

OZARK ONE EARTH SIERRA ONE CHANCE SIERRA

VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 3

MAY / JUNE 1998



Save Our Scenery! Is this what you want to see as you travel: **BILLBOARD POLLUTION?** Missouri's billboard law is one of the **most lenient** in the country. As a result, most of our major highways and local streets, **including many scenic roads**, are saturated with **over 28,000 billboards**. See related article on page 5 and join the **Save our Scenery campaign**.

photo by Robert Lundholm

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

Items for publication: Contact **Bob Sherrick** via E-mail at bjsherrick@aol.com or phone (816) 779-6708, **PRIOR TO SENDING**, for information on how to submit articles.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles! Material may be edited for length, content, or clarity. It is our job to help you communicate. If you have strong creative ownership of your writing, and wish to review your edited article before publication, consider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

Reproduction quality photographs (prints) or artwork are dearly welcome. Please send us photos...



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 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: **Bob Sherrick**, *Editor*; **Barb Conover**, **Ed Fullerton**, **Keet Kopecky**, and **Claus Wawrzinek**

Army Corps Targets Upper Mississippi for Increased Navigation

by Caroline Pufalt

Since passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act our country can celebrate the restoration and improvement of many rivers and streams. Unfortunately, the Mississippi is not one of them, and, if the Army Corps of Engineers has its way, the ecology of the river is likely to decline. The Corps is considering increasing navigation on the upper half of the river. It is in the process of completing a \$50-million study on the issue. The anticipated outcome is a recommendation for increased navigation and the construction of more locks and dams to handle the traffic.

However, you can help old man river by commenting on and/or attending hearings concerning the navigation study. One need not be an expert to have meaningful input into this process. Just a belief that the river's ecology should be protected and a little background will do for a start.

The two halves of the Mississippi pose differing navigation challenges. South of St. Louis the river starts to

broaden and deepen and thus requires less alteration to accommodate navigation. The upper half of the river in its natural state was more dangerous for navigation. Thus, the construction of several locks and dams and other man-made structures were created to adjust the flow and depth.

The Sierra Club and many others engaged in a long struggle against Lock and Dam 26 in Alton, IL during the 1970's. Lock and Dam 26 was eventually authorized in 1978. At the time, opponents were told that Lock and Dam 26 were all that would be needed, but now the Corps is actively courting permission, and taxpayers' funds, to build more.

The Mississippi river is suffering from neglect and abuse. Although the Corps is spending \$50 million dollars on the current study, little has been invested in a systematic study of river ecology and recovery. We are lacking needed knowledge of many river species' health and life cycles in the river. We know the river has been, and can be, biologically diverse. There are 156 fish species native to the river and 46 mussel species. The river and its shores provide a home for 45 species of reptiles and many birds.

Navigation can have a negative impact on life in the river. The pools created by navigation related structures slow water down and increase sedimentation. Below the Quad cities to the St. Louis area there is little vegetation in the river, and dissolved oxygen levels are low. Vegetation and adequately dissolved oxygen are critical to a healthy river ecosystem.

Locks, dams and other alterations along the river not

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Dates You Need to Know

- 6/1** May/June Ozark Sierran Deadline; contact Bob Sherrick (816) 779-6708
- 6/13** Chapter ConsCom meeting St. Louis, MO; contact Caroline Pufalt (314) 878-3165
- 6/14** Chapter ExCom meeting St. Louis, MO; contact Keet Kopecky (816) 966-9544

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only damage wildlife and fish habitat, but may also promote flooding by constricting floodplains and destroying wetlands. Yet, it is anticipated that the Corps' study will call for the construction of up to four more locks and dams along the river.

Why the push for more navigation along the river? Some barge operators complain of long waits at lock and dam facilities due to the numbers and lengths of barge fleets seeking to pass through. Claims are that barge traffic is an efficient means of moving grain down river, but that efficiency is threatened by delays. Navigation proponents plead the case of farmers unable to move their crops to market.

But the complete picture is more complex. Current barge traffic could move more efficiently without building expensive new locks and dams. Currently, barge traffic is not scheduled. The river is used more as an open highway than as, for example, a railroad line with scheduled runs.

Better scheduling could limit delays and wasted energy. Also, the use of tugs could speed the movement of larger fleets through the locks.

Who uses the river and where is the grain going? Farmers do not ship their grain via barges, large agribusiness firms do. Any cost savings gained from barge transport is directly enjoyed by these corporations, not individual farmers. Most of the grain traveling down the Mississippi will be exported from the gulf.

Who pays for construction and upkeep of the navigation system along the river? You and other taxpayers do. The barge industry pays a gas tax that is targeted for navigation maintenance work, but that pays only 8% of costs. We pay the rest. Overall, we pay much more for the navigation system than is spent on environmental restoration and study. The Corps and the political process, complete with campaign contributions from agribusiness, have helped set this agenda.

We want to change this picture by stopping the subsidies to agribusiness and focusing more attention on the ecological needs of the river. Missouri and Illinois Sierrans will be working to raise awareness of this issue. You can help in this effort by writing the Corps and/or attending hearings on the navigation study. We expect a hearing to be held in St. Louis later in July. The navigation study will probably be released in November.



How to Help Old Man River

You can help promote protection of the ecology of the Mississippi river by:

- (1) writing a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers regarding their navigation study,
- (2) attending a hearing on the navigation study,
- (3) calling other Sierrans and encourage them to contact the Corps,
- (4) distributing information at public events along the river to create interest in the environmental impacts of increased navigation.

For information on the above, call Caroline Pufalt, (314)878-3165. Leave a message at the EMG office, (314)909-0890. Also, you may contact Mark Boerkrem of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, (309)343-

Save Our Scenery (SOS) Campaign HELP NEEDED WITH PETITION DRIVE

by Karl Kruse,
Executive Director, Scenic Missouri

Did you know that Missouri has nearly **three times as many billboards per mile as our eight neighboring states?** A drive on I-70, I-44, or Highways 54 and 65 leaves no doubt that Missouri has become saturated with billboards. In fact, *Scenic America has listed Missouri as one of America's five most billboard blighted states.* There are two reasons for this: 1) Missouri's state billboard law permits huge billboards adjacent to interstate and primary highways practically anywhere, and 2) *Missouri is one of only two states where state law preempts most local billboard regulations.*

A citizens' initiative petition drive, the Save Our Scenery (SOS) Campaign, is underway. *The initiative would amend Missouri's constitution to permit all local governments to fully regulate signs and billboards, including the right to remove nonconforming signs.* The SOS Campaign has been endorsed by scores of civic, conservation, and environmental organizations, including the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, League of Women Voters of Missouri, Missouri Municipal League, American Institute of Architects, Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, Conservation Federation of Missouri, and many others.

Valid signatures of nearly 120,000 registered voters must be obtained by mid-June to qualify the

proposed amendment for the November 1998, general election. About 90,000 signatures have been secured to date. Although a paid petition drive is underway, the volunteer effort is vitally important as well.

There has never been a statewide vote on the billboard issue in America. In the November general election, billboard related elections will be held in both Missouri and Alaska. This election presents an opportunity for Missourians to make a clear statement about how they feel about their scenic environment.

We must seize this opportunity! If we don't, the onslaught of visual pollution will continue for decades to come. *Ozark Chapter Sierra Club members recently received petition forms and a letter from Ken Midkiff and Karl Kruse, Scenic Missouri Executive Director, asking*

for help with the petition drive.

Although members were asked to submit signed and notarized petitions by April 10, *the absolute deadline is June 15. Your help is absolutely crucial to the success of this campaign.*

If you have questions about the campaign or need additional petition forms, contact the SOS Campaign office at (573)446-3120 or sosmo@tranquility.net. ■



World Scientists' Warning to Humanity

by *The Union of Concerned Scientists*

Introduction

Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about.

The Environment

The environment is suffering critical stress:

The Atmosphere:

Stratospheric ozone depletion threatens us with enhanced ultraviolet radiation which can be damaging or lethal to many life forms. Air pollution near ground level and acid precipitation are already causing widespread injury to humans, forests, and crops.

Water Resources: Heedless exploitation of depletable ground water supplies endangers food production and other essential human systems. Heavy demands on the world's surface waters have resulted in serious shortages in some 80 countries containing 40 percent of the world's population. Pollution of rivers, lakes, and ground water further limits the supply.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) sent the World Scientists' **Warning** for endorsement to all scientists worldwide who have been awarded the Nobel Prize; to members of ten national science academies in Africa, Canada, Europe, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and to selected scientists in China, India, Japan, and Latin America. Over 1,670 scientists, including 104 Nobel laureates—a majority of the living recipients of the prize in the sciences—have signed the **Warning** so far. These men and women represent 71 countries, including all of the 19 largest economic powers, all of the 12 most populous nations, 12 countries in Africa, 14 in Asia, 19 in Europe, and 12 in Latin America. The **Warning** was written and spearheaded by UCS Chair Henry Kendall, and it was issued in November, 1992.

If you would like a copy of the **Warning** which includes a list of prominent signers, or would simply like to know more about the UCS's work, please contact them at 26 Church Street, Cambridge MA 02238, (617)547-5552, or direct your computer to www.ucsusa.org.

The THB Group is currently distributing the **Warning** to bookstores, libraries, coffeeshops, and the like in a tri-fold pamphlet format. If you are a THB member and would like to help in this distribution, please contact John Kurmann, THB Carrying Capacity Chair, at (816)753-6081 or dsdnt@kctera.net. If you are not a THB member, you are still invited to participate, but we would ask you to make a donation to help us cover the costs of purchasing the pamphlets.

Oceans: Destructive pressure on the oceans is severe, particularly in the coastal regions which produce most of the world's food fish. The total marine catch is now at or above the estimated maximum sustainable yield. Some fisheries have already shown signs of collapse. Rivers carrying heavy burdens of eroded soil into the seas also carry industrial, municipal, agricultural, and livestock waste, some of it toxic.

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Soil: Loss of soil productivity, which is causing extensive land abandonment, is a widespread by-product of current practices in agriculture and animal husbandry. Since 1945, eleven percent of the earth's vegetated surface has been degraded—an area larger than India and China combined—and per capita food production in many parts of the world is decreasing.

Forests: Tropical rain forests, as well as tropical and temperate dry forests, are being destroyed rapidly. At present rates, some critical forest types will be gone in a few years, and most of the tropical rain forest will be gone before the end of the next century. With them will go large numbers of plant and animal species.

Living Species: The irreversible loss of species, which by 2100 may reach one-third of all species now living, is especially serious. We are losing the potential they hold for providing medicinal and other benefits and the contribution that genetic diversity of life forms gives to the robustness of the world's biological systems and to the astonishing beauty of the earth itself.

Much of this damage is, on a scale of centuries, irreversible or permanent. Other processes appear to pose additional threats. Increasing levels of gases in the atmosphere from human activities, including carbon dioxide released from fossil fuel burning and from deforestation, may alter climate on a global scale. Predictions of global warming are still uncertain—with projected effects ranging from tolerable to very severe—but the potential risks are very great.

Our massive tampering with the world's interdependent web of life—coupled with the environmental damage inflicted by deforestation, species loss, and climate change—could trigger widespread adverse effects, including unpredictable collapses of critical biological systems whose interactions and dynamics we only imperfectly understand.

Uncertainty over the extent of these effects cannot excuse complacency or delay in facing the threats.

Population

The earth is finite. Its ability to absorb wastes and destructive effluent is finite. Its ability to provide food and energy is finite. Its ability to provide for growing numbers of people is finite. And we are fast approaching many of the earth's limits. Current economic practices which damage the environment, in both developed and underdeveloped nations, cannot be continued without the risk that vital global systems will be damaged beyond repair.

Pressures resulting from unrestrained population growth put demands on the natural world that can overwhelm any efforts to achieve a sustainable future. If we are to halt the destruction of our environment, we must accept limits to that growth. A World Bank estimate indicates that world population will not stabilize at less than 12.4 billion, while the United Nations concludes that the eventual total could reach 14 billion, a near tripling of today's 5.4 billion. But, even at this moment, one person in five lives in absolute poverty without enough to eat, and one in ten suffers serious malnutrition.

No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished.

Warning

We the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.

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What We Must Do

Five inextricably linked areas must be addressed simultaneously:

1. We must bring environmentally damaging activities under control to restore and protect the integrity of the earth's systems we depend on.

We must, for example, move away from fossil fuels to more benign, inexhaustible energy sources to cut greenhouse gas emissions and the pollution of our air and water. Priority must be given to the development of energy sources matched to Third World needs—small-scale and relatively easy to implement.

We must halt deforestation, injury to and loss of agricultural land, and the loss of terrestrial and marine plant and animal species.

2. We must manage resources crucial to human welfare more effectively.

We must give high priority to efficient use of energy, water, and other materials, including expansion of conservation and recycling.

3. We must stabilize population.

This will be possible only if all nations recognize that it requires improved social and economic conditions, and the adoption of effective, voluntary family planning.

4. We must reduce and eventually eliminate poverty.

5. We must ensure sexual equality and guarantee women control over their own reproductive decisions.

The developed nations are the largest polluters in the world today. They must greatly reduce their overconsumption if we are to reduce pressures on resources and the global environment. The developed nations have the obligation to provide aid and support to developing nations, because only the developed nations have the financial resources and the technical skills for these tasks.

Acting on this recognition is not altruism, but enlightened self-interest: whether industrialized or not, we all have but one lifeboat. No nation can escape from injury when global biological systems are damaged. No nation can escape from conflicts over increasingly scarce resources. In addition, environmental and economic instabilities will cause mass migrations with incalculable consequences for developed and undeveloped nations alike.

Developing nations must realize that environmental damage is one of the gravest threats they face, and that attempts to blunt it will be overwhelmed if their populations go unchecked. The greatest peril is to become trapped in spirals of environmental decline, poverty, and unrest, leading to social, economic, and environmental collapse.

Success in this global endeavor will require a great reduction in violence and war. Resources now devoted to the preparation and conduct of war—amounting to over \$1 trillion annually—will be badly needed in the new tasks and should be diverted to the new challenges.

A new ethic is required—a new attitude towards discharging our responsibility for caring for ourselves and for the earth. We must recognize the earth's limited capacity to provide for us. We must recognize its fragility. We must no longer allow it to be ravaged. This ethic must motivate a great movement, convincing reluctant leaders, reluctant governments, and reluctant people themselves to effect the needed changes.

The scientists issuing this warning hope that our message will reach and affect people everywhere. We need the help of many.

We require the help of the world community of scientists—natural, social, economic, and political. We require the help of the world's business and industrial leaders. We require the help of the world's religious leaders and we require the help of the world's peoples. We call on all to join us in this task. ■

Is the World Worth Saving?

by John Kurmann

Okay, so we've been tinkering around with our "environmental problems" for roughly 35 years now. I think it's high time someone asked the question, so I will: Is the world **worth** saving? Why does the question need to be asked? Because we're already answering it, by our actions (or, rather, our *inaction*), with a resounding "No!"—but we're **pretending** we're not.

But I'd better step back a moment and try to answer another question: Does the world **need** us to save it? First, let me clarify a point. When I use the word "world," I mean the world with humans in it, not the biosphere itself. The biosphere will almost certainly go on whether we're here or not. My concern now is for humanity, and for the other creatures we're taking with us as we destroy the world. I don't pretend to be a scientist. I'm not qualified to make an expert assessment about the state of the world, so I'll defer to the folks who are. In 1992, the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and the Royal Society of London released an unprecedented joint statement entitled **Population Growth, Resource Consumption, and a Sustainable World**. This passage comes from the introduction: "If current predictions of population growth prove accurate and patterns of human activity on the planet remain unchanged, science and technology may not be able to prevent either irreversible degradation of the environment or continued poverty for much of the world." And this, from the *Conclusions* section: "The future of our planet is in the balance. Sustainable development can be achieved, but only if irreversible degradation of the environment can be halted in time. The next 30 years may be crucial." More, this time from the **World Scientists' Warning to Humanity**, released by the Union of Concerned

Scientists that same year: "If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know." Could the scientists be too pessimistic? Sure, there's much we still don't even understand about the earth, so we can't hope to know **exactly** what will happen as we run roughshod over it. If sober, measured scientists are talking apocalyptically, though, we would be insane not to listen. Problem is, that's exactly what we're doing—**not** listening. Oh, sure, we've passed some laws, written some regulations, convened some expensive global conferences, and made a lot of impressive-sounding speeches over the last 35 years. Recycling bins and "greenspeak" have become commonplace. None of this has any hope of saving the world, though.

- ▼ Laws and regulations? After a quarter-century, we're **still** mudwrestling over clean air and water rules. We aren't going to legislate the saving of the world.
- ▼ Recycling? I'm all for it, but it's not even making a serious dent in our waste problem, much less addressing the real issues.
- ▼ Speeches and greenspeak? I hear what you **do**, not what you say. From that perspective, we ain't said much.

Meanwhile:
- ▼ We're seeing species die off faster than at any time since the end of the age of the dinosaurs, and we're the ones killing them.
- ▼ Global warming is changing the very life support system of the world—the climate—and the scientific consensus is that we're the ones turning up the heat.

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- ▼ We've ripped massive holes in the global sunscreen, the ozone layer.
- ▼ We've poisoned the earth's surface and waters with chemicals that are disrupting the basic processes of life.
- ▼ The human population has grown by roughly 2.7 billion.

And those are just the biggies. So I say it's time we either put up or shut up. We should either get down to the wonderful work of saving the world, or we should quit fooling ourselves and go out in a last binge of miserable excess. If we decide on the binge, though, we'd best take a bit of time to start making up excuses to give our children and grandchildren when we hand over a devastated world to them. I doubt "our dog ate the planet" will fly. And, if you've decided to save the world, then the question becomes: Can

we? Can we live as part of the community of life? Sure we can. Humans have done so for **millions** of years. We've only been trying to conquer the place for ten thousand, give or take a few, and, even then, it's only been one culture—ours—doing so. We are not the whole story of the human species—**we are not humanity**. There are other cultures, other peoples, still in the world who are quite happy to live as part of the community of life. We've wiped out most of them, but not quite all. There is much we could learn from them, if we decide we want to **live**. What will it take? Really, it all comes down to one thing, and only one. We have to give up the idea that the world is human property, deeded to us by whatever creative force you happen to believe in. Shatter that myth—and a myth it is—and everything else is possible. All we have to do is change our minds. ■

Book Review: *The Abstract Wild*

Review by Hank Ottinger

In this collection of eight brief essays, Jack Turner provides a brilliant, impassioned, and informed perspective on wild nature, a view that any environmentalist will find challenging, frequently disturbing, and ultimately invigorating. Turner, a philosopher turned climber and adventurer, makes no apologies for what he calls his "belligerent ecological fundamentalism," expressed emphatically in the signature piece, "The Abstract Wild: A Rant."

As the title suggests, Turner posits that wilderness in the United States has become little more than an abstraction: relatively small parcels,

fragments really, of what was once a coherent tapestry of the wild. We have come to the point where we see "the 'normal' wilderness—wilderness most people know—[as] a charade of areas, zones, and management plans that is driving the wild into oblivion."

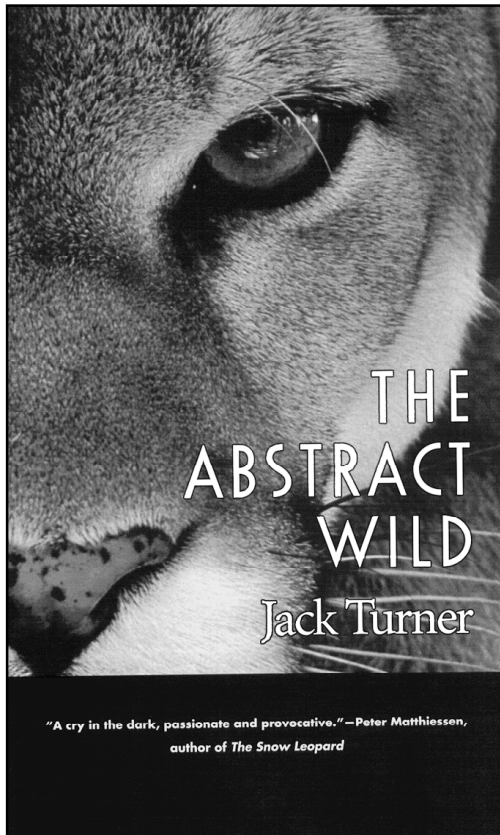
Even a jaunt into a designated wilderness area—a "wilderness experience," perhaps?—brings one into contact with

rangers, trail crews, Outward Bound courses teaching character, bridges, trail signs, maps, and the like. Light from nearby towns pollutes the night sky. Jets and helicopters roar overhead. Large predators have generally

"...we must become so intimate with...wild places, that we answer to their destruction from the gut. Like when we discover the landlady strangling our cat."

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vanished. Wildlife is managed, wildfire suppressed. Our wild areas have become little more than “an imitation of what was once a real and potent Other.” Sadly, many of us have become content with that, with a wild that has been transformed into a well-managed Disneyland, a created environment for recreational fun-seekers, a remnant of what once was, a “neutered wild.”

The scientific obsession for managing the wild places, for constant studying, for trapping, darting, tagging, mapping, monitoring—in short, for control of these areas—lies at the root of the problem. On the one hand we desire to preserve wild nature, but to do so, we must acquiesce to invasive management styles, to “imperial biology.” Enlightenment could be found, Turner suggests, by regarding chaos theory: natural systems seem attracted to disequilibrium—in

effect, to Thoreau’s notion of wildness. Turner advocates a radical (as in “root”) departure from current management styles. Leave it alone: no guidebooks, no GPS data, no radio collars, no designer wilderness. “Let wilderness again become a blank on our maps.”

Elsewhere, Turner critiques ecological economics; cost-benefit analysis comes in for a fine trashing, as does the language of economics that reduces the living planet to an abstraction, a financial value, a commodity. Deep ecology, presumably revolutionary, is passionless and intellectually timid when compared to Thoreau and Muir.

At first thought this may seem little more than an EarthFirst! diatribe. But no, it is, above all, a well-informed text. Turner’s observations are constantly tied to earlier writers: Emerson, Thoreau, and Muir, of course, but more contemporary ones as well, including Gary Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, Gary Nabham, and William Kittredge, among others.

The Abstract Wild is a potent, provocative, and refreshing book that deserves as wide an audience as it can get. ■

The Abstract Wild

by Jack Turner

The University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
1996, 136 pages.

Social Issues and the Environment

by Caroline Pufalt

We have all wondered at times whether a particular issue qualifies as an “environmental” issue. Last year I found myself picketing a Shell gas station in St. Louis county. I was protesting Shell’s involvement in the mistreatment of the Ogoni people in Nigeria. The Ogoni have been victims of pollution, repression, and murder via the government of Nigeria which acts, in part, to protect the operations of Shell Oil. This is a situation that clearly has an environmental component, but has more prominently been viewed as a human rights’ issue. Thinking through its resolution, one can easily stray to issues of democracy, minority rights, workers’ rights, international trade, the maldistribution of wealth, and associated issues of population, consumption, and, finally, sustainable natural systems.

Where does all this lead? Is this what John Muir meant when he said that everything is connected? He may not have had an example like this specifically in mind, but if he lived in our time, no doubt his mind would explore all these connections. The Sierra Club has been struggling at all levels with how far to be involved with issues beyond the traditional ones of conservation. Around 1970 the environmental movement as a whole broadened its recognized agenda. But how far should we extend?

Mike McCloskey, Sierra Club Chairman, recently wrote a paper regarding social issues and the environment as a basis for discussion within the club and especially for the Board of Directors. He suggested that we not shy from non conventional issues which clearly have an environmental connection that we can address constructively. He also suggested that it is appropriate for us

to consider and respond to the social impacts of changes we may suggest for environmental reasons. For example, if we advocate higher fuel taxes, we can respond to questions about how that will affect lower income citizens. We can, and should, address social components of environmental problems, such as the inordinate impact of pollution and toxic sites on minority neighborhoods.

Using this and other input, the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors recently adopted a policy on club involvement in social issues. That policy states that we will strive to understand how our environmental work fits within larger contexts and concerns in society and involve ourselves “in social issues where there is a logical connection between our environmental aims and a given social concern.” One choice that often arises in working on any issue is how and when to work with other groups with related concerns. The policy adopted states that the club is open to constructive “alliances on specific issues with non environmental groups to advance our aims in ways that are compatible with our beliefs. But the club does not routinely endorse positions of non-environmental groups simply because there is a connection between their positions and ours or because we face common adversaries.” These guidelines should help us as we navigate through a world where everything is connected. ■

Why is a Park Still a Park? (and other questions)

by Rachel Locke,
Ozark Chapter Voter Education
Coordinator.

Do you like to hike, camp, and explore new places? Do you enjoy watching the Bald Eagles return to the banks of the Mississippi? Do you drink water? Then read on, and answer a few more questions.

Why is Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park still a park? Why is Escalante Grand Staircase now a national monument? Why has the Bald Eagle come back from the brink of extinction, and why does the Topeka Shiner now feel safe in its protected habitat? Why is water now safe for our kids to drink?

Because there is a LAW! That's right, a LAW! — a law made by Senators and Representatives we elect to represent us.

The connection is simple: Good lawmakers mean good laws, cool places to hike and camp, cool species, and tasty water. Bad lawmakers mean bad laws, no places to hike and camp, no eagles, and icky water.

What do we do when our lawmakers DON'T make good laws? WE TELL ON THEM! That's right, we tattletale! We become little snitches! In fact, it's our DUTY as an environmental organization to let the public know the truth when our lawmakers make bad laws. That's what the Ozark Chapter's Voter Education Campaign is all about.

Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond is not making good laws. He's not making laws that protect the environment and public health. In fact, in the eleven years that Kit Bond has "represented" us in the U.S. Senate, Kit Bond has voted to protect the environment only 10% of the time! And as we all know, 10% earns you an "F" on any grading scale!

So, if you like to hike and camp, if you want to see our wild and lovely places protected, if you want to drink safe water, we need YOU! We need you to help us tell voters that Senator Bond is not working for us: he's not working to protect our wild places; he's not working to keep our water clean; he's not working to save Missouri's species. We need to let Missouri's voters know: for our families and for our future.

Here's how you can get involved (and find fulfillment and win valuable prizes):

▲ Help "table" at festivals and community events. The Club will be attending various events across the state. (Dates for St. Louis area events include May 16,17 [Earth Day]; July 3-5 [Fair St. Louis]; August 21-23 [Festival of Little Hills]; September 4-7 [St. Louis County Fair].)

▲ Hike through the neighborhoods — with our Urban Hiking Initiative, you can explore new places while dropping information about Bond's voting record on voters' doorsteps. It's strictly "walk and drop," no knocking on doors or asking for money! Urban Hiking kicks off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Tower Grove Park and will be coming to your city soon. (See the "Urban Hiking" article for details.)

Call me at (314)771-2861 or email me at rachel.locke@sierraclub.org to volunteer or get more information. Together we can make a difference! ■

Urban Hiking Kicks Off May 16

by Rachel Locke

Join Sierra Club members and others for the exciting kick off of the Club's new Urban Hiking Initiative. It's your chance to explore new neighborhoods while helping educate voters about local issues and Senator Bond's dismal environmental voting record. In St. Louis, the local issue we'll focus on is the Page Avenue Freeway. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the Earth Day festival for a colorful rally and then scatter to dispense our literature. We'll then meet back at the festival for prizes and treats! Remember—Urban Hiking is strictly a “walk and drop” program, no knocking on doors or asking for money! We'll kick off in St. Louis, but Urban Hiking is coming to your city soon!

What: Urban Hiking Initiative Kick-Off Event

When: Date: May 16, 1998

Time: 9 a.m.

Rally: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Urban Hiking: 12 p.m.–1 p.m.

Place: Sierra Club booth at the Earth Day Festival, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis

Supplies: Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, water bottle, fanny pack, bikes, roller skates, etc.

Contact: Claralyn Price-Bollinger, EMG staff, (314)909-0890 or claralyn.price-bollinger@sierraclub.org; or Rachel Locke, Voter Education Coordinator (314)771-2861 rachel.locke@sierraclub.org ■

1998 St. Louis Earth Day Community Festival

The 1998 St. Louis Earth Day Community Festival will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. in Tower Grove Park and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Environmental education, fun, and related products will be available from more than 120 exhibitors. There will be lots of great live music and entertainment on two stages, and many activities for the whole family.

The festival is free and open to the public in Tower Grove Park. Some programs run concurrently in the Missouri Botanical Garden, and entrance to the garden is free for those who get their hand stamped at the Earth Day Festival's main information tent in Tower Grove Park.

An All Species Parade will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. We encourage folks of all ages to create a costume of their favorite live creature

(plant or animal, real or imaginary!) and join the parade. There will be several advance workshops for kids to create a costume of an endangered species that lives in our region.

Other festival features are: great vegetarian food, Earth Art Area, St. Louis Teacher Recycle Center creative area, and the Safe Kids Coalition learning area. There will be a Bike Ride organized by the Hostelling International on Sunday, plus a 5 kilometer “Run for the Earth” starting at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 17, near the west end of Tower Grove Park. The registration fee for the run benefits the festival and includes a T-shirt.

For more information or to volunteer to help the Earth Day Festival: Call: (314)776-4442; E-mail: earthday@moenvfund.org; Write: P.O. Box 63350, St. Louis, MO 63163; Web site: www.moenvfund.org ■

MoDOT Forms 'Smart Growth' Task Force

by Ron McLinden

Don't count your chickens before they hatch. And don't count your unneeded highways before they get wiped off the long-range plan. But there might just be a tiny ray of hope.

At the request of the Sierra Club, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Chief Engineer Joe Mickes reported to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission on April 3 that he is forming a staff task force to look into "Smart Growth." (See article on *Smart Growth in the March/April '98, issue of the Ozark Sierran.*)

Mickes' announcement was made in response to a presentation that we made to the Commission a month earlier. In that presentation, we cited statistics which show that motor vehicle traffic (as measured in vehicle miles traveled, or VMT) is growing several times faster than population nationally, and that the growth rate in Missouri is even faster.

"VMT growth is straining the fiscal resources of governments at all levels, and it is pushing you to the financial breaking point," we told them. "Last year the Total Transportation Commission (TTC) identified transportation needs more than twice what can be met from existing revenue sources. . . . Transportation is going to have to compete for public dollars with education and health care and public safety and a lot of other things, especially if a sales tax is the preferred source."

Later in March, in a letter sent to a number of TTC members, we observed that we "shouldn't ask for help paying the water bill (i.e., more money for transportation) until we've tried to put the plug in the tub."

"...It makes sense to take reasonable steps to restrain future VMT growth," we said. "We don't have to do it at the expense of a healthy economy," we told the Commission. Instead, we should do it "in such a way that the economy actually becomes more efficient. That's what Smart Growth is about."

Smart Growth is a new perspective on growth that does four things:

- ▲ It creates more livable communities.
- ▲ It contributes to a more efficient economy.
- ▲ It promotes fiscal responsibility by holding down the cost of government.
- ▲ It protects the environment.

Those goals are consistent with the two main goals expressed by the Total Transportation Commission:

- ▲ To enhance the quality of life for Missouri's citizens.
- ▲ To support a competitive economy.

Formation of a Smart Growth Task Force would be the first step toward implementation of one of the recommendations of the TTC, that the state assist localities to develop growth strategies that make more efficient use of natural and fiscal resources. That recommendation was added at our request by the TTC at its final meeting last July.

"Smart Growth involves guiding development so as to reduce the need for transportation infrastructure. That means emphasizing access rather than just mobility. If you stop and think about it, it is access that we really want—access to goods and services, to opportunities, and to other people. Mobility is just one way to provide for access. Access can also be provided through proximity. Smart Growth encourages proximity."

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Smart Growth cont'd from page 12 explored.

“Every day your employees must juggle the need for maintenance and preservation of the existing (highway) system against the demand for new capacity.... They see the potential for Smart Growth to reduce future headaches, and to create the kinds of communities they would like to live in as well.” (We already knew that a number of MoDOT employees supported our request.)

“We know we can’t build ourselves out of congestion.”
—MoDOT Chief Engineer
Joe Mickes

Commissioners Ed Douglas of Chillicothe and Ollie Gates of Kansas City spoke in favor of the task force.

Commissioner Bob Jones of suburban St. Louis objected, saying that Mickes was just placating certain interest groups. (We’d like to think Mickes,

while admittedly breaking new ground for MoDOT, was actually acting in the long-term public interest.)

To paraphrase Neil Armstrong, “That’s one small step for the planet, one giant leap for MoDOT.” ■

Our specific request was that the MoDOT form a Smart Growth Task Force to:

- ▲ Review current Commission policies and practices and evaluate their impact on development decisions and travel demand;
- ▲ Explore the potential for Smart Growth concepts to become part of a comprehensive strategy for improving Missouri’s transportation system while holding down future costs; and
- ▲ Formulate an outreach program to gain the cooperation of local jurisdictions and private interests in implementing Smart Growth principles, and form partnerships to see it through.

Following our presentation on March 3, Chief Engineer Mickes acknowledged to the Commission that “We know we can’t build ourselves out of congestion.”

A month later, when announcing formation of the task force, Mickes expressed hesitance and cited long-standing MoDOT policy to try to meet the travel demands of Missouri residents, no matter where those demands are expressed. Nevertheless, he said the concept needed to be

MoDOT Bulldozes Ahead on Page

by Claralyn Price-Bollinger

State Supplemental Route D, Missouri Route 364, the Page Avenue Extension, the Page Freeway. By whatever name, a ten-lane bridge and freeway across Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park and the Missouri River floodplain moves onward, glacier-like.

Meanwhile, citizen opposition to the project broadens and gains support.

Twenty or more municipalities now oppose the project, plus 15 or more voluntary organizations and a dozen legislators and candidates.

In December the St. Louis County Council passed an ordinance giving the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) the right to build the freeway across Creve Coeur Lake. Shortly thereafter, a citizen petition drive was mounted by the Coalition for the Environment, Sierra Club, and our many other allies to overturn that decision. More than 45,000 signatures were collected, more than twice the number required. Eighty percent were determined by election officials to be valid—an unusually high percentage. Thus, St. Louis County voters will have their say at the polls on November 3.

You'd think MoDOT would get the message and at least park the bulldozers for a while. No way. In February they approved construction contracts worth tens of millions of dollars to continue the project.

Countermove

State Representatives Joan Bray and Chris Leise introduced a bill that would require MoDOT to hold off spending money on a highway project

where a citizen initiative petition was pending. That bill was heard in committee on March 3. MoDOT spokesman J. T. Yarnell told the committee that, if citizens voted against a freeway across their park, MoDOT would simply switch to their second choice route, one which would swing south of the park and wipe out 140 homes. The committee reported the bill out favorably on a strictly party-line vote, but it's not certain that the bill will make it to the House floor.

MoDOT is saying, by its actions, "We're going to build this road whether you want it or not, and we're going to spend money as fast as we can so we'll be able to tell you in November how much money you'll be throwing away if you kill the project." Expenditures and contracts let to date total nearly \$100 million, but nearly half of that is for land acquisition and could be recouped if the project were scrapped.

Meanwhile the cost keeps rising. MoDOT's official estimate for the

three phase project, which would ultimately extend to Route 40 somewhere in St. Charles County's "Golden Triangle," is now at \$550 million—up from a mere \$372 million

back in 1994. Back then a Sierra Club "back-of-the-envelope" analysis showed that motorists using the new route would pay only 29 percent of the cost of building the monster road. The other 71 percent, plus the entire cost of maintaining the road, would be paid by the rest of the state's residents, some of whom can't even afford a USED sport utility vehicle.

And those official cost estimates are only the half of it. St. Louis County Municipal League director Tim Fischesser has calculated that by

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*"...But in the case of the Page Freeway, we're going to keep trying to do it anyway."
—MoDOT actions, speaking louder than words*

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the time all the additional road construction necessary to handle the Page Freeway traffic is completed, the total may be as high as \$997 million. (At an inflation rate of just one percent, the price tag will thus top \$1 billion before the peaches are ready to be picked.)

Interest in the issue is growing, as indicated by public forums held in March. The Regional Commerce and Growth Association held one on March 25, and the City of Chesterfield did the same on March 30. Our members were among the project opponents who attended and asked common-sense questions.

For example, if the Page Freeway is being built to relieve rush-hour congestion on I-70, wouldn't it make a whole lot more sense to simply collect a dollar toll from every person driving alone during two or three hours every morning, and PAY a dollar to every driver carrying one or more passengers? Or what about PAYING people to ride a bus in from St. Peters to the MetroLink stop at North Hanley? Wouldn't that make more sense and save us all about a billion dollars in the process? (Needless to say, such questions are not popular with folks who like billion-dollar projects for their urban assault vehicles.)

And what about the flooding issue? Do you folks really think you can build a road across the river bottoms and not have it act like a dam, threatening the region's water treatment plant? (Of course we can, and we'll run and re-run our computer models until we can prove it.)

But it's not over yet. And it won't be over until the ribbon hits the concrete—maybe not even then.

So get out there and talk to your friends and neighbors about this turkey of a project. Call your congressman, the governor, your state legislators, city councilmen, and school board members (who will see their budgets get tight as real estate values

migrate across that new bridge and out of St. Louis County). And above all, consider getting out the old checkbook. The road builders are sure to mount a big-bucks campaign to defeat our citizen initiative, and we're going to need all the support you can spare.

There! Call, write, or e-mail me later and I'll tell you what I REALLY think. ■

Laying Waste

by Tom Kruzen

Over twenty years ago, Iowa passed a five cent per unit bottle law. At the time I owned no vehicle other than my ten speed bicycle. I knew Iowa highways and their shoulders—intimately. A week after this “bottle bill” passed, the roadsides were cleaner. In six weeks the highways were notably cleaner, and in six months one was hard put to find anything other than grass and an occasional feed sack blowing from a pick up on the roadsides. Grocers and bottlers griped and squealed before the bill was made law, but all found simple and sanitary ways to comply post haste. Objects previously without value now became worth saving.

My current winter job finds me driving a truck all over the eastern two thirds of the U.S. Daily, my muscles cry for exercise. A few weeks back I found a country intersection in Illinois. Walking, I could not avoid the mountain of trash on the right-of-way; I decided to bag some aluminum just for fun and to help clean up the place. As a commercial truck driver I could not legally have open, or even spent, beer cans on board—so I limited my pick-up to soda cans. Three-hundred feet on each stem of the intersection, I collected five pounds of aluminum. The total would have easily surpassed ten pounds had I been able to get the alcoholic beverage containers as well. Extended to one mile, that is 40 pounds of aluminum! At 50 cents per pound, 40 pounds would yield \$20.00 per mile.

“USA Today” recently boasted that there are 55.7 million miles of highway in these United States. Note that 55.7 million multiplied by \$20 translates to \$1,114,000,000—and that’s only the aluminum. Anyone listening??? Glass, plastic, and other materials would add to that stupendous figure.

Public and private agencies scream for dollars in this era of small government, and yet here are some easy billions, retrievable from the world’s largest linear dump—U.S. Highways! Surely a country capable of moon travel could travel the highways and save a billion or two dollars! Surely a city as progressive as Columbia would not retrogress to a time when it contributed to the waste on the roads. A penny saved is a penny earned. Bill Gates—move over!

*Tom Kruzen, part time truck driver,
owner of PAN’S GARDEN
NATIVE PLANT NURSERY,
is a full-time environmentalist
and chair of the
Mining Subcommittee of the
Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club.*

Citizens' Lead School

by Caroline Pufalt

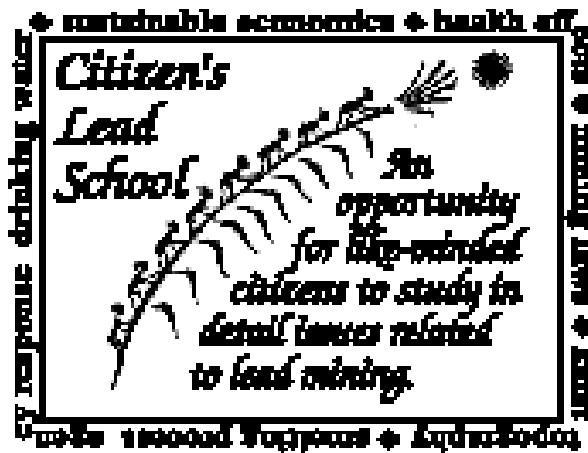
It was a beautiful Sunday in early spring, but Sierrans and others gathered inside to discuss one of the most dangerous elements on the planet. Lead was the culprit that brought us together; more accurately, it was those who want to take more lead out of the deep ground and put it in the human environment that concerned us. Specifically we were learning what we could about mining and the economy in order to better understand threats of lead mining in a scenic river watershed in Missouri. The "Lead School" was organized by Missouri Heartwood and included speakers on mining operations, the economy of mining, health effects of lead, and community response to mining.

On this first day of "school" we heard from two experienced individuals, Dr. David Chambers and Dr. Thomas Powers. Dr. Chambers is experienced in environmental planning and geophysics. He described general mining methods and waste containment as applied to underground lead mining. He shared his experiences from mines in the west and his understanding of lead mining in our area. A big concern is disposal of mining wastes called "tailings." These tailings can be disposed of in tailings "ponds" held back by dams. Eventual leakage is a problem with this method. Tailings may also be back filled into the mine cavity, but experience with that method in Missouri is limited. It is also considered an expensive alternative.

Dr. Chambers is executive director of the Center for Science in Public Participation, a non profit group that seeks to provide expert assistance to citizens' groups confronting environmental

concerns over operations such as mining.

The second "teacher" we heard from was Thomas M. Powers, author of *Lost Landscapes and Failed Economies*, subtitled "the Search for a Value of Place." He is an economics professor teaching at Missoula, Montana. In his talk to us, Powers focused on the economics of mining communities. He pointed out that although mining is often promoted as a positive jobs and income boost for a community, there are few if any prosperous mining towns. He



distinguished between economic growth and economic development. Mining may provide a temporary spurt of economic growth, but it often does not contribute to economic development. Economic development requires diverse sources of income and reinvestment within the community. There are many characteristics of mining employment that work against this model. Mining activity is relatively short-lived, highly impacted by global markets, and increasingly mechanized. It does often provide high paying jobs, but those jobs may be few and may not even be held by long-time community residents. Finally, mining operations may have a detrimental impact on the environment and quality of life

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many people value when choosing a place to live.

These first two speakers at the Citizens Lead School inspired us to

learn more about mining and community economics. In the next issue of the *Ozark Sierran* I will cover topics discussed later in the schedule, such as the health effects of lead. ■

Your Voice Needed on Lead Mining in Missouri's Scenic Watershed

Many of you wrote to the Forest Service last year and expressed concern about Doe Run mining company's request for exploratory drilling permits on Forest Service land in the Scenic Rivers watershed. Those calls and letters have helped the Forest Service to take our concerns seriously, and at this writing they have not yet released a decision on the drilling permits. But now is the time to contact our Senators and members of Congress about the issue. Some politicians have already spoken out in favor of the mining company's request for permits. Senator Ashcroft and Representative Emerson wrote to the Interior Department complaining of the "delay" in issuing "routine" permits. Well, we don't think lead mining in the scenic river watershed is routine, and we need to let the powers that be hear from us.

Your letters are needed now!

Although Doe Run has asked just for drilling permits, we know that successful drilling will almost always lead to mining. Lead is a highly toxic element. Mining wastes from past mines already pose a health risk. We do not want more. Lead is an element that is being phased out for many uses because of its toxicity. We, therefore, want the Forest Service to take the time it needs to evaluate the permit applications and reach the right decision to deny the permits. Please write to:

Senator Bond/Senator Ashcroft
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative _____
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
C Street N. W. Bldg 1849
Washington, D.C. 20240 ■

Staff Report: *GAMBLING CASINOS— Boats in Moats, Barges in Pits*

by Ken Midkiff

Driving out through the semi-desert terrain of far southwestern Colorado, surrounded by grazing lands, sagebrush, and distant mountains, a garish neon-lit mirage appears on U.S. 160. The billboards have proclaimed its arrival for miles, but nothing quite prepares the traveler for the sight of a huge gambling casino in such a remote area.

At least, the Ute Indian tribe, which owns and operates this one, had the good sense not to locate it in a floodplain. High and dry, it definitely provides visual pollution (appropriately “as ugly as sin”), but apparently no other environmental harm.

Not so with our alleged “riverboat” gambling casinos cropping up like fetid mushrooms along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. These facilities and their appurtenances are developing in exactly the areas destined to cause significant environmental harm—and eventually significant damage to taxpayers’ pocketbooks.

Sneaking in under the guise of traditional floating showboats of yore, touting cruises on an hourly or every other hour basis with elegant dinners, and passengers strolling along the upper decks at sundown, there was a certain feel-good ambiance about their original claims when Missourians were deliberating on allowing riverboat gambling. After all, this is the state of Mark Twain; we had Big River showboats in our history. The gaming industry’s brochures and ads all pictured everyone’s idea of what these boats would look like: multi-level paddlewheelers steaming serenely

along with picturesque towering river bluffs in the background.

Well, as everyone knows by now, that ain’t quite the way it turned out. There are no scenic cruises on the Big Rivers by these boats. In fact, some of these things aren’t even boats, but just

huge barges anchored to the shore. And to add the final insult, some of these are floating in “moats” or pits dug in the floodplains adjacent to the river. The on-shore developments and the boats in moats are most destructive to our floodplains: huge resort hotels, entertainment complexes, massive parking lots. All of this built in the

exact areas where everyone agreed after the Floods of ’93 and ’95 that nothing should be constructed.

But there they are, lined up and down the Missouri River from north of Kansas City to St. Charles—and along the Mississippi from northern Iowa all the way through the state of Mississippi. Multi-million dollar structures placed exactly and precisely in harm’s way—just waiting for the next flood and the next taxpayer bailout. In the meantime, they are prompting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and levee districts to rebuild the protective berms that were overtopped and wiped out in the recent floods.

The Ozark Chapter has made no public judgments about the wisdom of gambling casinos per se—we leave to others the determinations about the morality and social impacts of gambling. We have no objections to actual riverboats—ones that cruise up and down the river. We had some modest concerns about the development of the huge parking lots



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in the floodplain—but if floodwaters cover such areas, no big deal. As long as the developments consisted of a parking lot, a mooring area, and a walkway from the parking lot to the mooring area, we figured that this was fairly benign.

But we did raise major concerns about the massive hotels and other entertainment and related floodplain structures associated with some of the river-based casinos. We asked for public hearings on such developments in Kimmswick, North Kansas City, and in the St. Charles/Riverport area. To no avail. Our appeals for public hearings may as well have been written on toilet paper. The Army Corps of Engineers, the agency responsible for overseeing floodplain developments and granting permits for activities that impact upon the river, has matter-of-factly just rubber-stamped approval for such projects. Every single application by gambling companies for such developments has been approved without exception—and without much oversight.

All of the floodplain developments have been permitted by the Corps even though every project is a direct violation of national policies developed by the U.S. Congress, an Executive Order by the President, and regulations by the state and federal Emergency Management Agencies. The Corps' response to every concern raised by anyone has been to approve the projects and get out of the way.

It is time to recognize that if there are to be no actual riverboats, it is time to stop this charade and allow—no, FORCE—the gambling casinos to locate where they cause the least harm. Let them develop in the abandoned urban cores of St. Louis and the economically depressed areas of Metro East, so they will be closer to those they prey upon. If they must float, locate them in the sewage pits of factory hog operations where the stench of excrement can mix elegantly

with the stench of dirty money.

If these things are not going to be casino showboats, then get them out of the river valleys and the floodplains. No “boats in moats” or barges in pits, please.

These are not boats—they are gambling casinos, pure and simple. There is no reason to continue to pretend, no need to continue the charade. If we are going to have a state policy to allow gambling casinos, fine and dandy. But let's call them what they are and not continue with the illusion or delusion that these are somehow “riverboats.” Either make them cruise and limit the on-shore development to parking lots—or get them out of the floodplain. ■

Chapter ConsCom Report

by Caroline Pufalt

The brave souls of the Ozark Chapter Conservation Committee (ConsCom) met March 1 in Columbia MO to confront the somewhat daunting conservation agenda ahead for 1998. In 1998 Missouri Sierrans will participate in two statewide initiative petition efforts, one on campaign reform and another on local control of billboard numbers and placement. We will also be involved in a voter education campaign regarding environmental issues in the 1998 election, particularly the Missouri Senate race. Later in the year we anticipate encouraging Sierrans to assist in Jay Nixon's effort to unseat Senator Bond. Meanwhile,

the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club will be working full speed ahead to support the referendum against the Page Avenue bridge and highway. Along the way we all need to find time to respond to national issues on forest policy, highway funding, clean air issues, etc. Needless to say, we sometimes leave our meetings feeling both overwhelmed and inspired.

Why are we so busy? One reason is that we understand the breadth of what it means these days to be environmentalists. We realize that, to paraphrase John Muir, 'everything is connected.' Thus, environmentalism, in addition to saving wild places, has grown to encompass pollution, urban sprawl, energy policy, and environmental justice. A topic our board of directors recently dealt with

was just how far the Sierra Club agenda should spread. At our ConsCom meeting Roy Hengerson, a Sierra Club Director, reported on a statement adopted by the board regarding the club's involvement in social issues related to the environment. (*see related article on the next page*)

Other issues we discussed includ-



ConsCom members take a break during the January meeting

ed how to respond to repeated pollution of the Cave Springs Branch River by Simmons Industries in southwestern Missouri. We have been frustrated by the lack of enforcement by our state DNR regarding this situation. We pondered on how to move DNR to action. However, shortly after our March 1 meeting, DNR announced its intention to more closely monitor Simmons and to withhold discharge permits until proper treatment is demonstrated. This is a very encouraging development!

Other problems in southwestern Missouri are related to Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) and food processing. These are problems other Sierra Club groups are dealing with. Bob Rodgers reported on his recent visit with the Southern Plains

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Regional Conservation Committee, whose recent meeting concerned CAFOs. The SPRCC is a regional Sierra Club committee to which we send a non-voting member.

ConsCom members also reviewed the status of legislation in the Missouri State Legislature. We have a legislative committee that has tackled the difficult problem of trying to track bills and help Ken Midkiff evaluate their many metamorphoses. Joe Engeln has admirably chaired this effort.

Ken reported on the Public Service Commission task force meetings on energy deregulation that he and Sierrans Wallace McMullen and Rachel Locke have attended. The

task force will likely not recommend action this year, although it is probable that we will face this issue directly in the future. (*For more information on this important and somewhat complicated issue see Wallace's article in the March/April '98 issue of the Ozark Sierran.*)

Our March meeting was held on the same weekend as the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom), a schedule we will try again. We scheduled our ExCom and ConsCom for the weekend of April 18-19 in Kansas City and June 13-14 in St. Louis. All Sierrans are welcome to attend these meetings and the accompanying social activities. If you are interested, contact your local group or ExCom representative. ■



**You have
more
to give
than you know**

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a specific Club program or to your home chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance contact John Calaway, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, (415)923-5538; or locally, contact Ozark Chapter Planned Giving Officer, Roger Hershey, (816)795-7533.

It's for the Birds

by Rebecca Schedler

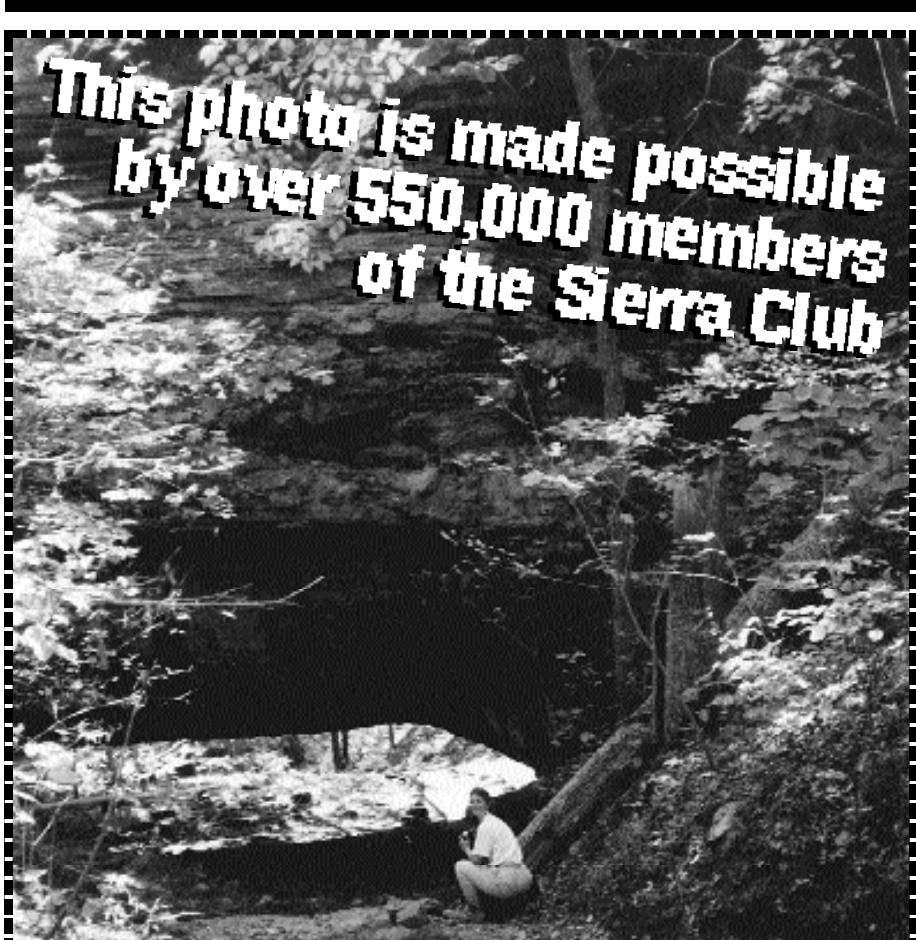
"It's the richest coffee in the world!" That's what Juan Valdez says in the familiar ad for Colombian coffee, and, up until just lately, that may have been true for coffee in other parts of South and Central America too. But now some coffee plantations in Mexico and Central America are going to a different kind of coffee production. The traditional lush green upper story shades the slow growing beans to allow them to ripen with more richness of flavor. Now, growers are cutting the trees to plant a sun resistant strain of coffee that grows and ripens quickly so they can produce it faster, and sell much more. This raises their profit margins.

Unfortunately, there is a serious consequence of this, worse than the fact that the fast growing coffee is probably not the richest coffee in the world anymore. As they are clearing the upper story away to grow coffee in the sun, they are destroying the habitat for many neotropical birds who winter there, and then come to Missouri for the summer. While we are, perhaps, making some strides here toward protecting the habitat for these birds, their habitat is being destroyed at the other end of their journey.

Some of the birds who will be affected by this are the scarlet tanager, bay-breasted warbler, cerulean warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, ovenbird, northern oriole, ruby throated hummingbird, American redstart, bobolink, and wood thrush. Of the birds of North America, 255 species are neotropical migrants. Of those, 110 migrate to the Midwest from the Caribbean Islands, Mexican lowlands, Central America, and South America.

Local members of Sierra Club, Audubon, and other concerned individuals are banding together to implement a campaign to make people aware of this new problem, and to

encourage them to buy certified shade-grown coffee (ECO-O.K.). Eventually, we would like to see it on the shelves of your favorite grocery store. We hope coffee lovers and bird lovers alike will check out shade-grown coffee to prove there's a demand for it, and help to persuade coffee growers to leave the trees for the birds who need them. For more information, contact Kay Stewart, (573)445-0114 or Keet Kopecky, (816)672-2353. ■



Without their commitment to the wild places of this earth, photos like this would be impossible. **Join us!**

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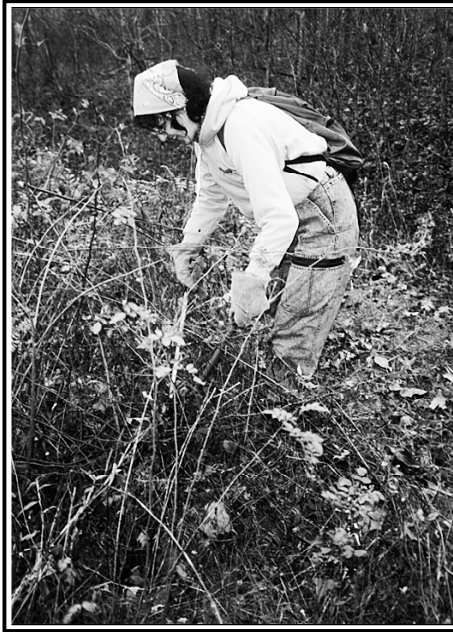
Twenty-Five Years and Going Strong

by Paul Stupperich and Bob Gestel

Over twenty-five years ago, the Eastern Missouri Group put forth much time and effort to build the thirteen mile Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail. From the time of completion to the present the EMG has undertaken the maintenance of this section of trail.

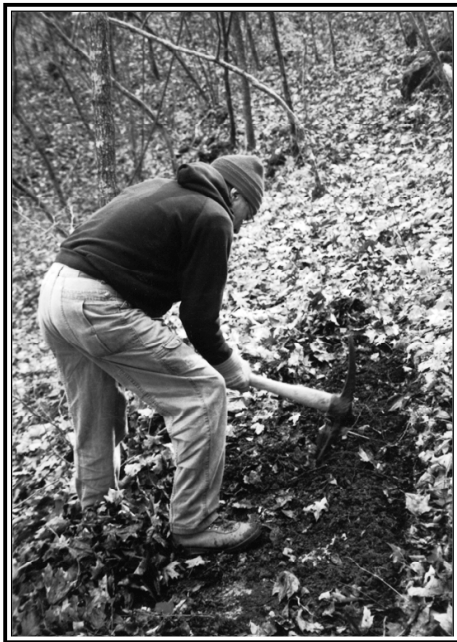
Many trail enthusiasts have contributed their time and effort to make this a great hiking trail. Clyde Anderson, Barbara Wald, Dean and Jennie Hodapp, Penny Holtzmann, Jack Palmer, Daniel Talon, Bill McConnaughey, and many other people have helped with its building and maintainence.

The Blair Creek section is located in the Pioneer Forest, so a special thanks to Leo Dry for graciously allowing the trail to cross his land.



(above) Diane Albright uses a lopper to cut bramble encroaching on the Ozark Trail.

(below) Daniel Talon uses a pulaski to cut a tread in the side of a hill on the Ozark Trail.



photos by Bob Gestel

Also, thanks to Greg Iffrig for his many hours of help over the years.

Even though trail maintenance is never completed, we are now well ahead of schedule. We are ready to start the first of two connector trails to Blair Creek to form a loop of about ten miles from Himont tower site to the Ozark Trail and back to Himont.

So, come and join us to help build the north leg of this loop trail, or join us on our other maintenance projects. For information on helping you may leave a message at the EMG office (314)909-0890 or call Bob Gestel at (314)296-8975. For more information about the Blair Creek section of the Ozark trail and other Missouri trails visit:

<http://members.aol.com/TomSaukMt/TomSauk.htm> ■

OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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

Eastern Missouri Group

May 1-3 (Fri-Sun) *Prairie State Park.* Easy backpack on the prairie. We will visit other nearby prairies. Kathy Wodell and Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

May 2-3 (Sat-Sun) *Minimal overnight backpack trip.* Backpacking the way it 'otta' to be. We will pack in to Shutin Creek where there is plenty of water and we can have a campfire. Hint. You won't need a stove. Elmer McNulty, (314)965-3181, or Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975.

May 2-3 (Sat-Sun) *Overnight canoe trip on the Jack's Fork river.* Gravel bar camping for self-sufficient canoeists. Seasonal gear required. Optional camping Friday night. Jo Aerne, (314)664-8299, or Colin Maag, (314)772-7946.

May 2-3 (Sat-Sun) *Backpack trip at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.* We will follow a new backpack trail with some possible cross country. Limit 12. Stacy Bernard, (314)965-9624.

May 3 (Sun) *Day canoe trip on the Meramec River.* Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314)434-2072.

May 8 (Fri) *"Spring has sprung. The grass is 'riz. Let's see where the wildflowers is."* Arboretum hike. Your choice of three miles or continue for six miles. Dick Klosterman, (314)776-1339, and Suzanne Smith.

May 9 (Sat) *Basic training for new trail maintainers at Cuivre River State Park.* If you thought trail maintenance was too much like work, come out for just a day or a half-day and find out that it's fun. Experts will show you how. Call Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975.

May 9 (Sat) *Highway Cleanup.* Join us on a section of Highway 40. You wouldn't want your mom to see it this messy on her day tomorrow! Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

May 9 (Sat) *Breakfast and hike.* Meet for a country-type breakfast and go for a hike to see the wild azaleas at Pickle Creek natural area and Hawn State Park. Good hike for beginners. Opportunity

to do 2-8 miles. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

May 9 (Sat) *Green Rock Trail hike* from Fox Creek Rd. (Hwy. 44) to Rockwoods

Reservation. 10 miles. Some steep hills and rocky trail sections. Hey! This hike is not going to go away and it's your turn to go. You know who you are. Steve Viggers, (314)984-8752.

May 10 (Sun) *Canoe float on the Mineral Fork,* a seldom paddled stream close to St. Louis. Colin Maag, (314)772-7946, or Kevin Hunter, (314)544-5157.

May 15 (Fri) *Day hike* on Rockwoods wildflower loop and other trails. Optional mid afternoon lunch in Eureka. Dick Klosterman, (314)776-1339, and Suzanne Smith.

May 16 (Sat) *Tour de bluff.* Bike ride on top of and below the bluff of the American Bottoms. Illinois' earliest settlement area where natural beauty and history abound. 15-20 miles at a moderate pace with frequent stops. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

May 16 (Sat) *Kaintuck Trail hike near Rolla.* This trail has been rarely, if ever, hiked by the Sierra Club. See a spring with a 3 million gallon a day flow and a 175 foot natural rock tunnel. 6-8 miles. Several creek crossings. Steve Viggers, (314)984-8752.

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Outings Continued

May 16 (Sat) Day float on the Huzzah creek. Jim Rhodes, (314)821-7758.

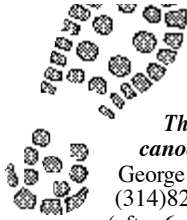
May 16-17 (Sat-Sun) Earth Day. Enjoy the Earth Day festivities and help the Sierra Club raise funds for local environmental work. We will be squeezing fresh lemonade and making veggie burgers. If you can donate a couple of hours of your time call Linda Horn, (314)352-7529, or Jim Young, (314)664-9392.

May 17 (Sun) 1:00 p.m. Virginia Day Memorial Outing at the Cochran Picnic Shelter in Babler State Park. Come share your memories of Virginia with her friends. Brief

speaker followed by short open microphone.

Some refreshments provided. Outing will include a hike on a trail constructed by Sierra Club volunteers under Virginia's leadership. Please bring mementos of Virginia to display. We are looking for a good photo or negative to enlarge and display. George Behrens (after 6 p.m.), (314)821-0247, or Sue King, (314)776-9276.

May 23 (Sat) Wildflowers! Wildflowers! Wildflowers! We will visit Valley View glade and other nearby areas where flowers will abound. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.



May 23-25 (Sat-Mon)

Three day canoe trip.

George Behrens, (314)821-0247 (after 6 p.m. only).

May 24 (Sun) Wildflower hike on a glade to be determined at a later date. Bring field guide or camera. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

May 25 (Mon) Bell Mountain.

A hike to the southern end of Bell Mountain. Great view of our Ozark landscape. Limit 15. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

May 25 (Mon) Memorial Day. Experience the newly restored wetlands area on the east side of the Arboretum. Bring binoculars for bird watching and your Missouri Botanical Garden membership card or \$3 for entrance fee. Easy mid-day walk. Marsha Armentrout, (314)892-4279.

Jun 3 (Wed) CPR training/recertification. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Crestwood Fire Dept. Ann Eggebrecht, (314)725-1560.

Jun 6 (Sat) Fults Hill hill-top prairie hike. We will hike the "mountains" of Illinois, or would you believe, we'll go up and down the river bluff several times. We will have lunch on top of the bluff overlooking the wetlands of Kidd Lake and the historical Fort de Chartres. The Fort will be having its annual 18th century rendezvous which could be an optional trip after lunch. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

Jun 7 (Sun) Canoe day trip on the Little Piney river or Courtois creek. Jonathan Lehmann, (314)991-3969.

Jun 12 (Fri) Watch the sunset with the coneflowers at Valley View glade. Jennie Peth, (314)843-0205, or Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

Jun 13 (Sat) Highway Cleanup. What finer time is there to pick up trash than when the yuccas and the purple coneflowers are in bloom? Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

Jun 14 (Sun) Green-Rock n roll. Let's hike half of this local 10 mile trail. Wayne Miller, (314)569-0094.

continued on next page

May 30-31 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail at Blair Creek. Our last maintenance outing until fall. We should still be able to see wildflowers along the trail. Common commissary Saturday night. Menu suggestions welcome. Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975.



Outings Continued

Jun 20 (Sat) Hike Amidon Shut ins and cool off in the Castor River. Explore glade restoration. Steve Finch, (314)644-2553, or Elmer McNulty, (314)965-3181.

Jun 21 (Sun) Canoe Clinic on the Big River. Can you do a J-stroke, a sweep, a draw? Experienced paddlers will teach you how along with safe floating. Tandem and solo instructions. Canoe rentals available. Diane Albright, 966-3645, and Elmer McNulty, (314)965-3181.

Jun 21 (Sun) The 4th annual afternoon solstice hike at Forest Park. Limit 15. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

Jun 27-28 (Sat-Sun) Overnight canoe trip on a stream to be announced (probably the Eleven Point or the North Fork). This trip has also been published in the newsletters of the MWA and the AYH. Colin Maag, (314)772-7946.

Jul 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Fair St. Louis. This is our most important fund raiser of the year. It's fun and a great opportunity to make new friends in the Sierra Club. Join us for a couple of hours making and selling fresh lemonade and pretzels and see the Fair, the air shows, or the fireworks. We have several booths that are open all day and need a very large number of volunteers. We also need help on Thursday, July 2, to set up the booths, and on Monday, July 6, for the take down party. If you can help, call Linda Horn, (314)353-7529, or Jim Young, (314)664-9392.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

May 2 (Sat) Tour Historic Watkins Mill. Scenic beauty, a steam-powered Civil War-era woolen mill, delightful weather—this trip has it all. Anne McDonald, (913)441-2449.

May 3 (Sun) Day Hike at Lake Jacomo. Not a long drive, but a long way from the concrete jungle. Claus Wawrzinek, (816)561-7863.

May 5 (Tue) 6-8 p.m. Green Building Tour: The 20 W. 9th (New York Life) Building. This recently restored building has received numerous national awards for historic preservation, its energy efficiency, and sustainable design. The cost of the tour is \$5 and is limited to 40 participants. Call Claus Wawrzinek for more information at (816)561-7863.

May 9 (Sat) Day Hike at Monkey Mountain Park. Celebrate emergence of late spring wildflowers at this nearby park. Wear waterproof boots in case spring rains have soaked the paths. Keet Kopecky, (816)966-9544.

May 16-17 (Sat-Sun) Backpack in the Flint Hills. Short enough for beginners but beautiful enough for experienced backpackers. Join us for our annual hike through the scenic Flint Hills outside Beaumont, Kansas, Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

May 30 (Sat.) Get your legs in shape for summer hiking! Join us for a ten mile hike and bird watching trip at Squaw Creek Wildlife

Refuge. Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708.

Jun. 2 (Tue) Way to Go Day. Transportation related outdoor exhibit in the downtown area. Call Ron McLinden for more details, (816)931-0498

Jun. 5 (Fri) Bike Streamway Trail. In honor of National Trails Day, we're going to ride bikes for about 20 leisurely miles along the Streamway Trail, with lunch on Nelson's Island. Jeff Pierce, (913)599-3966.

Jun. 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Visit Cahokia Mounds. Camp overnight or return the same day from this historic site near St. Louis. Ana Royal, (816)531-2371.

Jun. 20 (Sat) Summer Solstice Campout. Location to be announced. Claus Wawrzinek, (816)561-7863.

Jun. 25 (Thu) An Evening at the Kansas City Zoo. Enjoy the giant-screen IMAX Theater, then visit the animals at disk. Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

Trail of Tears Group

May 3 (Sun) Wildflower hike at Little Grand Canyon in the Shawnee National Forest in S. Illinois. Meet at the Cape Girardeau Public Library parking lot at 8:50 a.m. for the three to four mile round trip hike. Bring a sack lunch. We should be back by mid-afternoon. Brian Alworth, (573)334-7978.

Ozark Chapter / Sierra Club
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