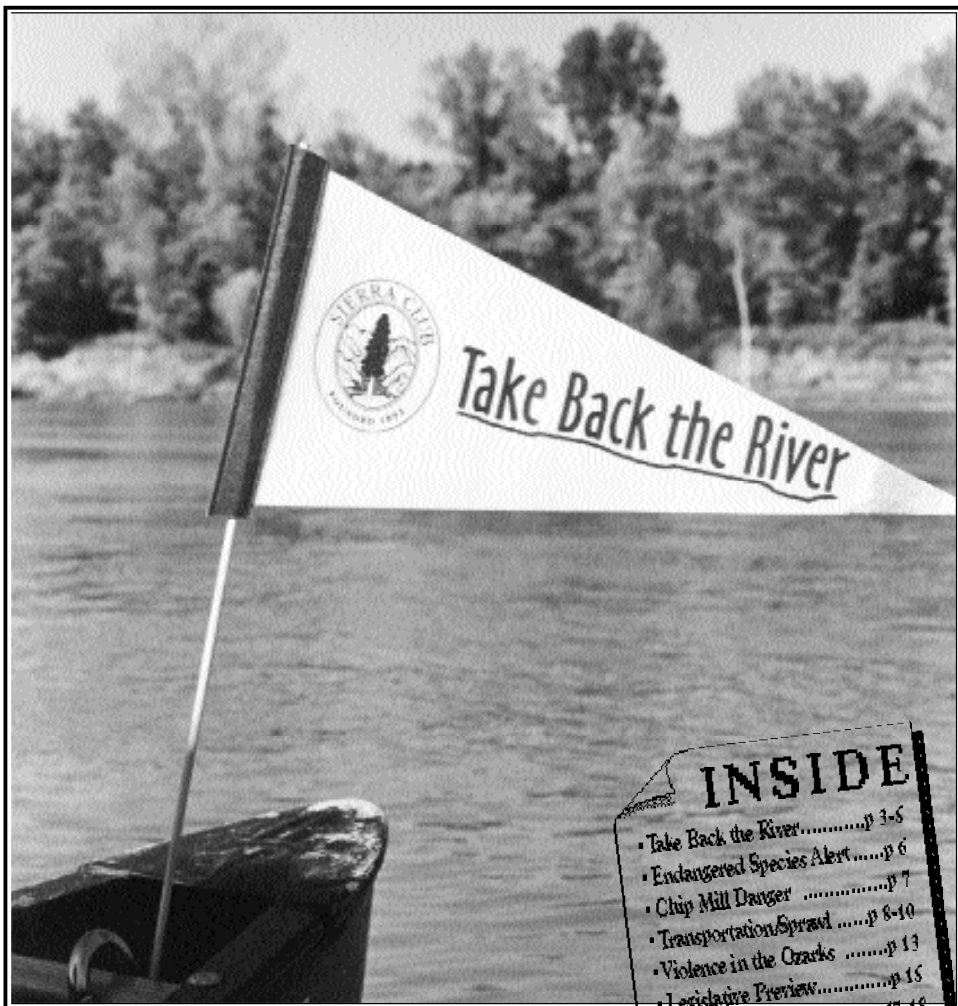


OZARK ONE EARTH ONE CHANCE SIERRA

VOLUME 29 • NUMBER 5 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1997



Banners flying in the wind. The Ozark Chapter paddled to "Take Back the River." In the late September, five-day float trip down the Big Muddy from Jefferson City to St. Charles, each canoe sported a pennant with the theme of the event.

photo by RC Adams of the Columbia DAILY TRIBUNE.

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Chapter Executive Committee

AT LARGE:

Gale Burrus, *Chapter Chair, SC Council Delegate*
9828 Willow Avenue, #1A, Kansas City, MO 64134;
(816) 763-5120

Andrew Gonzur, *Vice Chair*
4037 McDonald Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116

Keet Kopecky, *Treasurer, Newsletter Editor*
9211 Olmstead, Kansas City, MO 64138;
(816) 966-9544

Ginger Harris
556 Oakhaven La., St. Louis, MO 63141;
(314) 432-2618

Chris Hayday, *Political Chair*
700 West Blvd. N., Columbia, MO 65203;
(573) 875-4507

Wallace McMullen
Jefferson City

Rebecca Schedler, *Membership Chair.*
1103 Jewell Avenue, Apt. 1, Columbia, MO 65203;
(314) 443-4401

Claus Wawrzinek,
P.O. Box 45542, Kansas City, MO 64171;
(816) 561-7863

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Eastern Missouri Group: open

Thomas Hart Benton Group: Bob Sherrick
10807 E. 205th St., Peculiar, MO 64078;
(816) 779-6708

Osage Group: Hank Ottinger
511 Westwood Ave., Columbia, MO 65203;
(573) 443-4954

Trail of Tears Group: Brian Alworth
2826 Whitener St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701;
(314) 334-7978

White River Group: Bob Rodgers
RR 5 Box 323, Rogersville, MO 65742;
(417) 753-5051

Chapter Committee Chairs

Conservation: Caroline Pufalt
13415 Land-O-Woods, #3, St. Louis, MO 63141;
(314) 878-3165

Transportation: Ron McLinden
3236 Coleman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111;
(816) 931-0498

Highlands Activity Section: Lori Anne Clark
3027 Hogan Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109;

Longview Student Section: Gina DeBarthe
2036 James Downey Rd., Independence, MO 64057;
(816) 257-1198

Population: Robert Elworth, M.D.
RR 2 Box 5324, Willard, MO 65781;
(417) 742-2775

Legal Chair, Deferred Gifts Officer: Roger Hershey
18308 Hanthorne Drive, Independence, MO 64057;
(816) 795-7533

Legislative: Joe Engeln
2407 Topaz, Columbia, MO 65203

Staff

Chapter Office

Ken Midkiff, *Program Director*

Terri Folsom, *Administrative Assistant*
914 N. College, Suite 1, Columbia, MO 65203;
(573) 815-9250 voice/answering machine;
(573) 442-7051 FAX/modem
(800) 628-5333 Water Quality Hotline

EMG Office

Claralyn Price-Bollinger, *Staff Member*
325 N. Kirkwood Rd., Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63122
(314) 909-0890 (phone)
(314) 909-9770 (fax)

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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...



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 issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a PC and 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; Barb Conover, Nancy Feraldi, and Ed Fullerton.

Taking Back the River — An Epec Voyage

by Ken Midkiff

As part of the Ozark Chapter's EPEC (Environmental Public Education Campaign) project, funded through a grant from the National Sierra Club, the Chapter sponsored a five-day float trip in September down the Missouri River from Jefferson City to St. Charles.

This was not your typical float trip: the primary focus was to call public attention to the decades of mismanagement of the Big Muddy by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has been managing the river with the single-minded purpose of keeping a channel open for commercial navigation.

The Ozark Chapter is not disputing the advantages of using the river and barge industry as a means of moving large quantities of goods — in many ways this is preferable to using of semi-trailers on our nation's highways. But the facts are that the barge industry has never achieved the level of traffic predicted and has been in serious decline since the mid-'70s. According to the most current figures from the Corps, about \$5.5 million is spent per



year to maintain the river for commercial navigation within our state's boundaries, but only 443,000 tons of goods and products were transported.

Cost-effectiveness is a concern, but of greater concern is that the river has been manipulated and managed for a very narrow interest, to the exclusion of most other uses and users. The wing dams, the bank stabilization projects, the levees directly on the river's edge, and the timed releases of water from upstream dams have reduced the Missouri to a big, channelized sluiceway.

This is a far cry from the lush, meandering, braided channels described by Lewis and Clark in their expedition. In real terms, it has meant the massive destruction of what was once the richest ecosystem in the

cont'd on page 4..... "Voyage"

Dates You Need to Know

11/8 Chapter ExCom meeting:
Chapter Office, Columbia, MO
contact Gale Burrus (816) 763-5120

12/31 Chapter election deadline
return ballots by this date!
see ballot page 19

12/1 Nov/Dec Ozark Sierran
Deadline
contact Keet Kopecky (816) 966-9544

Help (still) Wanted

The Ozark Sierran is looking for members and others who would like to volunteer. We got several volunteers for a proofreader, but still need a schedule coordinator: someone who will be in charge of the production schedule, set up meetings, contact laggard authors, etc. This person needs to be organized and persistent. The Ozark Sierran is produced in Kansas City, so for deadline/budget considerations, we really need volunteers in the Kansas City area, but if you are out-state, we'd still like to hear from you.

If this job interests you... or if you think you'd like to volunteer but these are not your skills, please contact Barb Conover at (816) 822-8136.

Voyage cont'd from page 3

Midwest. The backwater sloughs, wetlands, marshes, lazy deep pools, swift flowing channels between islands, all rich habitat for fish, waterfowl, shorebirds, wildlife, and lush bottomland forests, are now gone.

Gone also are commercial fishermen. There are few fish left to catch. Gone is river recreation: the fast current is a deterrent to boaters, anglers, waterfowl hunters, and swimmers. Gone are almost all uses of the river except commercial navigation, and that is dying.

The "Take Back the River Trip" called attention to these abuses and called for a sharing of the river. It was the start of a long-term campaign

aimed at convincing the Army Corps of Engineers to manage the river for all uses and all users — to maintain a balance between commercial interests and ecological and recreational concerns. The Corps is currently reviewing its Master Plan for the river, and now is the time to change directions.

The flotilla received much attention as we made our way downstream. The river communities along the way provided camping spaces, participated in our press conferences, and enjoyed the concerts we provided. Music by the Mudbugs, Paul and Win Grace and Bob Dyer wafted across the river, bringing back

cont'd on page 5

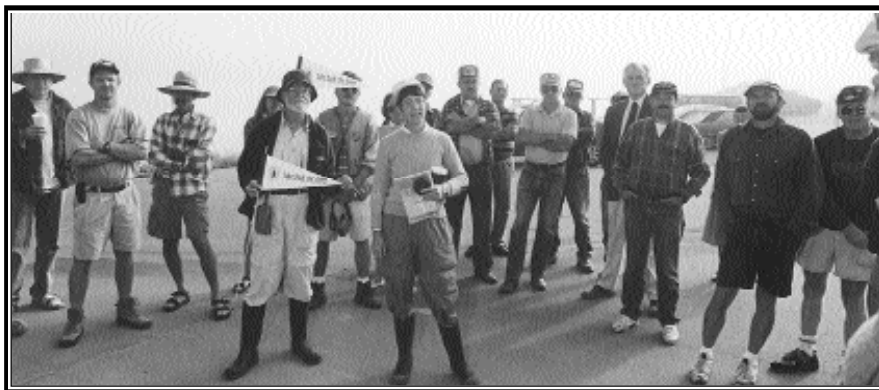


Our flotilla: Thirteen of the twenty three boats heading toward St. Charles.

photo by Ann Eggebrecht

The press conference in Hermann.

That's the mayor of Hermann in suit and tie, Jim Nyberg (EMG) holding the pennant, Ann Eggebrecht beside him. photo by RC Adams, Columbia DAILY TRIBUNE



memories of the showboats and past riverfront concerts.

Many river communities benefit little from the river. It just flows swiftly by, rising up out of its constraints every few years in an attempt to recapture its floodplain. The message of the Ozark

Chapter was loud and clear. It is time to Take Back the River that has been captured by narrow commercial interests. It is time to take it back and restore it to some semblance of its past splendor. ■



The voyageur. Mike Diel from Macon, in his solo canoe was one of many who floated all the way from Jefferson City to St. Charles. photo by RC Adams, Columbia DAILY TRIBUNE

Rest stop. Due to unnaturally high flow, the sand bars were flooded, so rest stops were taken at access areas and community parks. photo by RC Adams, Columbia DAILY TRIBUNE



Talking for the Animals

by Caroline Pufalt

Remember Dr. Doolittle's dream of being able to speak with the animals and his imagination of what amusing things they might say? If that fable were true today, the voices we would hear would speak of alarm and abandonment. Current Endangered Species Act legislation under serious consideration would fundamentally weaken our nation's premier wildlife protection law. The Senate bill, S1180, called the Kempthorne Bill, has received the expected support from anti-environmental forces in the Senate. But what is of great concern is the support it has received from the Clinton Administration.

S1180 would gut the ESA

1. It makes the process for listing endangered species and their critical habitat much more difficult and time consuming. Already this process is slow, and there is a long waiting list of unprotected species threatened with extinction.
2. S1180 allows individual agencies to make their own evaluations of whether an action such as a dam, road or timber sale would harm an endangered species. Currently the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW) oversees this function. But S1180 would severely limit their authority and time to do so. We have seen in many states, including Missouri, that the existing USFW role in this evaluation should not be weakened.
3. S1180 allows industry interests, such as timber industries, to consult in this process, but it weakens the public's role.
4. S1180 amends the criteria for what are called "habitat conservation plans" (HCP) so that they are not flexible in meeting the needs of species. HCP are plans for designated uses of private lands that are compatible with protection of

endangered species habitat. The effectiveness of HCP has been controversial. But S1180 raises even more doubts about HCP because it allows landowners to lock in a plan for up to 100 years that exempts them from any further conservation responsibilities, even if new information or new species are involved.

It is this fourth point that may have unfortunately attracted the Clinton administration to S1180. It has strongly promoted HCP as the way to blend the survival needs of species with the "rights" of landowners. Although HCP may work well in many cases, the adjustments in S1180 call the whole concept into question. What is particularly troubling is that there is a good ESA bill in the House that also supports the HCP concept but does not twist it into the anti-environmental measure that S1180 does.

The House bill is HR2351, sponsored by Rep George Miller. HR2351 encourages an ecosystem approach to protecting species and their habitats. It addresses concerns of landowners by streamlining the consultation and permit project to cut down on time without sacrificing serious evaluation. It provides tax incentives and liability limitations to the private sector.

The Clinton administration's support for S1180 is alarming. Interior Secretary Babbitt has often been a defender of the ESA, but pressure from the anti-environmental lobby, especially on the property rights front, has made the ESA very controversial. Babbitt has responded by relying heavily on HCP. Babbitt was involved in negotiations that lead to the Kempthorne bill proposal. Thus, the stage was set for the administration's tolerance of the rest of the bill's shortcomings.

Since the Republicans captured Congress, several important pieces of environmental legislation have been threatened. But we have managed to

cont'd on page 7..... "ESA"

Missouri Chip Mill Alert

by Caroline Pufalt

Missourians have been alerted to the movement of chip mills into the state. Chip mills use hard and soft wood for chipping and those chips are usually used for paper or pressed boards. These mills represent a new pressure on Missouri's forests and many of the state's smaller local timber industries. Chip Mills pose a threat to Missouri's forests and rural communities for the following reasons:

1. Chip mills are wasteful. They use a wide variety of trees, large and small, hardwood and softwood, in their processing. Thus, small trees are cut before they can reach maturity and provide higher quality wood.
2. Chip mills threaten forest habitat. Because they use all sizes of trees, forests cut for chip mill uses are often clear cut. This leaves less habitat variety and destroys old growth interior forest, which is a rare forest habitat here in Missouri.
3. Chip mills threaten other resources. By often using what is called whole tree logging, chip mills leave little to replenish the soil. The watershed benefits that forests provide can be harmed by increased clearcutting.
4. Chip mills are highly mechanized and therefore provide fewer jobs than

forests that are used for larger saw timber.

5. Chip mills do not promote multiple use forests. Forest areas that are subject to large clearcuts cannot provide such diverse benefits as wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed protection, and ongoing timber production.

If you want to express your concerns about chip mills in Missouri you can write to the following people:

Your local Missouri State Rep.
House Post Office
State Capitol Bldg
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Your local Missouri State Senator
Senate Post Office
State Capitol Bldg
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Gov Mel Carnahan
Rm 216
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Marvin Brown, State Forester
Missouri Dept of Conservation
P O Box 180
Jefferson City, Mo 65102

Jerry Conley, Director
Missouri Dept of Conservation
P O Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102 ■

For more about chip mills, see the May/June '97 [Ozark](#) [Sierran](#)

ESA... cont'd from page 7

defeat those threats. If the ESA is overhauled as proposed in the Kempthorne bill, we will have our first major loss. And a seriously weakened ESA would have far reaching impacts on the protection of specific species and overall conservation.

It is extremely important that we contact the White House and express our support for HR 2351 and our opposition to S1180. Our U. S. Senators and Representatives also need to hear from us. Please take the time to

call, write or e mail:

President Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500
president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Bond/Ashcroft
U.S. Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510

Representative _____
U.S. House Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510

Capitol switchboard (202) 224-3121 ■

Urban Sprawl Costs Us All

by Ginger Harris

Last spring the Sierra Club's Eastern Missouri Group joined a loose coalition to counteract sprawl, which adopted the name St. Louis Alliance for Smart Growth. Besides the Sierra Club, this alliance includes the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Citizens for Forest Park, the St. Louis County Municipal League, Citizens for Modern Transit, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the Missouri Historical Society which provides meeting space and mailings, and Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis (MCU for St. Louis), a coalition of over 60 churches which spearheaded the formation of the alliance.

MCU for St. Louis held three Learning Summits (August 1996 and February and June 1997) and got a bill introduced into the Missouri legislature in March 1997 to empower metropolitan areas to create urban growth boundaries. Their bill is similar to one adopted in Oregon in 1979 which has helped Portland become one of the most sustainable metropolitan areas in the U.S. This bill did not pass the Missouri Legislature last spring, but an interim committee is being formed to study anti-sprawl proposals for introduction in January 1998.

Meanwhile, the St. Louis Alliance for Smart Growth and MCU for St. Louis collaborated in September 1997 to begin a dialogue on this issue with citizens of the region by holding nine town hall meetings in three counties on the Missouri side of the metropolitan area. A total of over 400 people attended one or another of these meetings, at which two spokespersons presented the problems of sprawl and potential solutions to sprawl and then listened to the audiences' ideas and experiences.

The town hall meetings culminated on September 28 with a Public Meeting on Smart Growth to which

over 500 people came, including several Missouri legislators, spokespersons for St. Louis Mayor Harmon and St. Louis County Executive Westfall (both of whom were in Seattle hopefully learning something about Washington state's urban growth boundary laws), and a member of Governor Carnahan's staff. One exciting outcome was the announcement that St. Louis County (and possibly St. Louis City) would help fund a study by Myron Orfield, national expert and former Minnesota legislator, into the true costs of sprawl in St. Louis.

The Ozark Chapter's Transportation Chairperson, Ron McLinden, also attended the Public Meeting and brought ideas for spearheading a similar effort back to Kansas City. If you are interested in joining or starting an anti-sprawl effort in your area, call Ron McLinden at (816) 931-0498 or Claralyn Price-Bollinger at (314) 909-0890. Claralyn is EMG's new staff person and was instrumental in carrying out the nine town hall meetings! ■

Short Trips

by Ron McLinden

TTC Action Shifts to General Assembly Committee

The Total Transportation Commission (TTC) has slipped from public view since issuing its final report earlier this summer. Action has shifted to the Joint (House and Senate) Interim

cont'd on page 9....."Short Trips"

Short Trips cont'd from page 8

Committee on Total Transportation, which has been meeting since September to determine what to do with the TTC's recommendations. That committee is co-chaired by Senator Danny Staples and Representative Don Koller, both of whom were members of the TTC. But whereas the TTC had only to make recommendations, the Committee has to actually decide what to do with those recommendations. As of early October, indications are that the Committee is making little progress.

Touristy Froufrou

Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver shocked the city late in August when he called plans for a 5.6-mile light rail starter line linking downtown and the Country Club Plaza a "touristy froufrou" and called for the resignation of the Area Transportation Authority (ATA) board of commissioners. Cleaver criticized the ATA for not giving enough attention to getting potential employees to jobs in the suburbs. The Mayor has since backed off of his criticism of light rail. To put a positive spin on things, the controversy has focused public attention on transit, and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has convened a task force to develop a business plan for improving the regional transit system by the end of October. Meanwhile, preliminary engineering for the light rail line is on hold.

Sierra Club members and other transit supporters have expressed the need for broad input into future transit plans (the Chamber's meetings are closed to the public), called for formation of a strong transit advocacy

organization, and pointed out that getting people to jobs in the suburbs won't solve the problem if the jobs keep moving. More jobs should be moved to where the job-seekers are and where public transit works most efficiently. Most observers believe that, frustrations notwithstanding, the ultimate outcome will be good for transit.

Smart Growth Catches On

"Smart growth" is an idea whose time has come, and we can expect to hear more about it in coming months. The idea is for state and local governments to use their infrastructure and capital improvements money and development incentives to bring about patterns of development which make better use of existing infrastructure, preserve natural resources and open space, build community, improve quality of life, conserve fiscal resources and keep taxes down, maximize return on public and private investment, and encourage overall economic efficiency. It has appeal to community advocates, environmentalists, and fiscal conservatives alike. Smart growth is a positive way of saying "no more sprawl," and its banner has been taken up by the anti-sprawl coalition in St. Louis, the Smart Growth Alliance. Smart growth should be good for just about everyone, provided we can keep the emphasis on "smart."

New Committee to Study Urban Growth

On October 6 House Speaker Steve Gaw appointed a House Interim Committee on Urban Growth to study "the issues and impacts of expanding metropolitan areas." Among the questions it will consider are: What forms of urban growth best meet the needs and desires of local citizens and businesses? How do we use local, state and federal resources to most

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ISTEA Still Hot

by Ginger Harris

Transportation legislation is critical to the environment because it has a huge impact on whether communities will grow sustainably or will sprawl into the countryside, gobbling up prime agricultural land and forests, increasing rain run-off and floods, and making our economy and our life styles ever more dependent on private motorized vehicles and high fuel consumption.

The House of Representatives wants to delay final decisions on national transportation policy for six months, at the end of which debates would resume over whether CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements would be gutted; whether priority would still be put on maintaining existing infrastructure rather than building new

highways; whether transit would receive equitable funding or would be subjected to state control of its budget; and whether funding would be included for AMTRAK and for a new Jobs Access Program.

Wanting to pass new legislation right away, Senators Chafee and Baucus brought S1173 to the floor in early October. Environmentalists generally supported this bill, but feared it might be amended on the floor to gut CMAQ and NEPA, promote new highway building, give state DOTs power to reallocate transit funds to highways, and/or cut AMTRAK and the new Jobs Access program.

If a new ISTEA hasn't passed by the time you receive this newsletter, contact Ron McLinden (816) 931-0498 or Ginger Harris (314) 432-2618 to find out how to help protect national transportation legislation. ■

Short Trips cont'd from page 9

efficiently provide public services such as sewer and water, parks, public safety, education and transportation? How does growth affect the natural environment? What methods are used by other communities in addressing urban growth issues?

The committee, made up of nine St. Louis area legislators and chaired by Representative Ron Auer, is expected to hold public meetings in the St. Louis area in late October or early November and to submit a report, including recommendations for possible legislation, to the Speaker in mid-December. Formation of the committee is a direct outcome of the issues being raised by the Smart

Growth Alliance in St. Louis, and we should support its work. The Sierra Club is expressing concern, however, that the committee look beyond the St. Louis region: sprawl is happening throughout the state.

Short Trips

Whenever a short trip will serve the same purpose as a long one, the Earth respectfully asks that we choose the short trip. ■

Ozark Chapter Conservation Committee

by Caroline Pufalt

Our Chapter Conservation committee met August 23 in Springfield. We covered a diverse set of environmental topics. The tone of the meeting was set by the need to discuss two acts of violence perpetrated against environmental activists in Missouri. The most serious act was violence against Becky Horton. Becky was beaten and restrained for many hours in her car by unknown persons who claimed to support the lead mining industry. Becky has been a tireless worker who has promoted education on water quality issues, especially those related to mining. Our thoughts are with Becky in the aftermath of her ordeal. The second incident was the mailing of a dead cat to our Sierra Club post office in West Plains. The carcass was accompanied by a Sierra Club leaflet outlining the various environmental risks associated with lead mining. Both crimes are still under investigation.

In light of these two incidents the Conservation Committee considered how we should respond. We also discussed how these anti-environmental actions fit into the larger picture. Some committee members had recollections of violence and threats from earlier campaigns. We concluded that, although rare, such incidents are always a risk when one is an outspoken environmental advocate. We can deal with them by exposing anti-environmental spokesmen who use inflammatory language and violence.

Other news the committee considered included upcoming Sierra Club ballot issues. In the spring, in addition to national board candidates, members' ballots will include a proposition regarding population and immigration issues. It has been difficult for the Club to

reach consensus on this issue. We hope to have additional information on this in upcoming issues of the *Ozark Sierran*.

The committee spent considerable time discussing state transportation issues. Ron McLinden reported on the final Total Transportation Committee report and what state legislative ramifications it might have. We also discussed how to continue efforts against the Page Ave. bridge, now commonly referred to as the "Bridge to Nowhere." Vigorous efforts to mobilize against the bridge are ongoing in the Eastern Missouri Group.

Ken Midkiff reported on his many activities, including working with Rachel Locke to plan the Missouri River float trip. He also reported that Terri Folsom is our new administrative assistant in

cont'd on page 12....."ConsCom"

Everything is hitched to everything else...

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others to preserve the intricate balance of nature. For more information and confidential assistance contact John Calaway, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second St., 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 923-5538, or locally, contact Roger Hershey (816) 795-7533.



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the chapter office in Columbia. Terri has been active in the Osage group for many years. She brings excellent experience and education to the job. Terri replaces Traci Hendrix, who after several years of work, resigned due to family responsibilities. Thanks to Traci for all her good work. One of Traci's last projects was painstakingly researching the record of Doe Run and Asarco for the Chapter's successful report on regulatory violations in the lead industry.

We also discussed the potential impact of chip mill operations in Missouri. These facilities can have significant cumulative effects. They may tempt area landowners to use clearcutting to provide the volume of logs the mills require. We heard about a possible chip mill seeking a location in the head-

waters of the Eleven Point River. The first step in this process appears to be a request for rail expansion near the city of Willow Springs.

The chip mills also affect storm water permits. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has recently proposed restrictions on the general permitting process that may help ensure that larger facilities such as chip or pulp mills require site specific permit consideration.

The chapter conservation committee meets approximately every other month at locations across the state. Our meetings are open to all Sierrans and are usually followed by a social gathering. If you are interested in either attending the meeting or the festivities following, please contact your group's chapter representative. ■

Stop the Page Avenue Freeway Project

The following municipalities and organizations have passed resolutions opposing the proposed \$700,000,000 Page Avenue Freeway:

Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, St. Louis County Municipal League, Florissant Valley Chamber of Commerce, City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, City of Blackjack, City of Dellwood, City of Ferguson, City of Florissant, Village of MacKenzie, City of Pagedale, City of Pasadena Hills, City of St. Ann, City of St. John, City of Shrewsbury, City of University City, City of Vinita Park. Claralyn Price-Bollinger, Oct. 3, 1997.

Rail-Volution '97 - St. Louis

Claralyn Price-Bollinger, staff member for the Eastern Missouri Group, won a full scholarship to "Rail-Volution '97" held at Union Station in St. Louis at the end of October. This scholarship waives the \$295 registration fee. Rail-Volution is subtitled "Building Livable Communities with Transit." Speakers included noted urban planner Peter Calthorpe, Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota (ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure) and Jay Walljasper (editor of Utne Reader and writer for The Nation).

Scholarship recipients must share with their organizations and the general public what they learn at Rail-Volution, so be assured that Claralyn will be communicating with you more in future issues of the Ozark Sierran!

Fear and Hatred in the Ozarks

by Ken Midkiff

When the lead mining controversies began brewing over a year ago, first with the Conservation Commission and then with the Mark Twain National Forest, several right-wing groups rushed in to take advantage of the situation.

People for the West (PFW) has been attempting to organize in Missouri for a few years, but because it is so closely linked with the mining industry, its influence was primarily in and around Potosi and Viburnum. Both Doe Run and Asarco mining companies have donated start-up and operating funds for People for the West and its parent organizations. The leadership of the local chapters of People for the West are primarily Doe Run and Asarco personnel. Gary Boyers, Vice President of Doe Run, is a PFW chapter chair, for example.

But, when the lead mining companies started their incursions into the watershed areas of the Current, Jacks Fork, and Eleven Point Rivers, and the public outcry against this was heard throughout the state, the Wi\$e U\$e groups went on the attack. Calling in outside right-wing organizations such as Alliance for America and Take Back Arkansas, and operating under the euphemism of "private property rights," these groups started holding rallies in towns in Shannon, Reynolds, and Oregon counties.

Unconstrained by facts, they painted an ugly picture of environmental groups working with state and federal agencies. The goal, they stated, was to run everyone out of the Ozarks and turn the area into a United Nation's Bioserve. Labeling the Sierra Club and other conservation organizations as "GAG's" (Green Action Groups), they painted environmental activists as being in favor of "worshipping trees and sacrificing humans," as being pagans and communists, and as being against all

private ownership of property.

The issue was really whether the Conservation Commission and the US Forest Service would allow multinational mining corporations to operate on public lands. This has absolutely nothing to do with private property rights, or paganism, or tree worship. And as best as I can tell, the Sierra Club is opposed to human sacrifice.

But the seeds of hatred found fertile soil in the Ozarks Plateau. There is in the area a healthy, or perhaps unhealthy, distrust of the "damn gummit." Most of the folks who live in Shannon and Oregon counties just want to be left alone to live in peace in beautiful surroundings. That coincides exactly with the goals of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. We want the mining companies to leave the area in peace.

But the right-wingers stirred up the local residents to a fever pitch, beginning last winter. The newspapers in the area were full of nasty letters against environmentalists; hate and anger saturated the pages. One speaker at a rally stated that "property owners" had three boxes they could use to defend their rights: "the soapbox, the ballot box, and the ammo box."

Local citizens working on water quality and forest issues, and against lead mining came under attack. Harassing and threatening phone calls were received, including at least one death threat. Another couple discovered a leader of one of the hate groups checking their mail box. Still another had gunshots fired at his barn — while he was in it.

Then, in late July, things got really ugly: one of our activists got badly beaten and was duct-taped inside her van all night. An anti-environmental video was taped to her arm, and one of the Ozark Chapter's lead mining brochures was taped in her mouth. The victim was so

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Ozarks continued from page 14

traumatized that she went into seclusion for almost a month and would talk with neither law enforcement or the press.

Finally, some deranged individual mailed a dead kitten to the Ozark Chapter's post office box in West Plains. No message, no return address, but the return address label on the lead mining brochure served as the address label for the package. The postmark revealed that it had been mailed from within the Post Office in West Plains. The postmaster turned this matter over to federal authorities and an investigation is under way.

This was the final straw for local activists and volunteers, and for the Ozark Chapter. We conferred with the beating victim, audio-taped her statement, notified all the media, and held a press conference at the Greer Access on the Eleven Point River. A large number of reporters, including those from Springfield television stations, showed up, and the stories received local, state, and regional coverage.

We decried the climate of fear and hatred that the right-wing groups had created. We asked them to tone down their rhetoric. We said we were willing to debate the issues head to head, but were unwilling to engage in hand-to-hand combat. We called upon law enforcement agencies at all levels to bring to justice the moral degenerates and criminals responsible for the beating and mailing the dead kitten. We asked public officials who had made statements supportive of the hate groups to disassociate themselves from such groups — and we named the public officials.

The press conference occurred on September 4. Since that time, there have been a few cranky letters-to-the-editor in the Ozarks newspapers, but there have been no threatening or harassing phone calls, no repeat of the violence, and no further rallies. (A person describing himself as a resident of West Plains did call the Chapter office and labeled the Sierra Club a

communist organization and me the "lead communist," but I patiently explained that he was just a bleeping idiot, and he hung up).

Finally, I have written an op-ed piece for all the newspapers in the Ozarks that had been printing all the hate letters, detailing the goals, policies, positions, and membership demographics of the Sierra Club. I explained that we do not use civil disobedience, that we do use the democratic process, that we are not a "special interest group" seeking monetary rewards for our members, but that we are just common, ordinary citizens who care deeply about wild places, clean air and clean water, and management of public lands.

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club does not take lightly libel and slander of our organization and our members. We strongly condemn criminal acts against our members and our organization. We will make every effort to use the full force of the law to bring to justice those who perpetrate such acts.

The Ozark Plateau is part of Missouri and the United States, and our state and national constitutions guarantee us the right to free speech and to use the democratic processes. Our active members in the Ozarks will not be intimidated into silence: their resolve has only been strengthened by the tactics of fear and intimidation. ■

Indiana Bat Victory

In late October, U.S. District Judge Russell Clark ruled that "the public interest lies on the side of protecting endangered species," and stopped a large tract timber sale of storm-damaged trees in the Mark Twain National Forest. The Ozarks are prime habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bats, which spend the summers in the cracks of dead trees and hibernate in Ozarks caves.

For more about Indiana Bats see July/August '97 [Ozark Sierran](#)

The Legislature is Coming: Lock Your Doors

by Ken Midkiff

Well, it is not quite that bad, but sometimes the members of the Missouri General Assembly get some strange ideas about environmental protection. The main one coming from the least progressive factions seems to be the less protection, the better.

Of course, that doesn't square at all with the feelings of their constituents who in poll after poll think that environmental laws and standards are about right or should be strengthened. So, one of our jobs is to let their constituents know what these regressive types are up to. We do this through alerts, press releases, letters to the editor, and news-talk radio shows. But mostly we do it through our members calling and writing their state representatives and senators.

For the past three years, these tactics have ensured that no legislation that we have opposed has passed. And, several pieces of legislation that we supported and pushed became law.

What is coming up this year? Gazing into a murky crystal ball deep in the basement of the Capitol building, I see:

Good stuff

- ▲ A hard-rock (metallic minerals) mining bill with some teeth in it, including a lead-severance tax.
- ▲ A bill defining Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations as industrial facilities, not agricultural operations.
- ▲ Amendments to the Wellhead Protection Act to prevent pollution of drinking water supplies.
- ▲ Another attempt to pass a Safe Drinking Water Act that

would make Missouri rural water districts eligible for \$22 million a year in low-interest loans.



- ▲ An "anti-urban sprawl" or Smart Growth Act.
- ▲ Maybe, if the chip mills get too aggressive, a Private Forest Management Act.

Bad stuff

- ▼ Another attempt by industry and agribusiness organizations to limit Missouri's water quality protection to federal standards.
- ▼ Some type of "regulatory flexibility" for polluters.

cont'd on page 16**"Lobbyist"**

The Award-Winning *GREEN REPORT*

Every other week during the legislative session we send out a report of bills introduced, legislative action, and action for you to take. We provide talking points and advise you how to — and who to — write and call.

To get on the mailing list and receive the GREEN REPORT absolutely free, but not without obligations* write:

GREEN REPORT
Ozark Chapter Sierra Club
914 N. College, Suite 1
Columbia, Mo 65201
Operators are standing by...

*Your only obligations are to become an active citizen and influence your legislator.

Lobbyist cont'd from page 15

- ▼ Continued haggling over regulatory oversight (this could be good or bad).
- ▼ Another battle over funding the Clean Air attainment effort in St. Louis.

That is for starters. We may pull a surprise or two, and no doubt there

is unrevealed evil lurking in the hearts of industrial lobbyists.

What is for certain is that once again, as your lobbyist in Jefferson City, I will be calling upon you as members to help protect the air, water, and lands of our state. Big Business has the bucks to throw around, but we have something they don't: the support of majority of the public. ■

National Report

by Roy Hengerson,
Sierra Club Board of Directors

Once a year a major gathering of Sierra Club leaders from around North America occurs in San Francisco, where the Club has its headquarters. In addition to meetings of the Board of Directors and several other Club-wide committees, it is the yearly meeting of the Council of Club Leaders. The Council is comprised of delegates from each of our 65 chapters, 10 regions, Sierra Club California, and Sierra Student Coalition. There is extensive interaction between the Board and the Council during the Annual Meeting, which takes place on Saturday before the Annual Dinner.

This annual gathering takes place over five days, this year from September 17 to 21. As is usual, several major topics of discussion received the most attention. This year these were: the future of the regional field system, the chapter funding study, and internal Club election campaign reform.

Future of the Regional Field System

Starting in the late 1960s, the Sierra Club began developing a system of regional offices around the country. They have served as a bridge between the chapters and groups and Club-wide operations. In recent years, as more of the funding to maintain these regional

offices has come from restricted sources and other demands on regional staff time have been made, their role in delivering the conservation program of the Club has been questioned.

A study was done to obtain extensive input from staff and volunteer conservation leaders throughout the Club, look at the current field system situation, and develop recommendations for the future that could be used by the Board and senior staff in planning desirable changes. That report was completed in September and presented to the Council of Club Leaders and the Board during the Annual Meeting.

The recommendations were approved by both the Council and the Board. They include: 1) define the core mission and role of the field staff, 2) move to a more fully integrated field/chapter conservation program and staff structure, with the goal of having a Club presence in every state, 3) make evolutionary, not revolutionary changes in the field/chapter staffing structure, 4) have field staff in major media markets, 5) raise the money to fund this work, and 6) abandon the notion of a "one size fits all" field system structure.

Chapter Funding Study

Related to the regional structure study, another separate study was undertaken to look at issues of adequate funding for Sierra Club chapters. A six-

cont'd on page 17....."National"

National cont'd from page 16

person task force working with the Club's financial staff, developed information on the sources of funding for chapters, both from Club-wide sources and from their own sources and programs. This study report was presented to both the Council and the Board and was received with interest.

The Board adopted a resolution accepting the report and directing the Governance Committees and the Executive Director to implement those portions of the report which do not require Board action or have a budgetary impact in Fiscal Year 1998. The Finance Governance Committee will be working with the Task Force on the longer term implications of the report.

Club Election Campaign Reform

The Sierra Club supports campaign finance reform in the larger world, knowing that excessive spending for political campaigns in recent years has had a corrupting influence on governmental institutions. Yet, we do not have any guidelines about what can be spent in running for the Board of

Directors or supporting or opposing ballot measures on the Club election ballot. Last year, a group of Board candidates spent considerably more than the norm, which has heightened concerns about the influence of money on Club elections.

The Board voted to clarify what is allowed for Board candidates in speaking to Club members at scheduled events and directed the Club Secretary and Executive Director to develop standing rules on campaign finance, which will be considered by the Board at its November, 1997 meeting.

A note about the Club's Financial Situation

For Fiscal Year 1997, which ends 12/31/97, the latest forecast indicates that the Sierra Club will finish the year somewhat ahead of budget. If this trend holds, this will mark the third year in a row that the Club will finish "in the black." However, we are still working to reduce the operating deficit that was accumulated in the early 1990s, when the Club experienced significant losses. Therefore, financial restraint will continue to be necessary in managing the operations of the Club. ■

1997 Camp-Out & Reunion

The 1997 Ozark Chapter Camp-Out and Reunion was held the weekend of October 10-12 at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Besides the enjoyable outings and camaraderie, the weekend also included the Annual Awards.

Sierran of the Year: John Feldmann (at right)

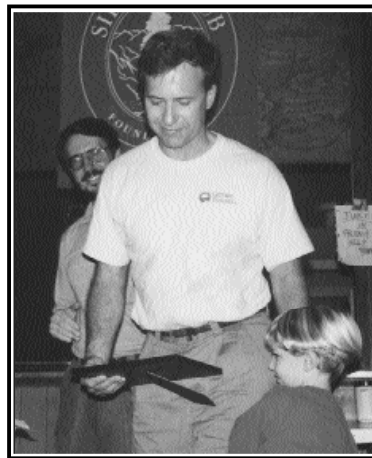
Special Recognition: Wally Weber

Public Official: State Representative Mike Schilling (Springfield); State Representative Joan Bray (St. Louis)

Outings: Bob Gestel

Environmental Communications: Jean Ponzi ■

more photos on page 18....."Reunion"



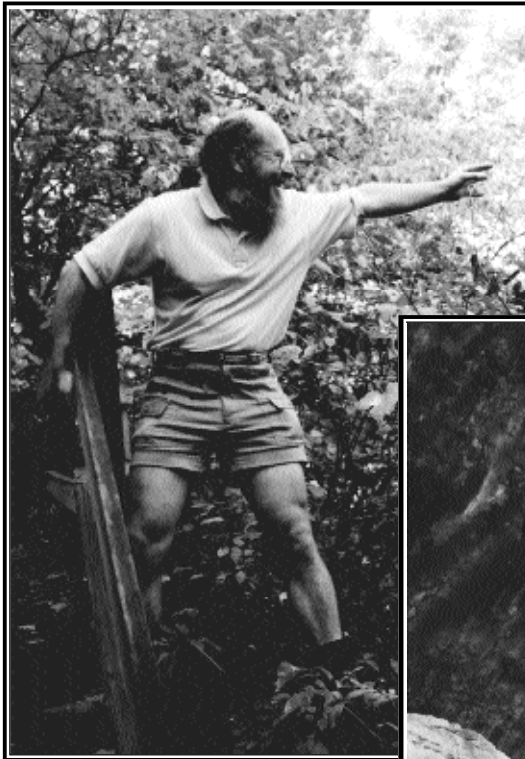
Reunion continued from page 17



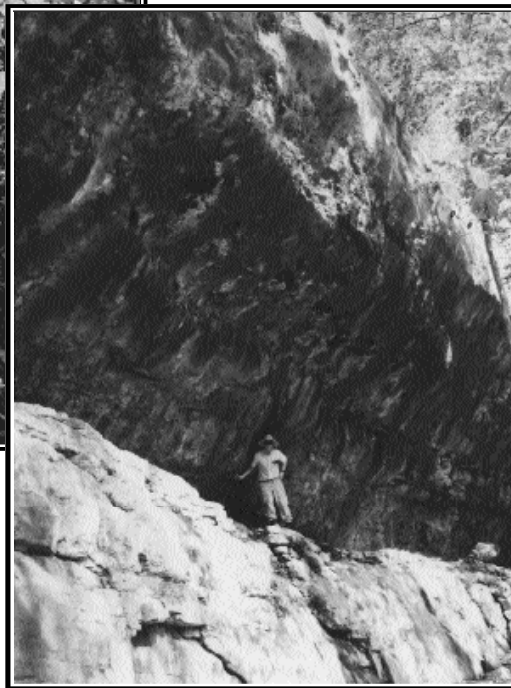
“Sierra Singers” serenade Roy Hengerson’s car in a humorous ‘award’ for service above and beyond normal duty.



Examining mushrooms on the Natural Bridge Trail hike.



Reaching to touch dogwood berries on the Ha Ha Tonka Spring Trail hike.



A bit of a scramble provided a close-up look at Devil’s Promenade Cliff.

all photos by Keet Kopecky

Keet Kopecky (Kansas City) It doesn't really seem so long ago that I was the new kid on the Excom. I didn't know the difference between the DNR and the MDC, though everyone else seemed to. I admired all those brilliant people who politely corrected me whenever I revealed a lack of understanding about an issue nuance, and wondered how they got so knowledgeable. I vowed to myself to stay active until I finally understood all of the particulars of all the environmental issues facing Missourians. I'm now realizing that if I keep that promise, I'll be involved in the Sierra Club for as long as Missouri has forests, rivers, and caves. It seems that every month a new issue unfolds. As bats and box turtles enter their separate homes for the winter, lead mining companies work behind the scenes eradicating habitat. While spring peeper frogs store fat for hibernation, another hog waste enclosure develops leaks. As I enter my second decade volunteering for the Sierra Club editing our Chapter newsletter, revamping our income strategy as Chapter Treasurer, advising the Longview College Campus Sierra Club, and representing western Missouri on the Chapter Conservation Committee, I realize that I still admire all of our 10,000 brilliant activists who work their own public and private magic to keep our state beautiful for future generations of creatures big and small. Thanks for teaching me so much!



Wallace McMullen (Jefferson City) I have been interested in environmental issues most of my adult life, having been active in an anti-nuke group in the late '70s, which led to my working for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Missouri for eight years a decade later. While I worked at the DNR Division of Energy I became knowledgeable about energy conservation, alternative energy sources, automobile pollution, and electric utility issues. I joined the newly formed Sierra Club Section in Jefferson City because I wanted to stay in touch with environmental concerns. I've been reading about environmental issues a lot in the past decade, and have been influenced by authors such as Christopher Flavin and Rachel Carson. I think global climate is a real danger to us all in coming decades. I joined the ExCom as a representative of the new Highlands Section. I have been quite impressed by the dedication, knowledge, and acumen of the other members of the ExCom. I do not have a lot of experience with the Sierra Club as yet, but am interested in the issues which the group addresses, and am willing to contribute what I am able to the cause of maintaining a planet that our children will be able to live on with some areas kept unspoiled by human greed, pollution, or industrial tourism. I do have some expertise on electric utility issues, and some other topics such as transportation, which I would hope to work on.



Rebecca Schedler (Columbia) Having just gotten back from the big Missouri River Float trip, it is fresh in my mind the many things I thought as we floated past. The Missouri River can probably not ever really return to the way it was, but there are things that could be done to make some amends for mistakes of the past. Already in progress is the establishment of the Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge which will return some of the backwater and wetland type of areas destroyed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as they followed the mandate to channelize the Missouri River. It gives my life a lot of meaning to be involved with the Ozark Chapter ExCom because it provides such a good opportunity for me to be involved directly with helping to change things by activities as diverse as writing articles for the newsletters to arranging a spring retreat and joint group outing to folding and taping 9,000 Ozark Sierrans to alerting members to call a legislator about an upcoming vote. I would like to provide opportunities for any other members who would like to be involved somehow to make a difference too.



1997 ExCom Election Candidate Statements

Your official ballot for the Ozark Chapter Executive Committee is on the back of this page. The ExCom sets Chapter policy and oversees the business of the Ozark Chapter. It is made up of nine members elected from the membership at large (you), plus one additional member appointed by each of the five Sierra Club groups in Missouri. ExCom members are elected to staggered two-year terms. Of the current ExCom members, Andrew Gonzur (St. Louis), Chris Hayday (Columbia), and Claus Wawrzinek (Kansas City) continue in office. You may vote for up to five of the candidates named on the ballot, or you may write in the name of another qualified member. **If yours is a joint membership, two members may vote.**

Write your 8-digit membership number in the space provided at the top of the ballot page to validate your ballot. The number will be verified and separated from the rest of the ballot before counting to assure that your vote is secret.

Gale Burrus (Kansas City) What does "Sierra Club" bring to mind? Fall hikes in crisp air among scarlet-colored maples and persimmons. The smell of lemons. The joy at hearing of official protection being given to wild places like the California desert. The sound of singing from around a crackling campfire. People working together to decide policies and actions to protect the environment. The sight and sound of thousands of migrating geese coming to rest at sunset in a refuge. Learning about pesticide residues, global warming, urban sprawl and more. A history of effectively protecting wildlife and wild places. Human "Burma Shave" signs promoting public transportation in Kansas City. Sighting more than 50 bald eagles in a single day. A hard-fought legislative defeat—and the conviction to keep trying. The colorful splash of spring wildflowers peeking out from under brown leaf litter. Labels, labels and more labels at newsletter mailing parties. These are some of the things that the words "Sierra Club" bring to my mind. I believe the Sierra Club is an effective way for us to come together to enjoy and protect our environment. We can share ideas, beliefs, resources, knowledge and companionship. Currently I bring to the Chapter's Executive Committee my skills and knowledge gained in group, chapter, regional and national volunteer positions. I'm presently the Chapter's Council Delegate and Chair of its Executive Committee, and seek to continue to work on the Executive Committee. And I continue to believe that in working together, we can and do make a difference.



Ginger Harris (St. Louis) I joined the Sierra Club in 1992, having spent most of my life (since teen years) being concerned about environmental issues, and having spent most of my adult life being the environmental liaison on the boards of various social justice organizations. Because of my professional involvement in transportation and land use issues, I immediately joined the Transportation Committees at the Group and Chapter levels of the Sierra Club, and soon after also joined the Ozark Chapter Conservation Committee. My participation in these 3 committees taught me a lot, both about conservation issues and about group process. As a member of EMG's Transportation Committee, I helped develop a curriculum for teaching high school students about the ecological consequences of transportation choices. For the past 2 years I have served on the Ozark Chapter ExCom and on the national Sierra Club's Transportation Committee, and have chaired EMG's Transportation Committee. I have also participated as a lemon squeezer, mail stuffer, petition carrier, volunteer lobbyist and political volunteer. I've enjoyed and/or appreciated every minute of it...especially the people I've met in the process. If elected again, I would like to focus on helping Sierran activists become even more effective than they are now!



see other side for ballot & voting instructions

FOR VALIDATION PURPOSES you must write your membership number (from your address label)
_____ (this will be separated from your ballot before counting)

1997 Ozark Chapter ExCom Election

To vote:

- 1) Vote for **up to five** (5) candidates (you may write in additional names.) See next two pages for candidate statements.
- 2) If yours is a **joint membership**, two (2) members may vote
- 3) Write **your membership number** (the 8 digit number on top of the computer address label) in the space at the top of this page. After validation, the ballot will be separated and the votes counted. WE ENSURE YOUR RIGHT TO A SECRET BALLOT.
- 5) Cut out this entire page and mail it to the Elections Committee Chair

Bob Sherrick
10807 E. 205th St.
Peculiar, MO 64078-9018

so it arrives by **DECEMBER 31, 1997.**

I vote for ...

1st member	2nd member	
---------------	---------------	--

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gale Burrus | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ginger Harris | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keet Kopeccky | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rebecca Schedler | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wallace McMullen | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | (write-in candidate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | (write-in candidate) |



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			TOTAL	<input type="text"/>

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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REGULAR	M \$35	M \$43
SUPPORTING	M \$50	M \$58
CONTRIBUTING	M \$100	M \$108
LIFE	M \$750	M \$1000
SENIOR	M \$15	M \$23
STUDENT	M \$15	M \$23
LIMITED INCOME	M \$15	M \$23

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OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

*Be sure to check
your GROUP
newsletter
for more or current
outings!*

Trail of Tears

Nov. 16 (Sun) Day Hike to Bell Mountain. Bring a lunch and meet at Cape Girardeau Public Library at 8:00 a.m. Bob Polack (573) 334-9580.

Dec. 13 (Sat) Day hike in Shawnee National Forest. Bring a sack lunch and meet at the Cape Girardeau Public Library at 8:00 a.m. Bob Polack (573) 334-9580.

Osage

Nov. 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Current River Float Trip. Late Fall: last of the color. Tom Moran (573) 442-6955 h, (573) 882-1305 w.

Nov 8 (Sat) St. Louis Extravaganza! Ride the Metro, satiate your senses with botanical delights and culinary delicacies, tour St. Louis. Meet at Columbia MDC parking lot (College & Stadium) 8:00 a.m. Charles Buck (573) 642-4124.

Nov 9 (Sun) Hike, Bike & Potluck. Late afternoon outing on the scenic Rocheport section of the KATY trail followed by a famous Osage Group potluck and party at Marti and Jan's. Meet at the Rockport Trailhead at 3:00 p.m. or

join us shortly after dark for dinner. Marti (573) 698-2140.

Nov 15 &/or 16 (Sat &/or Sun) Early Winter float, Big Piney. Maybe one-day or overnight, depending on group preference. Kay (573) 445-0114.

Nov. 22 (Sat) Alaskan Salmon Potlatch (which means 'potluck' in Alaska) Tlinqit Charlie and Chilkoot Eydie will bring potlatch to Missouri. Bring a dish to share and slides to entertain. Call Eydie & Charlie (573) 642-4124 with pen in hand: directions are complex.

Nov 27 (Thu) Sixteenth (at least) Annual Whitely/Kardinal Thanksgiving Hike and Potluck Feast. Spend the afternoon feasting around a roaring bed of coals, roast your free-ranging Cornish game hen on a spit over those coals, and bring food and drink to share. Rain or shine (there's shelter), this is

always a memorable Thanksgiving outing. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at MDC parking lot (College and Stadium), or at the Northeast parking lot of Three Creeks, just off Deer Park Road. Hike

leaves at 10:05: BE PROMPT! Jim and Joann (573) 442-6929.

Dec 6 &/or 7 (Sat &/or Sun) One last Float Trip. Kay (573) 445-0114.

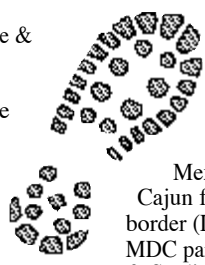
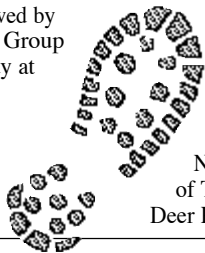
Dec 13 (Sat) Bi-monthly Full Moon Hike and Potluck. Meet at Ken and Julie's, 1005 Belleview Ct. at 6:30 p.m., hike a scenic nearby trail and enjoy the potluck after. Ken and Julie (573) 815-9250 or (573) 442-5570.

Dec 14 (Sun) Winter hiking and Touring with Randal. A few highlights will include icicles and Indian pictographs at Rocky Hollow, Union covered bridge and the Barbery Coast restaurant in Mexico (MO) best Cajun food north of the border (LA-MO). Meet at MDC parking lot (College & Stadium) 10:00 a.m. Randal Clark (573) 875-0514.

Dec 16 (Tue) Annual Osage Holiday Bash. In lieu of Dec General meeting. Bring your favorite snacks and goodies to share (BYOB). At home of Hank and Katie Ottinger, 511 Westwood Dr, Columbia (573) 443-4954.

Highland Section

Dec 12 (Fri) Holiday Party. In Jefferson City. Call Lori (573) 893-5126.





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