

OZARK ONE EARTH SIERRA ONE CHANGE SIERRA

VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 5 JULY / AUGUST 1998



*Puree of Used-to-be-Ozark-Forest anyone?
See Caroline's latest update on
chip mills on page 3.*

photo by Caroline Pufalt

INSIDE	
• Chip Mills & Forest Management	7
• Other Education	57
• Chapter Staff Report	7
• Chapter ConsCom Report	11
• Transportation Issues	13-15
• Cuttings	20-23

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Oooops! This is the second issue of the *OZARK SIERRAN* in a row that you have received inexcusably late. It has been *entirely* MY FAULT, and I *sincerely* apologize! If there's anyone out there (especially in the KC area) who would like to be a backup desktop publisher for the *OZARK SIERRAN*, please let me know: (816)822-8136. Barb Conover

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. Pleease: 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**

Chip Mills Focus Attention on Forest Management Choices

by Caroline Pufalt

It was like a tale of two cities, but it was two forests of stark contrast. It was the best of times or the worst of times, depending on your view of chip mills. About 30 citizens (including me) and public officials were guests on a tour of two forests sponsored by the Pioneer Forest. The two forest sites we visited were one in the Pioneer Forest and another nearby privately owned tract.

Pioneer Forest is a privately owned "working" forest, owned by Leo Drey, a well known Missouri conservationist. It is managed for timber through "uneven-aged management"—an approach in which individual trees or small groups of trees are cut. This method leaves a continuous, healthy, forested landscape—as well as providing timber. The site we visited displayed a variety of tree ages and sizes, with only a few scattered stumps among the understory.

The other site we visited had been clearcut. There, many acres lay in what could be called "ruins." A few very small irregularly spaced trees were left standing (some barely standing), damage from logging vehicles was evident. Although brush and discarded

tree tops lay about, the exposed ground was definitely more susceptible to erosion without a multi-layered forest canopy to soften the blow of future rains.

No one in the group spoke favorably of the clearcut site.

Everyone agreed that a professionally managed timber harvest would not have left the results we saw. But Clint Trammel, chief forester at Pioneer Forest, said the purpose of the visit to that site was to point out that this was the type of forest management that an expanded chip mill presence is likely to produce.

Despite our agreement that the clearcut was a poorly managed site, the tour participants were a diverse group, and our agreement did not extend to solutions. We did agree that the fragmented and transitory nature of land ownership in Missouri presents problems.

Most of Missouri's timber comes from privately owned land. And the ownership of that land changes frequently (every seven years was the figure quoted). Imagine talking to a short term landowner about 80 year rotations or the long term economic and environmental advantages of careful selection logging, and one

cont'd on page 4... "Chip Mills"

No one... spoke favorably of the clearcut site... a professionally managed timber harvest would not have left the results we saw. But... this was the type of forest management that an expanded chip mill presence is likely to produce.

Dates You Need to Know

- 8/1** Sept/Oct Ozark Sierran Deadline; contact Bob Sherrick (816) 779-6708
- 8/15** Chapter ConsCom meeting Cape Girardeau, MO; contact Caroline Pufalt (314) 878-3165
- 8/16** Chapter ExCom meeting Cape Girardeau, MO; contact Keet Kopecky (816) 966-9544

Chip Mills cont'd from page 3

quickly understands why the lure of the fast dollar via clearcutting is tempting.

Some participants spoke favorably of chip mills as a way for landowners to earn money by thinning their forests. Thinning is often very useful in improving timber quality but it is traditionally difficult to sell the small logs resulting from a thinning. Representatives from the Missouri Department of Conservation pointed out that chip mills can provide a market for that thinning. But others felt it was just as likely, if not more so, for chip mills to encourage the easy clearcut that produces more volume and cash in the short run.

The chip mills moving into Missouri are high capacity chip mills owned by large corporations. They are not locally owned businesses which would more likely have a stake in the long term productivity of Missouri's forests. They are not coming to Missouri to help our state. They are coming here to



The Wilamette chip mill at Mill Springs sets its sights on Ozark forests. It has just started operations, and may not even be at full capacity yet.

photos by Caroline Pufalt



help themselves. We should be wary of their promises and promotions. They represent a new force in Missouri.

Tour participants agreed that landowner education is a useful and necessary approach. But we disagreed on how much to depend on that process. The Missouri Department of Conservation has provided professional forestry advice to Missourians for many years. Yet the great majority of private timber sales in the state are conducted without a professional management plan.

Demand for paper is increasing. High capacity chip mills are moving into Missouri. Do we have time to wait for education alone to cope with these pressures?

My personal conclusion is "no." Missouri has no forestry regulations, not even minimal ones to protect streamsides and prevent impacts such as erosion to neighbors' property. We do have a modest tax incentive which enables landowners to avoid tax drawbacks when holding timbered land. But I think the time has come to look at additional protections. Many tour participants spoke against any regulations that inhibit what landowners do with their own land, and no one wants unnecessary

cont'd on page 5...

"Chip Mills"

Chip Mills cont'd from page 4

legislation. But if Missourians manage their forested land for timber production, as well as other amenities, why not have guidelines requiring responsible

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management in the form of minimum protection for the environment and for one's neighbors? Not to do so may result in loss of the forests that enhance and define the Ozark region. ■

Record Shows Bond Still No Environmentalist

by Rachel Locke:

Ozark Chapter Environmental Voter Education Coordinator

Part of the Environmental Voter Education Campaign includes updates on what U.S. Senator Christopher Bond has been doing in Washington, D.C. This article discusses: 1) Clean Water vote; 2) Superfund Reauthorization votes; 3) revelation of misuse of federal funds by an organization to which Senator Bond apparently has strong ties; and 4) helpful things Senator Bond can do in the next couple of months.

Clean Water

On April 2, Senator Bond and 51 other members of the U.S. Senate voted against funding the President's Clean Water Initiative. Bond voted to reject an amendment that would have restored funding for the Clean Water Action Plan and other major environmental priorities.

The Clean Water Action Plan would have protected drinking water, lakes, and rivers from the growing threat posed by polluted runoff from farms and cities. It would also have worked to achieve a net gain of 100,000 acres of wetlands per year by the year 2005. Didn't we learn how important wetlands are for reducing flooding during the flood of 1993?

Superfund Reauthorization

Senator Bond sits on the Environment and Public Works committee, which on March 26 debated S.8, a bill to "reform" and reauthorize Superfund. S.8 has been strongly opposed by the environmental community, including the Sierra Club. S.8 would repeal the existing requirements for permanent remedies and treatment of the most severely contaminated sites, allow clean ground water to get dirty, give preference to cheap—rather than effective—site restoration, and undermine the "polluter pays" principal.

During committee debate, three pro-environment amendments were proposed. Senator Bond voted against all three amendments. He then voted to pass the environmentally unfriendly S.8 out of committee.

Many wonder how Senator Bond can be so careless about toxic waste when the legendary Times Beach site is in his home state.

A report released recently by the Missouri Public Interest Research Group (MoPIRG), "Polluter Pay-Off - the Multi-Million Dollar Campaign to Roll Back Superfund," may shed some light on this ironic situation. The report shows that Senator Bond, receiving \$568,733 between 1991 and

cont'd on page 6... "Sen. Bond"

Sen. Bond cont'd from page 5

1998, was the third largest Senate recipient of Political Action Committee money from companies that are actively working to rollback Superfund. And what a surprise: members of the Environment and Public Works committee who supported S.8 received significantly more money than those who voted against S.8 (averages of \$302,054 vs \$165,930).

Sen. Bond and the National Rural Water Association

On Earth Day 1997, the National Rural Water Association gave Senator Bond its "Green Key" award for "his outstanding contributions to environmental protection in rural America." At the time, many bona fide environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, expressed serious doubts that this award was genuine. Bond's overall rating from the League of Conservation Voters was less than 10% and he had recently voted for less-stringent regulations on small water systems.

A report issued March 31, 1998 by the EPA's Office of the Inspector General may shed some light on this odd situation. The OIG report revealed that \$2.3 million of the \$16 million in federal tax dollars the National Rural Water Association received in 1996 was illegally used to further its legislative agenda and support its Political Action Committee.

U.S. law prohibits using federal appropriations to cover the costs associated with most kinds of lobbying activities or to influence federal officials or Congress in connection with the reward or renewal of federal assistance (i.e. you can't use federal money to try to get yourself more federal money).

Although the National Rural Water Association main function is to support small rural water systems, its primary legislative agenda is to lobby

for less stringent regulations on these systems.

The federal moneys the Rural Water Association receives are part of the EPA appropriation. Senator Bond chairs the subcommittee that sets that appropriation. Through his position as chairman, therefore, Bond has considerable control over the amount of funding EPA receives and how that funding can be used.

For each of the years 1995-'98, Bond received a \$1000 contribution from the National Rural Water Association's PAC.

When questioned, Bond responded that he will look into the OIG report when the Rural Water Association's request for federal tax money again comes before his subcommittee.

Helpful Things Sen. Bond Can Do Soon

In the next couple of months, the EPA budget will come before Bond's subcommittee. During the budget debate, he can actively work to restore funding for the Clean Water Action Plan. Bond can also investigate the use of tax money by the National Rural Water Association. And he should reconsider his position and vote against S.8.

Senator Bond's recent votes continue an eleven year pattern of votes against the environment and public health.

Summary

Senator Bond's recent votes continue an eleven year pattern of votes against the environment and public health. Senator Bond needs to be held accountable for his actions. Call Senator Bond at (202)224-5721 and tell him that in upcoming budget bills you want him to use his votes to protect wetlands, to reconsider his support of S.8 (Superfund should protect citizens, not business profits), and to use his subcommittee chair position to support responsible use of EPA appropriations and reject pressure to allocate funds in an inappropriate or illegal manner. ■

Environmental Voter Education Campaign Update:

Senator Bond Attends Earth Day Festival (with Sierra Club's help)

by Rachel Locke

To the surprise of many, U.S. Senator Christopher Bond attended this year's Earth Day Community Festival in St. Louis. It's true... at least in part. The *head* of Senator Bond—eight feet in size—did grace the May 16th St. Louis Earth Day Festival. His chickenwire "brain" was open to receive visitors' postcards urging him to protect wetlands in upcoming budget bills. However, the rest of Senator Bond was nowhere to be seen.

The Chapter's new *Environmental Voter Education Campaign* has been busy and visible in the media during the last two months.

Staff and volunteers kicked off the new *Urban Hiking Program* at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival with 15 volunteers dropping 1,200 leaflets about Senator Bond's environmental record on the doorsteps of voters in St. Louis county. We also got 193 festival visitors to sign postcards to Senator Bond asking him to vote to protect wetlands in upcoming budget bills.

With help from the National Sierra Club, the Chapter's *Voter Education Campaign* began running radio ads spotlighting Senator Bond's recent vote against wetlands protection. During three weeks in May, 129 radio spots ran on three St. Louis area stations (KYKY, KEZK, and WIL). In the ad, Matt Bollinger, a Sierra Club volunteer, discussed the futile efforts of sandbaggers to hold back the river DesPeres during the flood of 1993 and how Senator Bond voted against funding a program that would have helped restore 100,000 acres of wetlands.

The radio ads—combined with the Club's Earth Day announcement that it plans to inform thousands of voters about Senator Bond's poor environmental record—attracted significant media attention. The Club and our *Voter Education Campaign* were the subject of a TV story on St. Louis Channel 30 (ABC), an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch "Sierra Club is running campaign against Bond, citing his voting record", and a radio news story on KMOX (one of the largest radio news stations in St. Louis). As *Voter Education Campaign* organizer, I also gave interviews to radio station KTRS and to Missouri Network News.

All of these efforts have been designed to instruct voters about Senator Bond's consistent record of votes against clean water, clean drinking water, protection of wetlands, and strong environmental safeguards against toxic pollution. Senator Bond needs to be held accountable for his actions against the environment and public health.

Bond's constituents need to let him know that in upcoming budget bills we want him to vote for protection of the environment—for our families and for our future.

Although the *Voter Education Campaign* activities up to this date have been focused in St. Louis, the *Campaign* will soon reach statewide. If you want to be part of the excitement, contact me, Rachel Locke, the Chapter's Voter Education Coordinator, at (314)771-2861 or at rachel.locke@sierraclub.org. ■

Citizen's Lead School "Second Semester"

by Caroline Pufalt

Missouri has the misfortune to be the world's largest lead producer. Some people may disagree with the term misfortune, but had they attended the Citizen's Lead School they surely would have recognized the lead industry is at best a mixed blessing. The "school" consisted of two Saturdays (two speakers on each day) regarding various aspects of the lead industry—and its social, economic, environmental, and health impacts. In the last issue of the *Ozark Sierran* I reported on the first two speakers who ably discussed economic and environmental impacts. The

second two presenters helped complete the picture by discussing the health impacts of lead, and examining a Superfund site in Missouri related to the lead industry.

Fernando Serrano spoke regarding the health effects of lead. Serrano studies at the School of Public Health, St. Louis University, and has participated in recent studies of lead levels in children in some of Missouri's lead mining communities. Unlike some elements which the human body needs in small doses but can be harmful in larger ones, lead serves no positive purpose in the body at any level. In fact, lead is highly dangerous in the body and should be considered a poison.

Serrano instructed us that lead can be absorbed by breath or ingestion. After exposure, lead remains in the blood for several months. But

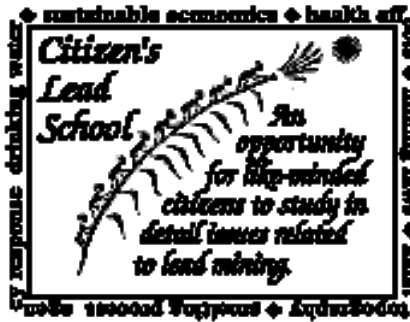
lead often migrates to the bones where it can remain for decades. Since blood levels are transitory, bone tests provide an important component to health evaluation. Once in the body, lead rarely leaves without causing some damage. Kidneys may be damaged through efforts to filter lead. Lead can cause high blood pressure, decreased fertility, miscarriages, dizziness, joint pain, brain damage, loss of IQ, and even death.

The amount of damage corresponds to the amount of exposure, with one important and tragic exception: lead affects children more readily than adults. This tragedy unfolds two ways. Children absorb a greater percentage of lead they are exposed to than do

adults. And lower levels of lead affect children more profoundly than adults. Lead replaces calcium in bones and iron in blood, and children's growing bodies are greatly harmed. Lead causes nerve damage and may permanently lower IQ. There is growing evidence that lead poisoning may lead to overall behavioral problems in children that follow them into adulthood.

These tragic consequences have led to efforts to remove lead from the environment by requiring unleaded gasoline and unleaded paint. Unfortunately lead in old paint and in dust and soil still plague children across the country. In Missouri that problem is greatly magnified in communities that mine lead. Children living in older homes in those

cont'd on page 9... "Lead School"



Lead School cont'd from page 8

communities face the usual risks from old lead paint, but lead levels in the dust they breathe and soil they play in are higher. They could even be exposed through clothing worn by parents who work in the lead industry. Serrano and others at SLU are working to understand and assist communities facing these special problems.

The Lead School's second speaker, Dave Mosby of MDNR, provided a look at one area of Missouri that has been affected by past lead mining. Mosby works on the state's largest Superfund site, which is in Jasper County in southwest Missouri. The site is part of a larger tri-state mining area—including parts of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma—that is contaminated by old lead and zinc mines. It includes many mine sites and mine-waste sites (often called tailings sites), and each needs to be evaluated in terms of geology, level of contamination, proximity to communities, groundwater sources, etc. Although many of the old mines

were shallow by today's standards, they were deep enough to often affect groundwater. Thus, planning and carrying out recovery of this Superfund site is a complicated, long range effort. Mosby has already spent several years of his professional career at the site and is dedicated to applying more of his efforts.

Mosby explained some of the compounds lead often forms, and explained the relevance to contemporary clean up and exposure issues. Lead is an element, "Pb" being the periodic table symbol. But like most elements, lead is rarely found in nature in pure form, but more commonly found in a compound. Lead sulfide is the compound that is most often mined. While that compound is not easily bio-available (i.e. available to animal, including human, consumption), it can change into compounds that are. For example, in Missouri's limestone rich environment lead carbonate is often formed. That compound is very bio-available. This makes contamination of dust and soil in lead mining communities a direct threat to human health. ■

Staff Report: *Capsule Comments*

by Ken Midkiff

State Legislation

The legislative session which ended on May 15, was notable for its lack of partisan bickering. Bills that the Chapter supported (Safe Drinking Water, Lead Remediation, and a few minor bills) passed and will presumably be signed into law by Governor Carnahan. A number of bills that we opposed failed to even



reach the floors of the House and Senate: most died in committees some never even received a hearing thanks to deep and broad opposition. One example is the "Agricultural Products and Producers Disparagement Act" (aka "Veggie Libel"). It was lambasted by the media, family farmers, organic growers, free speech/free press

cont'd on page 10... "Staff Report"

Staff Report cont'd from page 9

advocates, trial attorneys... and folks with just good common sense, and a true sense of American values. The bill quietly languished in committee and was never scheduled for a hearing.

Clean Water

According to the federal Clean Water Act, each state was to have assessed the water quality of all rivers, streams, and lakes, and established the "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) for each water body that did not meet water quality standards—by 1981. This TMDL standard would then dictate the amount of pollution allowed by industries and residential and municipal wastewater treatment systems in each impaired water body. Having missed this deadline by 17 years, the U.S. EPA has (as a result of lawsuits brought by the Sierra Club and other organizations) directed the states to immediately prepare a list of water quality impaired waters under the provisions of Section 303d of the Clean Water Act, to list priorities for cleanups, and establish a schedule for addressing TMDLs.

About three months ago, the Missouri DNR sent out its draft list that included 69 rivers, streams, and lakes that they deemed as not meeting water quality standards for public comment. The Chapter proposed, along with several Stream Teams, an additional 62 streams to be added to that list. We based this on the records of several state and federal agencies, records of spills and fish kills, and data collected by state and EPA-certified volunteer water quality monitors in the Stream Teams.

MDNR accepted 19 of our 62 proposed streams, and submitted the amended list to the Clean Water Commission... where it was rejected for failure to include many of our "unaccepted" proposed additions!

We are currently negotiating with MDNR and EPA about the inclusion of these streams—and we anticipate that we will prevail on most of them.

Corporate Swine and the National Press

As I write this, I am in Washington, D.C., participating in a conference on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) sponsored by the Sierra Club's Midwest Regional Conservation Committee and the Clean Water Network. The national Sierra Club, with the full support of national family farm, sustainable agriculture, and other national environmental organizations, is calling for a moratorium on any permits for new CAFOs *until* the state regulatory agencies and EPA can address the ones in operation now. EPA admits that there are 'thousands and thousands' of unpermitted and unregulated CAFOs throughout the country. Speaking at the Sierra Club's D.C. press conference calling for the moratorium—and for stronger standards—were Kathryn Hohmann of the Club's D.C. office, Hank Graddy of Kentucky, Bill Berry of Oklahoma, Albert Midoux of southwest Missouri, Maryland's Secretary of the Environment Jane Nishida... and me.

State Forestry Practices

The Ozark Chapter has received a grant to conduct a study of forestry practices on lands owned or managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Sherrie Hansen, who previously served as the Chapter's National Forest intern, has been employed for the summer to conduct this study.

Rural Organizing

We have also received a grant to intensify our campaign to organize and mobilize family farmers and rural residents whose areas/communities are being threatened by air and water pollution and by land abuse. Scott Dye, a veteran of the northern Missouri CAFO battles, has been employed to head this campaign. Scott and his mother have a farm in Putnam County, which has been in continuous

cont'd on page 11... "Staff Report"

Staff Report cont'd from page 10

ownership by their family for 118 years.

Lead Mining Permits

There is not much news about the exploratory drilling applications by the Doe Run lead mining company on Forest Service lands (*our* lands) near the Eleven Point River. While in D.C., I met with each Missouri Congressional delegate, and several federal officials, including Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons,

various EPA personnel, and Department of Interior officials—to take our concerns to the highest levels of the agencies in charge of approving or denying these applications.

Get Me Outta Here!!

By the time you read this, I will be happily back in Missouri. I don't know how anyone survives in this town (Washington, D.C.) and preserves their sanity. On second thought, maybe they don't... that could go a long way to explain some of the bizarre actions taken by Congress and the agencies! ■

Chapter ConsCom Meeting

by *Caroline Pufalt*

Our Chapter Conservation Committee met Saturday, April 18 at Longview College in the greater Kansas City area. The meeting took place on the weekend of Earth Day festivities in Kansas City, so several members started the day by participating in a "Walk for the Planet" at the Kansas City Zoo. We got down to business in the afternoon to discuss the Chapter's conservation activities.

Chapter staff Ken Midkiff reported on success in encouraging greater oversight of Simmons poultry in southwestern Missouri. Simmons has been linked to water pollution in that area of the state and in Oklahoma.

We also heard from Ken about Missouri's Utility Deregulation Commission draft report. At this writing, the commission was unable to reach a consensus on language regarding alternative and renewable energy sources, and the topic of what is called "stranded costs." Stranded costs are the expenses estimated by the nuclear industry will incur due to regulation changes. It is not surprising that several items remain unresolved at

this point in time. This summer our chapter will be reviewing some of the issues raised by the commission's work.

Missouri, like many other states, is behind in compliance with the provision of the 1972 Clean Water Act which requires evaluation and rating of the state's waters. Missouri's Department of Natural Resources is working on this process. Our chapter has commented and encouraged the expansion of the current list. (*see the "Clean Water" section in Ken's Staff Report in this issue for details*)

We also discussed the potential of filing a 60-day notice to sue the EPA for not enforcing the Clean Air Act in the St. Louis area, which continues to be 'out of compliance' with the Clean Air Act. Since our April meeting, the Sierra Club has joined other groups to file such a notice. This strong action is the result of several years of delay in the state legislature postponing actions needed to reduce ozone and other pollutants in the St. Louis metro area.

Despite our condensed meeting

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

ConsCom cont'd from page 11

time, we covered many other topics, such as a potential moratorium on new chip mill permits, several transportation issues, and the final report on the state legislative session. (see related articles in this issue on these topics)

Our meeting concluded with a delicious potluck dinner hosted by the THB Group, at Chapter Chair Keet Kopecky's. Our meetings, and especially our potlucks, are open to all Sierrans. We'll meet August 15 in Cape Girardeau. Contact your Group's Chapter Rep. or any other officer for information about our meetings. ■

Tribute To An Active Volunteer

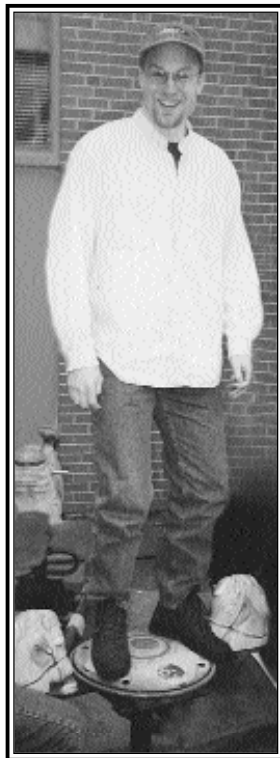
by Ken Midkiff

Chris Hayday and his wife Kelly moved into Columbia about four years ago, so that Kelly could attend the Medical School at the University of Missouri. While Kelly immersed herself in studies, Chris immediately became active in the Sierra Club Osage Group, as well as local politics.

Without much fanfare, he volunteered to be the editor of the *Sage*, the Osage Group newsletter. Then he got elected to the Group ExCom, was appointed as the delegate to the Ozark Chapter ExCom, and eventually won an elected at-large seat.

Young, enthusiastic, and passionate about politics, Chris was designated by the Chapter ExCom to the position of

*Chris Hayday,
during a break at a
recent ConsCom meeting*



Chapter Political Committee Chair, and guided the Chapter through the 1996 elections, including the Club's careful and complicated endorsement procedures.

The Chapter was very active in those elections, running "Independent Expenditure" ads throughout the state to expose the bad records of state

senators and representatives,—and to tout the records of those who were environmental champions.

Chris directed Chapter activity engaging hundreds of our members to campaigning for our endorsed candidates. We were successful in electing or re-electing most (but not quite all) of our candidates.

Chris was also active in the Chapter Legislative Committee, assisting in the development of positions on legislation. He produced the bi-weekly legislation tracking chart that appeared in the *GREEN REPORT*. For the last two years, Chris served as the lobbyist for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment—and was in the Capitol building almost every day that the General

cont'd on page 13...
"Tribute"

Tribute cont'd from page 12

Assembly was in session. Chris was also the Ozark Chapter's delegate to the Midwest Conservation Committee and served as MRCC Vice Chair for two years.

Unfortunately for Missouri, but fortunately for the Haydays, Kelly was a very bright medical student and graduated with a sterling academic record. She accepted an internship in Madison, WI... and Chris and Kelly have left the rolling hills of Missouri for a sojourn in the Land of Cheese.

No doubt, Chris will jump into activities with the John Muir Chapter in Wisconsin just as enthusiastically as he did in our chapter. On behalf of the Ozark Chapter here's a deeply-felt "THANK YOU" to Chris for his contributions and efforts on behalf of clean air, clean water, land stewardship, and political accountability.

We hope that Kelly's career will eventually bring the Haydays back to the Show-Me State. Until that happy day, we wish them well in their endeavors. ■

ISTEA Deal Finalized *Congress to Send Bill to President*

by Ginger Harris

House and Senate conferees on ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) reauthorization finally agreed to a comprehensive deal on a \$210 billion legislative package on Thursday, May 21. They worked around the clock to iron out hundreds of provisions and spending formulas, in order to bring ISTEA to a final vote in both chambers on Friday (May 22) and send it to the President by the time congressional members recessed for the Memorial Day break.

While few reliable reports were available at the beginning of the week, by Tuesday (May 19) details emerged that indicated substantial progress, including protection of several provisions of vital importance to transportation reform advocates. Central to the final compromise was the budgetary treatment of highway and transit programs. Negotiators finally agreed on provisions to ensure "guaranteed spending" for both, with six year spending totaling \$167.1

billion for highways and \$36.3 billion for transit. While the compromise final number for mass transit funding was lower than that contained in the Senate's version of the bill, in reality it will allow a *higher* amount of spending on mass transit because the expenditures are *guaranteed*. Mass transit has always suffered through the annual appropriations process under ISTEA (98% of all highway funds authorized were actually appropriated vs 76% of transit funds). And, \$4 billion of transit funding is subject to appropriations.

In addition to protection—and in some cases strengthening—of the bill's planning language reported several weeks ago, other selected highlights of the ISTEA deal include:

- 1) elimination of the House provisions for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) pilot projects and other language weakening basic federal environmental reviews;
- 2) adoption of the transit commute benefit provision in the Senate bill;

cont'd on page 14... "ISTEA"

ISTEA cont'd from page 13

- 3) elimination of language making Amtrak eligible for Surface Transportation Program and National Highway System highway funds, although the railroad will be eligible for CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) monies;
- 4) retention of ISTEAs Bridge Repair Program that continues requirements for basic maintenance of the nation's bridges;
- 5) inclusion of \$7 billion in House demonstration project funds with an additional \$2 billion for Senate projects;
- 6) CMAQ and Enhancement Programs are protected at FY97 and FY96 levels, respectively, with 50% of the growth transferable;
- 7) elimination of a provision to reopen the new ISTEAs in three years;
- 8) elimination of language to take the trust funds "off budget" that would have severely impacted other federal programs;
- 9) inclusion of a pilot transportation and land use program from the Senate bill;
- 10) inclusion of "Welfare to Work" programs to bolster transit services and help connect former welfare recipients with employment centers; and
- 11) elimination of the so called "Brownback" railbanking provision.

Unfortunately, additional efforts by congressional members to hamper implementation of the Haze

regulations and to allow motorboats in two lakes in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area were inserted, although other environmental riders were kept out. While citing the overall advances in the bill, major environmental groups

...highway construction industries waged a long and well-funded effort to eliminate funding for mass transit, air quality programs, transportation enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian funds...

However, growing public popularity of ISTEAs newer programs, plus a sustained grassroots campaign involving both citizen groups and local government officials, finally proved to be the difference in protecting and strengthening many of the law's provisions.

called for removal of these riders and challenged Congress to stop attaching unrelated riders to good bills. They asked the President not to approve the bill until these riders were removed.

Transportation reform advocates started a campaign two years ago through the Surface Transportation Policy Project coalition to protect and build upon ISTEAs programs and policies. In contrast, highway construction industries waged a long and well-funded effort to eliminate funding for mass transit, air quality

programs, transportation enhancements, bicycle and pedestrian funds, and provisions for metropolitan and local government involvement as well as public participation. Their attempts to gut ISTEAs were given a boost by the 1994 Republican takeover of Congress and subsequent efforts to eliminate, devolve, or turn most federal programs into block grants administered by newly empowered state agencies. However, growing public popularity of ISTEAs newer programs, plus a sustained grassroots campaign involving both citizen groups and local government officials, finally proved to be the difference in protecting and strengthening many of the 1991 law's provisions.

Detailed information and analysis regarding the ISTEAs deal is available at <http://www.istea.org>. ■

Light Rail in Kansas City Gets Sidetracked

by Ron McLinden

Despite more than five years of serious planning, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority has shut down planning for its proposed light rail transit system. The ATA Board action came on April 15, just two days after the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce concluded that there was 'no community consensus for light rail at this time.'

Local media made much of the continuing efforts to implement commuter rail service from suburban Johnson County, KS, to Union Station in Kansas City.

But light rail and commuter rail serve two different purposes. Light rail is intended to be a catalyst to revitalize the central city, stimulating redevelopment and an urban environment where people can be less dependent on automobiles. The result is that many trips can be shorter (reducing air pollution and congestion) and light rail serves those trips well.

Commuter rail, on the other hand, has the effect of supporting—and in fact rewarding—suburban sprawl. It works best for longer trips, since stops are fewer and farther apart. Commuter rail has little chance of stimulating transit-oriented, mixed-use development, since the existing tracks it would use are in an industrial corridor that developed because of the railroad. Given that, who would want to build—or live in—a transit-oriented

community within walking distance of a rail line that carries 30-40 freight trains a day?

The battle shaping up now is over what to do with the remaining \$1.3 million in federal light rail money, which must spent within the next 27 months (or so) to keep it from going back to Washington. Commuter rail supporters want to grab as much of that money as possible. Central City interests want to see the money spent

on eligible projects that would improve public transit in the "Southtown Corridor," the area of Kansas City that was to be served by light rail.

Meanwhile, with light rail on a sidetrack, emphasis is likely to shift to a "virtual rail" or "bus rapid transit" system that uses buses to simulate the speed and level of transit service that light rail would have provided.

Transit activists of the Sierra Club, Metropolitan Coalition for Sensible Transportation, and other groups are working to see that light rail money is used to improve transit in the center city—where transit works best—not out in the suburbs where it is likely to promote more sprawl. ■

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Short Trips

by Ron McLinden

MoDOT Smart Growth Task Force

In response to the Sierra Club's March presentation to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission, Missouri Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Joe Mickes announced in April the creation of a MoDOT staff task force on Smart Growth. It was to have begun work in June. Indications are that it is getting a lot of interest from MoDOT staff—in fact, a news item about the task force in the June issue of MoDOT's internal newsletter almost makes it sound like Smart Growth is a MoDOT idea. We should chuckle quietly and give them a lot of encouragement. (premise: you can effect change or get credit for effecting change, but usually not both.)

MetroLink Turns Five

MetroLink, the St. Louis light rail system, will be five years old on July 31. Built right under the noses of the skeptics, the line running from East St. Louis to Lambert International Airport has been an unqualified success from Day One. It now carries well over 40,000



passengers daily, well over twice what had been projected. An eastward extension is moving toward construction; a westward extension is being planned; and additional cars are on order. And to top it all off, bus

ridership is also up since the system opened. Happy Birthday, MetroLink!

Not Transit But Neighborhoods

Alan Durning, former staffer at Worldwatch Institute and now of Northwest Environment Watch, closes his e-mail messages with the following line: "Most people believe the alternative to cars is better transit. In truth, it's better neighborhoods." That's a good thought to remember as we advocate public transit. Simply running buses up and down suburban thoroughfares isn't going to significantly reduce traffic and air pollution if there aren't continuous sidewalks, streets that are safe to cross, and front doors of businesses and workplaces that can be reached without trekking across a huge parking lot. Transit, along with walking and cycling, works well where destinations are designed to be reached easily on foot, and where they are built closer together (hint: they don't have to be separated by acres of parking because people can *walk* there). We can *support* such places even if we can't just up and move to one. Simply choose destinations that are built to be pedestrian-friendly... destinations closer to where you live or work... destinations that are located toward the center of your city or town rather than farther away.

Short Trips

All other things being equal, and when we have a choice, we should choose the short trip. If my short trip doesn't intersect your short trip, then we don't experience each other's trips as congestion. And if our short trips do intersect, chances are we might be neighbors, and we might both be on foot. Our intersection might result in a greeting, that leads to conversation, that leads to the building of community. Hooray for short trips! ■

New Bridge Woes for St. Louis

by Claralyn Price-Bollinger

In late May, a trash truck struck the approach to the Poplar Street Bridge in downtown St. Louis, thereby lengthening the commute across the Mississippi River. Also, two westbound lanes on the I-70 Blanchette Bridge over the Missouri River will be closed from May through September, narrowing this bridge to three lanes. Meanwhile, the St. Louis metro region faces another summer of red alerts on air quality as the ozone level rises.


It's no surprise that the MoDOT is hip deep in concrete this summer. However, *adding road capacity with the proposed addition of a ten-lane expansion of Page Avenue across the Missouri River will not aid our congestion woes in the St. Louis region.* Time and time again, roads are built to "ease congestion," yet conversely, these same roads only seem to promote increases in vehicle miles travelled.

The Eastern Missouri Group is continuing to diligently fight the Page Avenue Freeway. The newest twist is the permit MoDOT is seeking to dredge and move 3,000,000 cubic yards of sand out of the Missouri

River to form part of the embankment for the Page Avenue project. The Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment gathered over 400 letters to the Army Corps of Engineers to request a public hearing on this permit. At this writing, these letters had just been submitted to the Corps and the Missouri DNR. We'll let you know what transpires. ■

Legacy

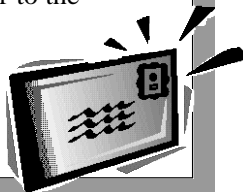
What will yours be? You joined the Sierra Club because you are concerned about the well-being of the Earth. Continue your involvement by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. For more information and confidential assistance contact John Calaway, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second St., 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94109, (415) 923-5538, or locally, contact Roger Hershey (816) 795-7533

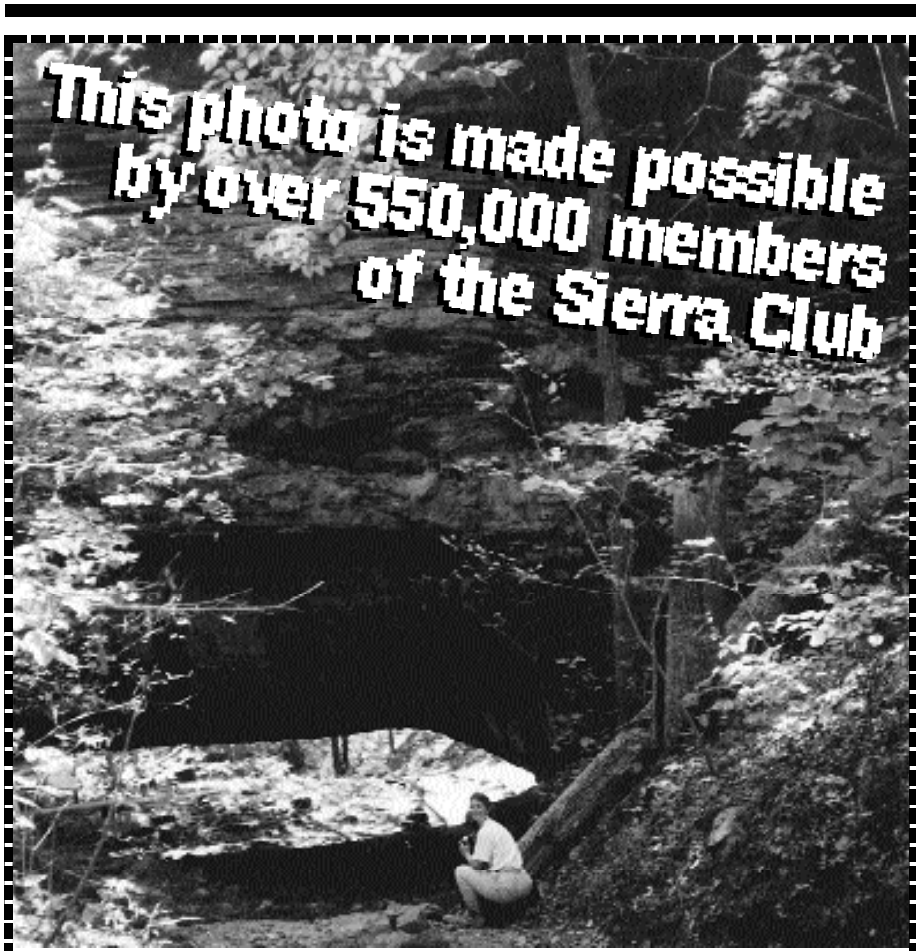


Call to Action:

Write Governor Carnahan and tell him that you are aware voters in St. Louis County will be considering Proposition One in November, and you do not want the route for the Page Avenue Freeway through Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park to be condemned prior to the November vote.

Governor Mel Carnahan
Missouri Capitol Building, Room 216
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0720





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Be a Part of the Action: *Join the Club's Hawaii Activist Outing*

by Vicky Hoover,
*Sierra Club National Activist Outings
Subcommittee Chair*

John Muir believed that the best way to convince people to defend wild areas was to take them out there and let them experience this wild splendor for themselves. This is why Sierra Club Outings were started in 1901. The same educational, inspirational mission still motivates Sierra Club Outings.

National Activist Outings carry this outreach theme even further. They not only show off areas that need help, they train participants to become strong advocates for preservation on their return home!

We proudly offer an outstanding route to Adventure and Advocacy for the end of 1998 as well as a chance to enjoy breathtaking scenic beauty in a very special place while also learning how to preserve it.

Hawaiian Hot Spots is our activist outing to Maui, Hawaii, from November 21–28, 1998. It is not too late to sign up.

Malama Maui (care for Maui) is the theme of this trip to the "Valley Isle." Maui's main water supply—the 'Iao Aquifer—is being taken below sustainable yields due to development of resorts, residential subdivisions, and shopping centers. Proposed development in some areas also threatens native plant, animal and sea life habitats. Trip members will learn about how to preserve the quality of the 'Iao Aquifer. They'll also focus on problems of exploitation of East Maui's rain forest and water resources. They'll enjoy practical hands-on sessions to help eradicate exotic plants and aid in the restoration

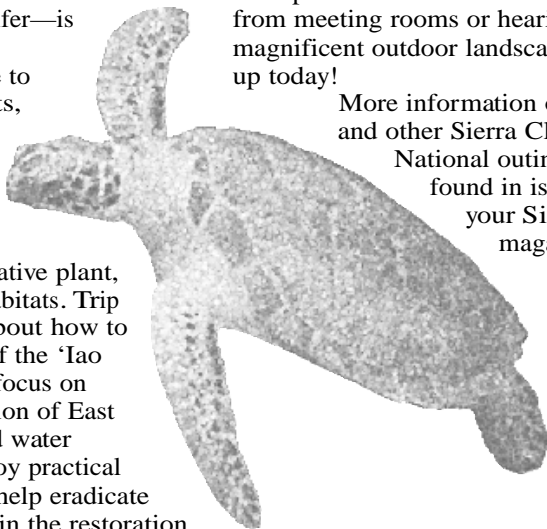
of endangered native plant and wildlife habitats.

Trip leader Jennifer Taddei is working closely with Hawaii activists headed by Lucienne De Naie, the conservation leader for the event. Special highlights include; exploring Ma'alaea Bay, home to humpback whales, sea turtles, and other tropical sea life; traveling to a rain forest with a local biologist; and snorkeling at a coral reef.

The trip is #98108, price \$995. For more details call activist outing subcommittee chair Vicky Hoover at (415)977-5527. Ask about potential partial "scholarships" for applicants for whom cost is a deterrent. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department's 24-hour voice mail at (415)977-5522 or check the Sierra Club Web site at www.sierraclub.org/outings. To apply, send completed form with \$100 deposit to *Sierra Club Outings, Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139*. Or, call (415)977-5588 (8:30 to 5 p.m. PST) to place a credit card deposit. You may FAX a credit card deposit to (415)977-0636.

This is a unique chance to champion the conservation cause away from meeting rooms or hearings—in a magnificent outdoor landscape. Sign up today!

More information on this and other Sierra Club National outings can be found in issues of your Sierra magazine ■



OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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

Eastern Missouri Group

July 7 (Tue) Evening walking tour of historic old Florissant. Stop for ice cream treats afterward. Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

July 10 (Fri) Moonlight float on the Meramec River near Tyson. Approximately 5 miles. Close to St. Louis. Colin Maag, (314)772-7946, or Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (week nights only after 6 p.m.).

July 11 (Sat) Highway Cleanup. With the sun at aphelion we should enjoy cooler weather while we pick up those discarded lemonade cups from last week's fair. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

July 11 (Sat) The Arboretum at night. Perhaps there will be a cool breeze on the prairie: let's see. Helen McCallie, (314)451-3512 (toll free, w), or (314)742-4380(h).

July 11 (Sat) Beginners hike in Hawn State Park. Length depends on weather. Bring foot gear for wading. July 3 deadline for sign up. Margaret Gilleo and Chuck Guenther, (314)991-1305.

July 12 (Sun) Hike and explore Hickory Canyons and Pickle Springs, two of Missouri's unique natural areas. Great opportunity for photographers. Good for beginners. About 3.5 miles. Limit 10. Deb Phillips, (314)916-5636.

July 14 (Tue) Evening walk to Little Creek Nature Study Area (Ferguson-Florissant). Visit old cemetery, prairie, and Little Creek. Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

July 17-18 (Fri-Sat) Onondaga Cave State Park. Join us for part or all of this weekend. Friday evening we will car camp and Saturday we will hike an easy 2.7 mile loop. Later we will visit the park's spectacular cave (fee). Jim Rhodes, (314)821-7758 (h) or (314)822-0101 (w).

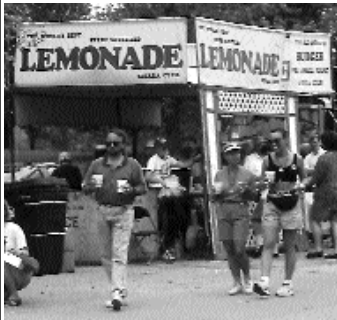
July 18 (Sat) Clifty Creek Natural Area (see box on page 21)

July 18 (Sat) Canoe trip to start mid-afternoon. We will take off the river before dark. Enjoy the early evening on the Meramec River. Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong, (314)434-2072.

July 21 (Tue) Evening wildflower hike on the Limestone Hill Trail at Mastodon State Park. Featured wildflower: iron weed. Diane Favier, (314) 894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

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July 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Fair St. Louis. 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 Thur, July 2, to set up the booths, and on Mon, July 6, for the take down party.

IN ST. LOUIS, call: Linda Hom, (314)353-7529, or Jim Young, (314) 664-9392;

IN MID-STATE, call: Marion Mace (573) 875-2916.

Outings Continued

July 24 (Fri) Canoe Big Creek or St. Francis River at Samuel A. Baker State Park during the Bluegrass Festival. Canoe rental available at the park. Colin Maag, (314)772-7946, or Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (week nights only after 6 p.m.).

July 24-26 (Fri-Sun) Samuel A. Baker Bluegrass Festival. Hike, car camp, listen to some great bluegrass bands, cool off in Big Creek, great scenery, canoeing. This is a favorite summer activity. Call Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (week nights only after 6 p.m.).

July 26 (Sun) Three mile hike at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. View old growth forest threatened by Page Avenue freeway. Mark Kaufmann, (314)434-4743.

July 28 (Tue) Evening wildflower hike on the Owl Creek Trail at Queeny Park. Featured wildflower: rose mallow. Diane Favier, (314) 894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

Aug 1 (Sat) Leisurely hike at Laumeier Sculpture Park. Explore the park, eat a picnic lunch, and stroll some more. Appropriate for children and people of all ages and abilities. Claralyn Price-Bollinger and Matt Bollinger, (314)429-5748, and Ann Eggebrecht.

Aug 4 (Tue) Evening hike on Grant's Trail and stop at Whitecliff to look for gum plant. Diane Favier, (314) 894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

CLIFTY CREEK SAMPLER

EMG: July 18 (Sat) Clifty Creek Natural Area near Rolla. See the scenic natural bridge with a span of forty feet. This is a creek walk and you will get your feet wet! Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

OSAGE: Aug 30 (Sun) Swim and hike Clifty Creek: Great on a hot day. To the scenic natural bridge. Meet in Jefferson City around 10:00 a.m.. Roy Hengerson (573)635-8066.



Aug 7 (Fri) Third annual rain or shine evening hike. Mother nature has scheduled a full moon!

Easy three mile walk on Jefferson Barracks paved hiking trail. We'll take time to look for deer before hiking and watch the sun set as we hike. Marsha Armentrout, (314)892-4279.

Aug 8 (Sat) Highway Clean-up. The sumac is ripenin' and baby copperheads are bein' born... What a great time to be pickin' trash! Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

Aug 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Full moon week end at Council Bluff Lake (Missouri not Iowa). Camp, canoe, kayak, hike, and swim (maybe even howl at the moon or hoot with the owls). One day or both. Beautiful beach, lake, and woodsy campground. Call Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 6 p.m., week nights only).

Aug 9 (Sun) Shut-in sampler. Visit three shut-ins and stop to play in the water or just lay out at each one. Diane Favier, (314) 894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

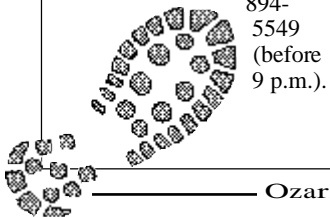
Aug 11 (Tue) Evening hike on the Hawk Ridge Trail at Queeny Park. Featured wildflower: floating primrose willow. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

Aug 15 (Sat) I got the Soulard blues. We will walk from downtown to the Soulard neighborhood and enjoy the rich architecture. Paul Stupperich, (314)452-4352.

Aug 18 (Tue) Evening hike at Laumeier Park. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

Aug 21-22 (Fri-Sat) Join the inner city kids for a camp out and canoeing on the Big River. Help needed with canoeing on Saturday. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

continued on next page



Outings Continued

Aug 15 (Sat) Water quality monitoring at Creve Coeur Creek, including chemical testing and macro invertebrate sampling. We need trainees to help us in this important project facilitated by the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources and the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. Leslie Lihou, (314)726-2140.



towering more than 600 feet above the Mississippi River. Visitors Center has exhibits of park's natural and cultural features. Good for families and others. Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

Aug 30 (Sun) Three mile hike at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. View old growth forest threatened by Page Avenue freeway. Mark Kaufmann, (314)434-4743.

Aug 8 (Sat) Hike the Devil's Backbone Trail, through the deep, dark and cool forest! Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pine Ridge National Forest campground, or call Elaine Schilair for more information (573)659-3583.

Aug 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Fifth Annual Lazy River Float. A relaxing two day trip on the Big Piney (Slabtown to Ross Bridge), camping on the river. Meet at Slabtown Access Friday night or early Saturday morning. Ken and Julie Midkiff, (573)442-5570.

Aug 21-23 (Fri-Sun) Festival of the Little Hills. Have a great time making real lemonade with other Sierrans at a charming fair in the historic area of St. Charles near the riverfront. Linda Horn, (314)352-7529, or Jim Young, (314)664-9392.

Osage Group

July 11 (Sat) Hiking Painted Rocks State Forest. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the new Gerbes-East, in Jefferson City. Elaine Schilair (573)659-3583.

July 25 (Sat) Tour Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge, Lisbon Bottom Unit. Learn more about our new NWR and the aftermath of previous flooding. The group will car tour with hiking and picnic options. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the MDC parking lot, College and Stadium Avenue. Troy Gordon, (573)445-0086.

Aug 23 (Sun) 5-mile walk at Little Lost Creek Conservation Area in Warren County. Wayne Miller, (314)569-0094.

Aug 25 (Tue) Evening hike on the River Scene Trail at Castlewood Park. Featured wildflower: blood leaf. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549 (before 9 p.m.).

Aug 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Trail of Tears State Park. Car camping, swimming, and hiking. (Fishing available.) See limestone bluffs

Aug 29 (Sat) Hummingbird Banding and Viewing with Troy and Judy Gordon, (573)445-0086.

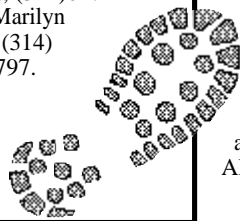
Aug 30 (Sun) Swim and hike Clifty Creek (see box on page 21)

Sept 12-13 (Sat-Sun) Float the Eleven Point. Meet Friday night at Hwy. 19 campground. Camp and pot luck on the river Saturday night. Must arrange for your own boat, renters are available in the area. Kay Stewart, (573)445-0114; or Randal Clark, (573)875-0514.

Sept 19-20 (Sat-Sun) Float the Spring River. Almost an annual event. The river comes out of Mammoth Spring, just across the border into Arkansas. Lots of calm, easy floating with some ledges and rapids to keep things exciting: just follow the kayaks and you'll be OK. Kevin Allemann, (573)449-1568.



Aug 22 (Sat) Operation Clean Stream. Have a great day on the river figuring out creative ways to get more trash into your boat. Ed Schmidt, (314)647-1608, or Marilyn Harlan, (314)966-8797.



continued on next page

Outings Continued

Sep 3-7 (Thu-Mon) 2nd Annual Missouri River Float Trip

We had such a good time last year, we're gonna do it again!!

Except this time, there won't be any speeches or press conferences—just a good time floatin' down the Big Muddy, campin' on sand bars, enjoyin' the companionship of fellow voyageurs.

Tentative plans: Leave Jeff City on Thursday, Sep 3 and arrive in St. Charles on Mon (Labor Day) Sep 7. Float all five



days or join (or leave) us at designated points for shorter trips. Shuttles will be arranged. Roy Hengerson, (573)635-8066 or Ken Midkiff, (573)815-9250.

Sept 27 (Sun) Trail Assessment. Check Cedar Creek trails where damage has occurred and to formulate possible remedies to present to the Forest Service. Call Dick Luecke for meeting time and place, (573)882-3691.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

July 11 (Sat) Restaurant outing. Enjoy flavorful Ethiopian cuisine, and the company of fellow Sierrans at the Cafe Blue Nile, 6 p.m. Contact Gale Burrus by Tuesday, July 6, (816)763-5120.

July 18 (Sat) THB Group new membership Picnic at Hodge Park. Nature treasure hunt will start at 5 p.m. and picnic will be at 6 p.m. Lee Ann Googe, (816)453-8558.

July 27 (Mon) Royals baseball game, Kansas City vs Anaheim Angels. Tickets are half price (\$5). Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

Aug. 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Car camp and hike at Prairie State Park. Learn folklore of native wild flowers, prairie grasses, hike trails, and possibly even see bison! Car camp and optional Saturday night backpack. Bob & Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708.

Aug. 15 (Sat) Star Party at Powell Observatory near Louisburg, Kansas. View the skies through the largest public telescope in this five state region. Presentation by knowledgeable observatory volunteers on "Quasars." Your "Heavenly Host" this year is Dan Fuller. (816)779-7284.

Aug 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Ha Ha Tonka State Park and campover at Bennet

Springs State Park. See the remains of a huge stone castle and an air of romance and mystery to this scenic Missouri masterpiece located near the Lake of the Ozarks. Claus Wawrzinek, (816)561-7863.

Aug. 23 (Sun) Wizzard Soccer Game. A great urban outing. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028.

Aug 29 (Sat) Enjoy the late summer bloom at Powell Garden.

Bring your lunch. We will leave Kansas City at 10 a.m. and carpool. Lee Ann Googe, (816)453-8558.

Sep 4-7 (Fri-Mon) Santa-Cali-Gon Days in Independence, MO. Please visit the THB Group's lemonade stand.

Sep 12 (Sat) Moonlight hike at the Kemper Outdoor Education Center near Lake Jacomo. Picnic followed by a ranger-lead program and hike. Donna Clark Fuller, (816)779-7284.

Sep. 17-20 (Thu-Sun) Walnut Valley Bluegrass Festival in Winfield, Kansas. Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

Sep 26-27 (Sat-Sun) Piney Creek Wilderness near Cassville, Missouri. Kick off the fall backpacking season with a trip to an area new to us. A good trip for beginners. Jeff Pierce, (913)559-3966.



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