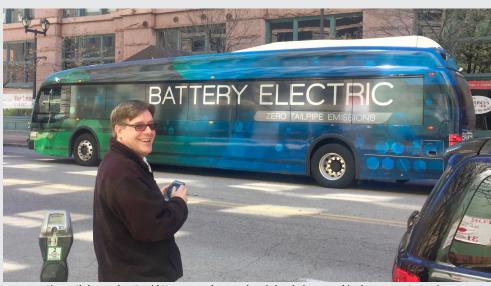
Many Midwest communities are committed to moving to 100% electric transit buses. Both Minneapolis and Chicago have set a goal to complete that transition by 2040. Wichita Kansas hopes to replace all its diesel buses by 2027! Why the does the Sierra Club support this shift?

Climate Change – the transportation sector is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the USA. Switching to electric buses means less GHG pollution.

**Public Health** – Soot from diesel buses cause health problems for bus riders and drivers, and the communities along bus routes.

**Cost** - electric buses have a lower lifetime cost than dirty diesel buses.

Metro Transit in the <u>St. Louis</u> area is considering purchasing 14 electric buses, as a first step in replacing its 408 diesel buses. The <u>Kansas City</u> area Transportation Association, which serves seven counties in Missouri and



Sierra Club member David Henry watches an electric bus being tested in downtown St. Louis.

Kansas, recently decided to purchase two electric buses. KCATA currently operates about 250 transit buses. The <u>Columbia</u> City Council voted in 2018 to purchase three electric buses, as part of its fleet of about fifty transit buses.

In 2019, City Utilities of Springfield

was awarded \$1.5 million by the Federal Transit Administration to buy electric transit buses there.

The good news? The transition away from dirty diesel is starting!

The bad news? We need to make this transition much more quickly!

# Sierra Club Members Elected to MO Legislature

By Michael Berg, Chapter Organizer Sierra Club Members Trish Gunby (D - St. Louis County) and Mark Sharp (D - Jackson County) won special elections held November 5 and will now join the Missouri House of Representatives. The Sierra Club Missouri Chapter endorsed and campaigned for both candidates. Sharp won in a landslide in a heavily Democratic district. Gunby achieved a hard-fought victory by 502 votes, one

after anti-environmental legislator Jean Evans (R) won the district by over 1.000 votes (Evans resigned her seat early this year in order to lead the Missouri Republican Party). Gunby flipped the district with an impressive, positive and well-run campaign. She was assisted by heavy Sierra Club support. We knocked the doors of 951 members and supporters in the district, and contacted voters with postcards, phone calls and emails all informing people of Gunby's pro-environmental positions. Sharp and Gunby will join Sierra Club

Sharp and Gunby will join Sierra Club members Representatives Doug Clemens (D), Doug Beck (D), Steve Butz (D) and Ingrid Burnett (D) during the 2020 legislative session.

Help us reduce paper waste! Keep up to date on events and news in your area. Send your current email address to

Missouri.Chapter@SierraClub.org. Already receiving our emails? Great! No action is needed.



(From L to R) Ted Heisel, Dana Gray, Michael Berg, Ross Hunt, Megan Green and Erica Hoffman canvass in support of Trish Gunby on October 6. Photo by Ted Heisel.



#### Eastern Missouri Group

http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri/outings

The outings for the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club are listed below. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns are allowed on trips. Pets are only allowed on "pet friendly" outings 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:

John Feldmann 314-609-5278 or johnfeldmann@msn.com.

Find more outings: http://www.sierraclub.org/ missouri/eastern-missouri or on Meetup: http://www.meetup.com/ Sierra-Club-Eastern-Missouri-Group-Outdoor-Activities/

Dec 6, Fri: Day hike. For information on our weekly hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Dec 7, Sat: Hike at Mastodon State Park. 2 miles, difficult hill.

Afterwards we will walk around historic Kimmswick and eat at the Blue Owl. For further info contact Diane Favier wadediane2@gmail.com.

Dec 7, Sat: We need volunteers for trail maintenance at Don Robinson State Park. We will work from 10:00 to 2:30. If you are interested in helping or want more information, email rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Dec 7, Sat: Holiday party and

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: <a href="mailto:sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms">sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms</a> 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.

potluck dinner. Bring your beverage and a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall, (636) 529-0477 barb\_wall@sbcglobal.net, or Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 725-1560-home, and (314) 309-0725 cell, ann.eggebrecht@att.net

Dec 13, Fri: Day hike, Yea! Get out the fleece and long sleeves and get some 6-8 mile exercise. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for details.

Dec 14, Sat: We will tour the National Museum of Transportation. Contact Jim Rhodes at jamarhodes@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Dec 20, Fri: Day hike. Day before winter solstice hike. For details contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Dec 27, Fri: Day hike. Work off the Christmas cookies! Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jan 1, Wed: 5 Mile Hike at Lewis



Hiking tour of Ozark Mountain State Park on November 3. Photo by Marisa Frasier.

and Clark Trail. Off Hwy 94 in Weldon Springs, Mo. Lyn Anthoney at (314) 704-3877, lyn@anthoney.com

Jan 3, Fri: Day hike. It is a new year and time to get in shape by hiking. Join us for a 6-8 mile hike. For more info, contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jan 4, Sat: Walk around Alton. See historical sites of the Underground Railroad and search eagles. 2 mile walk followed by lunch in Grafton. In the case of bad weather, this outing will be rescheduled to January 18th. Contact Diane Favier at wadediane2@gmail.com

Jan 10, Fri: Day hike. For more info contact jleachross@hotmail.com

Jan 11-12, Sat-Sun: Day hikes with campground camping Sat. night at Johnson Shut Ins. First hike will be at Johnson Shut Ins or nearby. Second will be Buford Mt. Hikes will be 4-8 miles. George Behrens, (314) 984-9244.

Jan 17, Fri: Day hike. Join our weekly group for a 6-8 mile hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or Rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com

Jan 22, Wed: We will hike 2-4 miles at Graham Cave State Park. Lyn Anthoney (314) 704-3877, lyn@anthoney.com

Jan 24, Fri: Day hike. For info on our weekly hike contact rickschweitzer2@gmail.com or thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jan 31, Fri: Day hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

**Feb 7, Fri: Day hike.** For info on our weekly hike contact



jleachross@hotmail.com or thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Feb 14, Fri: Day hike. Might be a snowy Valentine 6-8 mile this week. For info contact rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com or jleachross@hotmail.com

**Feb 21, Fri:** Day hike: Icicles maybe? Join our weekly group for a winter adventure. Contact rickschweitzer2@gmail.com or thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Feb 22, Sat: 7-9 p.m. Eighteenth Annual Winter Sing Along. A group of musically dubious Sierrans fulfill their musical destiny. Refreshments welcome. At the Sierra Club office at 2818 Sutton Blvd. in Maplewood, Mo. For more info or in case of inclement weather cancellation call George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Feb 22, Sat: We will hike 3-4 miles at Lone Elk Park. Lyn Anthoney (314) 704-3877, lyn@anthoney.com

Feb 28, Fri: Could be an early spring or a late winter hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com

Sat-Sun, Feb or early March: Dates to be determined in January. Day hikes and campground camping at Hawn State Park. First hike will be in Hawn. Second will be in Hawn or nearby Conservation Dept. land. Hikes will be 4-8 miles. George Behrens, (314) 984-9244.

### White River Group

(Springfield and Southwest Missouri) http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/white-river

Sun Dec 1: Little Sac River Hike. We will hike on a property that includes a natural arch near a spring fed lake and about 2-3 miles of non-strenuous hiking throughout the property. Meet at Price Cutter Grocery Store on W. Chestnut Expwy at 12 noon. Contact Pam Shaver at dpshaver@rollanet.org for more information.

Thurs Dec 12, 7-9pm: Threats to Area



Mac Gum paddles the Current River during the Sierra Club Public Lands Retreat. Photo by Marisa Frasier.

Water. Discussion lead by Todd Parnell and Joe Pitts. Brentwood Library 2214 S Brentwood Blvd, Springfield, MO 65804. Contact Louise Wienckowski at louisewienckowski@gmail.com for more information.

Thurs Jan 30, 6:30 pm: Pollinators Presentation. Unity Church 2214 E. Seminole St.Jennifer Hopwood, a senior pollinator specialist with the Xerces Society, will be the keynote speaker via Zoom. A panel of several local experts will follow. Contact Louise at louisewienckowski@gmail.com for more information.

#### Osage Group

(Columbia and Mid Missouri) http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/osage

Fri Dec 13, 6pm: Annual Osage Group Sierra Club Holiday. 2222 Bluff Blvd, Columbia, MO 65201 - home of Jan and Scott Dye. This will be a potluck. The Club will supply a baked ham. Bring a dish of your choice to share. You are also welcome to bring a beverage including adult beverages if you choose. Some non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Calendars will be for sale. Contact Carolyn Amparan at carolyn.amparan@gmail.com or 417-793-8600 for more ino.

#### Thomas Hart Benton Group

(Kansas City and Northwest Missouri) https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/ thomas-hart-benton/outings

Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings

Wed Jan 8, 15 & 22, 6-9 pm: Wilderness Navigation in Three Easy Classes. Central United Methodist Church, 5144 Oak, KCMO. These three classes will be use the book "Wilderness Navigation: Finding Your Way Using Map, Compass, Altimeter & GPS" by Bob & Mike Burns. (3rd edition, 2015, Mountaineers Book). Sign up at tinyurl.com/kcwld. For more info contact Eileen McManus, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net, (816) 523-7823 or Claus Wawrzinek, claus.wawrzinek@gmail.com, (816) 517-5244 or Matt Verhulst, zionhikes@yahoo.com, (913) 484-2212.



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If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

#### LORI SULLIVAN

Director of Gift Planning 2101 Webster St, Suite 1300 Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270 gift.planning@sierraclub.org sierraclubplanning.org



### Missouri Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee Candidates Statements

Jennifer Conner Jennifer Conner has served as a volunteer, staff member, and executive committee member of the



Missouri Sierra Club for 7 years. She currently serves as chair of the Missouri Sierra Club. Jennifer has a degree in conservation and wildlife management, is a former environmental scientist for the MO Department of Natural Resources, and is an avid outdoorswoman. She enjoys spending time in the woods with her family: hiking, cycling, kayaking, and nature photography and writing. If she is elected to the ex-com for another term, Jennifer hopes to continue to assist the club in building grassroots power around protecting our public lands (specifically our new state parks), work on enhancing our legislative influence, and assist in developing a strategic plan to ensure that the club is prepared to face future environmental challenges as effectively and efficiently as possible.

**Judy Dasovich** 



I joined the Sierra Club many years ago because of their reputation for effective advocacy. I became active in 2013 because of a local issue with water quality that that the Missouri Chapter identified. They educated several of us about the issue. Because of this, I joined the White River Group (WRG) Board. I was chair from January 2014 to May 2019. Currently, I am the Energy chair for the Group and remain on the board. I have been the WRG representative to the Missouri Chapter Board since then. My special interest is in coal ash disposal. I enjoy the outings set up by our local group. I look forward to continued partnership with Sierra Club volunteers and staff.

**Kevin Grooms** 



Kevin Grooms is the Thomas Hart Benton group chair and a dedicated local leader for Sierra Club. In the two years he has been an active board member, he has expanded Sierra Club's presence among ally groups throughout Kansas City--particularly economic justice groups like the Poor People's Campaign, pro-democracy allies such as Jobs with Justice, and fellow environmentalists at Heartland Conservation Alliance. A frequent speaker for the Club, he has publicly advocated our priorities with the EPA, Missouri DNR, Kansas City Council, and local news outlets on TV, radio and print media. Kevin also serves regularly as the face of Sierra Club before student groups, political caucuses and community organizations. After spending 2019 representing THB group on the chapter executive committee, he aims to continue serving on the finance committee and assisting in the chapter's lobbying at the state house. He supports the chapter's efforts to defend democracy in Jeff City, and driving Sierra Club toward better equity practices.

Debi Pratt



My name is Deborah Pratt (Debi) and I am currently an active member of the Sierra Club- EMG. I am also active with the EMG Political Committee. In describing myself, I most closely fit the description of a social justice advocate and activist. The collective power of passionate people is one of my fundamental beliefs. I have volunteered with numerous organizations that have social justice at the core of their mission and find this work to be very rewarding. I value the Sierra Club as a leading authority on global, national, and local environmental issues. The staff and volunteers I have met and worked with are committed to protecting—and improving—the environment for future generations. I believe their success comes from working to understand the issues and then helping to educate others on how to implement solutions. I would like to continue to participate with the Sierra Club through connecting environmental issues to social justice issues, i.e. the connection between poverty and poor health as it relates to environmental inequities. Working on electing candidates who understand and are committed to a pro-environmental platform is another area of interest for me and one in which I have some experience.

#### **Madeline Price**



My name is Madeline Price. I am a Biology student working to obtain my Associate of Science Degree in Biology at OTC before transferring to MSU next fall to obtain my Bachelor's in Biology. As well as attending school at OTC, I work as the Lab Prep Assistant for the Life Science Department there. The environment is my passion, and you can often find me reading a new study or watching a documentary on the state of our planet in my free time. When I get the chance, you can also find me squeezing in time to read a book, travel, and watch Cardinal baseball games as often as possible!

#### **MO Chapter ExCom Vote Instructions:**

Carefully read ALL instructions before completing or mailing your ballot.

Ballots must be received by Friday, January 3, 2020 in order to be counted.

1) You must use this ballot with your address label attached to the back. The ballot portion will be detached from the label portion before counting ballots without address labels will not be counted.

2) Vote for up to five (5) 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.

3) Put the ballot into an envelope, write **BALLOT** on the outside, and mail it to:

> **Elections Committee** Sierra Club 2818 Sutton Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63143

4) You can also vote online at: sc.org/moexcomballot

5) For questions, including the date, time, and place of ballot counting, please call the Sierra Club office at (314) 644-1011 or (800)

# **BALLOT**

Missouri	Chapter	ExCom	Ballo
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Household voter 1	Household voter 2
Jennifer Conner	( ) Jennifer Conner
Judy Dasovich	( ) Judy Dasovich
Kevin Grooms	( ) Kevin Grooms
Debi Pratt	( ) Debi Pratt
Madeline Price	) Madeline Price
(write-in candidate above)	(write-in candidate above)

### **Osage & White River Group Executive Committee Elections**

The Sierra Club Osage and White River Groups are conducting this year's Executive Committee elections online. All White River Group members have the word "WRG" on their mailing address label and all Osage members have the word "Osage" on their mailing address. If you are a member of one of these groups you can vote in your

respective election. You can learn about the candidates and vote at one of these two links:

White River Group: tinyurl.com/2019WRG Osage: tinyurl.com/2019Osage Instructions appear before the ballot. You must vote before noon on January 3, 2020. Contact Michael Berg with any questions at Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org.

### Welcome to New Sierra Club Staff Members!

#### Billy Davies: Kansas City Organizer



Billy is the staff lead for the Ready for 100 campaign in Kansas City and the Thomas Hart Benton Group, Billy will also provide organizational support to Sierra Club leaders and volunteers; and help expand access to democracy like voting rights. Prior to joining the Missouri Chapter staff, Billy helped organize resistance to proposed fracked-gas pipelines with Sierra Club's Virginia Chapter and Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign, and he has been involved in community advocacy since 2010. A native Midwesterner and avid outdoorsperson, Billy enjoys exploring state and national parks with his wife, Megan, which further inspires his commitment to the movement protecting them. He holds a B.A., cum laude, in Anthropology from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

### Ashton Kuehnel: Democracy Organizer



Growing up, Ashton spent almost every weekend camping, hiking, and biking in state parks with her family, leading to her becoming passionate about protecting the environment. She recently graduated from Saint Louis University with a bachelor's in Social Work and with leadership experience from several student organizations. Ashton is very honored to work at the Sierra Club where she can live out her values and continue learning about the environment, progressive policy, and protecting our democracy. In her spare time, Ashton likes to read, binge watch Game of Thrones, try new restaurants, and travel.

### Sierra Club Honors Peter Raven

On October 16, Dr. Peter Raven received the Sierra Club's National Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony in St. Louis. Raven is Missouri's longest-serving member of the Sierra Club (and second longest in the country). He led the Missouri Botanical Garden for over four decades and is one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation, biodiversity and climate action.

Pictured here with Raven (holding the microphone) are (from L to R) Missouri Chapter Conservation Chair Caroline Pufalt, National Sierra Club Staff Bruce Hamilton and Missouri Director John Hickey.





#### NEWSPAPER DATED MATERIAL



Missouri Chapter 2818 Sutton Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63143

#### **INSIDE**

- Protecting the Current & Jacks Fork Rivers
- · Defend Clean Missouri
- · Chapter Chair's Column
- Electric Buses
- Members Elected to Missouri Legislature
- Sierra Club Outings
- Executive Committee Election
- Celebrating Peter Raven
- · New Chapter Staff

### Sierra Club Board President Blackford Visits Missouri

Sierra Club National Board President Loren Blackford (second from left) was in St. Louis on Saturday, November 2. Blackford met with Missouri Sierra Club leaders and staff for a vegetarian brunch and chat. Attendees discussed national Sierra Club priorities and shared the Missouri Chapter's programs and successes.





# Clean Energy Efforts in Kansas City

On October 30, Thomas Hart Benton Group Chair Kevin Grooms and Chapter Organizer Billy Davies gave a presentation at UMKC's Educate - Organize - Advocate conference, providing tools for empowering communities, running campaigns, and strategically planning for action to serve the needs of Kansas City communities. The Sierra Club uses these tools in our campaign to transition Kansas City to 100% renewable electricity.