

OZARK ONE EARTH SIERRAN

ONE CHANCE

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*A Redbud branch bursting with blooms
photo by Marsha Armentrout*



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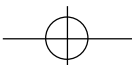


The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on

time!

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Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: Bob Sherrick, Editor; Keet Kopecky, and Claus Wawrzinek



High Capacity Chip Mills: a New Environmental Challenge for Missouri

by Dave Bedan

For many years Missouri citizens have wrestled with difficult forestry issues. In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries virtually all of Missouri's forests were clear cut and then farmed or over-grazed resulting in widespread soil erosion and wildlife habitat destruction. The resulting devastation led to the creation of Missouri's national forests as a partial attempt to heal the land. Then the practices of the Forest Service itself became questionable and various issues regarding Missouri's national forests have been on the environmental agenda for nearly 30 years. Recently the Sierra Club raised questions about forestry practices on Missouri Department of Conservation lands.

But eighty-five percent of Missouri's forest lands are privately owned and that is where the health of Missouri's forests will largely be determined. In the past two years a major new threat has appeared: Missouri is now home to two high capacity chip mills: the Canal Industries mill at Scott City and the Willamette Industries mill at Mill Spring. These highly mechanized mills employ a handful of people and chip logs for export out-of-state or even overseas for processing into paper and other products with very little economic benefit to Missouri. They also encourage rapid, highly mechanized forms of timber harvest, frequently clear cutting with little regard for sustainable forestry, soil erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Many people feel that these two mills are but the first of a coming chip mill invasion of Missouri. This has already happened throughout the southeastern states where nearly 150 chip mills are now operating. Approximately 1.2 million acres of forest are clear cut each year to feed these mills. Each mill in Missouri could result in the

clearcutting of 10-20,000 acres per year. In addition, out-of-state chip mills are also buying logs in Missouri.

In response to citizens' concerns about the startup of these two high-capacity chip mills, Missouri Governor Carnahan issued an executive order on September 18, 1998. This order established an Advisory Committee on Chip Mills which is to develop recommendations regarding high-capacity chip mills and report to the Governor on December 1, 1999. The executive order also placed restrictions on any permits issued to chip mills during the study period.

The Committee is to make interim recommendations to the Governor by January 1, 1999 and issue a final report by December 1, 1999. The Committee will be composed of at least 14 members: the directors (or the directors' designees) from the Departments of Natural Resources, Conservation, Economic Development, and Agriculture, two state representatives, two state senators, two forest products industry representatives, two representatives of citizen environmental conservation groups, a forest landowner, a representative of an organization representing private property

continued on page 4... Chip Mills

Dates You Need to Know

- 3/27** Chapter ConsCom meeting:
St. Louis, MO
contact Caroline Pufalt (314) 878-3165
- 3/28** Chapter ExCom meeting:
St. Louis, MO
contact Keet Kopecky (316) 966-9544
- 4/3** May/June Ozark Sierran
Deadline
contact Bob Sherrick (316) 779-6708

Chip Mills continued from page 3

owners, and any other members which the Governor may, from time to time, appoint. Until the committee makes its recommendations to the Governor all state agencies "... shall refrain from providing new economic incentives to develop or expand chip mills in the State of Missouri."

Until the Committee completes its study the order also directs DNR to:

- condition future permits to require logger training of all contractor and employees of chip mills in the use of sustainable logging practices and Best Management Practices designed to protect water quality;
- include a requirement in future permits for chip mills to provide the location of supplies and harvest areas of forest resources to be processed. This would give professional forest resource managers the opportunity to offer assistance in developing sustainable forestry plans and Best Management Practices to protect water quality;
- include in future permits "Re-Open Clauses" that would allow reopening permits in order to address documented adverse impacts from industry operations;
- and limit the duration of permits related to the operation of chip mills to no greater than one year from the date of permit issuance.

On November 6, 1998 Gov. Mel Carnahan announced the appointment of the citizen members of the new Advisory Committee on Chip Mills:

- Deirdre K. Hirner, of Columbia, is the Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri.
- David E. Bedan, of Columbia, is a member of the Missouri Audubon Council. He is also a member of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

- David A. Day of Dixon, is a member of the Farm Bureau State Board of Directors representing District Eight. He is also an Advisory Member of the Farm Bureau Forestry Commodity Committee and a member of the Hazardous Waste Management Commission for the State of Missouri.
- Jon D. Smith of Mountain View. Smith is the President of Smith Flooring, Inc. He is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Missouri Forest Products Association.
- Mark S. Garnett, of West Plains, is the Vice President/General Manager of Garnett Wood Products Co., Inc. and the President of Garnett Company, LLC.
- Emily R. Firebaugh, of Farmington, owns and operates Ferguson Timber Company. She also serves on the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources Advisory Board.

The following legislators and agency representatives have also been appointed to serve on the committee:

- Rep. Jerry McBride of Edgar Springs. McBride is a Missouri State Representative.
- Rep. Bill Foster of Poplar Bluff. Foster is a Missouri State Representative.
- Sen. Wayne Goode of St. Louis. Goode is a Missouri State Senator.
- Sen. Doyle Childers of Reeds Springs. Childers is a Missouri State Senator.
- Marvin Brown of Jefferson City. Brown is the State Forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Steve Mahfood of Jefferson City. Mahfood is the Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.
- Joe Driskill of Jefferson City. Driskill is the Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development.
- Sara Tyree of Jefferson City. Tyree is the Staff Assistant Planner for the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

The Advisory Committee met in December, January, and February and heard presentations from various points of view on the chip mill issue. At the January meeting the committee heard a

presentation from Rick Cantrell of the American Forests and Paper Association. At the February meeting the committee heard presentations from Hank Dorst of Mark Twain Forest Watchers and Scott Banbury of the Dogwood Alliance and the Memphis Audubon Society. The committee meets on the first Monday of each month and plans to have a draft report by August 1, 1999. The committee also plans to take a field trip to view various timber harvesting practices, probably in June. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. Contact Llona Weiss of DNR at (573)751-4732 or nrweisl@mail.dnr.state.us for information on meeting agendas, time, and place. Another major activity on the chip mill issue was the DNR's issuance in July of 1998 of a draft site-specific permit for the Willamette mill at Mill Springs. DNR held a public meeting on January 12, 1999, at the University of Missouri-Rolla to consider additional public input regarding a site-specific National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Willamette facility. This facility produces wood chips and currently operates in Mill Spring, Wayne County, Missouri. Willamette, a multinational corporation based in Oregon, was allowed to operate under a general permit when it opened its mill, the first in the state, in 1997. That permit expired and was not renewed, but the mill is continuing to operate until a new permit is issued. As directed by the Governor's executive order DNR's new draft permit imposes some precedent-setting conditions which link the mill to its "sourcing areas" in the forest. The most important condition requires the mill operators to reveal the sources of their logs. Monitoring and improvement of cutting operations can only occur if the source areas are known. Willamette is strongly protesting this condition. However, many citizens spoke

at the Rolla hearing to support the DNR's permit conditions. This issue of improving forestry practices on private land will also be the main challenge of the advisory committee. This issue is dramatized by the fact that logs are already leaving Missouri to be sent to chip mills in other states. Some combination of education, incentives, and regulations will be necessary to improve timber harvesting by private landowners. A conference on sustainable forestry on private land to be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia on March 4-5 will consider many of these issues. Copies of the proceedings can be obtained by contacting

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Further information on the wood chip mill issue can be found on the "Missouri Chip Mill Page" which is part of the Missouri Audubon Council's Web site. The Internet address is <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mo/mo/>

Reprinted from March 1999 issue of *The Bluebird*, the quarterly publication of the Audubon Society of Missouri.

The Life and Times of a CAFO Resistance Fighter

by Scott Dye, agricultural coordinator

It was a scene repeated far too frequently across the countryside these days. A rural family suddenly realizes, much to their horror, that a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is targeting their community.

This time the location was the Plymouth community, Washington Township, Carroll County, Missouri. A rumored land sale to an out-of-area buyer, would result in a 2400 sow farrowing-nursery pork factory. Alarmed citizens hurriedly threw together an impromptu meeting and got on the phones, seeking help. The call to us came from a concerned neighbor.

"We need help. Can you come to an organizational meeting tonight?"

"You bet, we'll be there."

The meeting place was a classic. Plymouth Community Hall was built in the early 1900's, and oozes the area's history from its hardwood floors and hand-hewn pews to its white-washed voting boxes. It was an overflow crowd of sixty-plus, overwhelmingly local family farmers. The moral and substantive fiber of this community. And it was abundantly clear that they wanted no part of this operation in their community.

The realtor who was handling the transaction was there and asked to address the crowd. He made a game effort at trying to explain the operation and how it was going to be benign (he had also tried to start up a swine factory in a nearby community and had backed out after running into a citizen buzzsaw). He found it to be a tough crowd. He left early. Then we got down to the brass tacks of organizing and the tactics of how to proceed with the coming battle. The folks from Washington Township went home that night steeled for the coming fight, and knowing that they were not alone. And they definitely went home with a different impression of the Sierra Club than they came with. We'd made new friends and allies, and we'd be side by side to the ultimate end. After our initial meeting, the

good folks of Washington Township went to work. Organizing people, cranking up the local media, and planning their next meeting. I got on the horn learning what I could about the proposed "operator", and his *modus operandi*.

I traveled to our state's DNR to review the official record of some of his 10 other contract sow operations, scattered all over northern Missouri. Sadly, it was the usual story. Various and sundry violations at numerous locations dating back to 1981: spills into streams; over-application; and maintenance problems. None of the facilities had been inspected by the state in five years.

Cloaked in the armor of The Truth, I returned to the Plymouth Community Hall, eager for Round Two.

The good folks of Washington Township had done their groundwork too. They had convinced the "operator" to attend their next meeting, as well as a county commissioner, the local state representative, along with the attorney that the citizens had retained. The crowd had swelled 1/3 over the last meeting, to ninety – ninety very unhappy farmers and rural residents.

The citizens informed the "operator" that they intended to appraise their properties before he built, and again after he was in operation, and that he would owe them the difference plus nuisance. The "operator" seemed unimpressed. Then the citizens introduced their attorney, who asked several questions which the "operator" mostly evaded or bull-dozed through. "Yes, it will stink." "No, I'm not taking any measures to minimize it." Well, howdy neighbor.

The state representative spoke eloquently about the legislature's complete ineptitude in reining in a hog industry gone hog-wild. Then, the "operator" laid out his big plan. The grilling was on. A heated crowd hurled well-informed questions and accusations at a rapid-fire pace. Two times the "operator" was asked about environmental problems at any of his other operations.

“Never had any.”

I introduced myself and proceeded to refresh his recollection of the real history of polluting events at his other facilities. “Now that I have jogged your memory, do these sound like events that occurred at your operations?”

“Yeah.” He glowered.

“Can you offer this crowd any guarantees that these types of accidents and discharges won’t happen at this facility?”

“Nope.”

Thus branded as less than forthcoming, things got worse for the “operator.” The farmer he had contracted with to spread waste on his land, stood and withdrew his acres, saying he had been told by the “operator” that there wasn’t any opposition. “I’m not going to allow this now that I see how the community really feels. I was lied to.”

Eight days later, the “operator” abandoned his plans. Another one bites the dust.

At the same time that meeting was going on in Plymouth, another meeting was being held just 20 miles up the road

in Livingston County. That morning, a proposed 4800 head contract operation for Continental Grain had tucked tail and skedaddled in the face of growing local opposition. But, the locals had the foresight to know that although this particular threat had passed, they had better be organized for the next proposed animal factory. Several of our farmer friends/Sierra members attended their meeting, assisting them with forming a local grass-roots group, and plugging them in to the broader network of CAFO fighters.

And so, two proposed contract piggeries go down in flames; two fire fights in a long, brutal war. A war on the environment, and a war for the heart and soul of American agriculture and Midwestern values. But the bad guys never really go away, they just go somewhere else. We must remain, *semper fi*. This is what being a CAFO resistance fighter is all about folks – helping real people with a real problem, and saving the planet from the Corporate Swine, one little corner at a time.■



Ecofacts:

The energy generated from one recycled six pack of aluminum cans will operate a television set for 18 hours.

Two things you can do now to save the planet. Recycle and join the Sierra Club! It's time to protect our precious environment. And stop exhausting our planet's resources. You can make a difference... Join today!

Notes From the Sausage Factory

by Ron McLinden

Two things you don't want to see made, they say: sausage and laws. I've been getting a peek at the latter.

Perhaps it's best described as a feeding frenzy — but a mostly polite one. Representatives of local Chambers of Commerce, metropolitan planning organizations, out state interests, transit providers, highway contractors, and one lonely citizen environmentalist met in late January and early February to take a crack at defining what a new transportation funding bill for Missouri ought to look like.

The ad hoc committee doing the work was an outgrowth of the Governor's Conference on Transportation held in Jefferson City on January 20–21. At that conference, Senator Jim Mathewson of Sedalia told the nearly 200 people in attendance that, while Missouri might need more money to meet its transportation needs, the General Assembly would not take the lead in deciding how that ought to be done.

Instead, he challenged conference participants to form a committee of about a dozen people to work up a funding bill and put it on his desk by February 10. Later in the conference when a three-member core committee was announced, participants were asked what additional organizations should be represented. The Sierra Club was the first group nominated — by a non-member at that. A few days later I was asked to represent the Club on the committee.

Reaching agreement on such a bill is no small matter.

- It had to go to the voters for approval, preferably this year (since the conventional wisdom was that legislators don't want to propose a tax increase during an election year).
- It had to be something that could be presented in a single ballot question — and that ruled out making any changes in the state constitution.

- Fifteen year plan die-hards had to reconcile differences with those who were convinced that the 1992 highway program was flawed and under-funded from the start.
- Urban and rural interests had to be satisfied with their respective shares of the total.
- Transit and other non-highway modes had to get a piece of the pie.
- There was general agreement that the whole package has to raise revenue from a variety of sources, since raising the revenue needed would take the equivalent of an 18 cent increase in the state motor fuel tax, more than doubling the present 17 cent per gallon tax. That meant using a sales tax or other general revenue source for the first time ever.
- Using the sales tax was a major concern because it was seen as more regressive than some other taxes. In addition, many local governments had come to rely on a local sales tax for their own capital improvements, and several had sales tax elections scheduled for the November 1999 ballot.
- Everything had to be done so as to avoid making it look like a "tax and pave" package — there had to be some cost savings involved in the proposal so Republicans could feel comfortable voting for it.
- Finally, it had to be something the voters could understand and support come election day.

Enter senior MoDOT officials with their own idea of how big the pot should be. "Don't give us half a loaf," pleaded MoDOT director Joe Mickes. His proposal was for a \$28.9 billion program over 20 years that would build most of the projects in the failed fifteen year plan, plus a major interstate highway rebuilding program, plus funding for non-highway modes. Deducting about \$800 million per year already available from existing sources, the program would require \$645 million per year in 1999 dollars. Here's the proposed breakdown:

\$515 million additional per year for highways
\$103 million per year for transit (about 50% for St. Louis, and 25% each for Kansas City and the rural transit providers)
\$27 million for other modes (Amtrak, river ports, airports, etc.)

The package totaled \$645 million in the first year, and revenues would rise with inflation over the 20-year life of the program.

The centerpiece of the program was rebuilding — and expanding — the interstate system. This includes building US 71 (Kansas City to Arkansas) and US 36 (across the state) to interstate standards, plus adding lanes on I-70 (essentially all the way across the state) and to I-44 (much of the distance). Included is a bypass around the north side of Columbia. Most of us would agree that the interstate system needs major work, but the added lanes and bypasses are based only on gut-level assessments by senior MoDOT people. The question, “How could we avoid having to build those additional lanes?” just hadn’t crossed their minds.

The good news is that Missouri would, for the first time ever, fund all of its transportation needs in a single package. That includes significant funding for public transit, and for continuation of rail passenger service between St. Louis and Kansas City. The bad news is that the package is just the sum of all the separate modes, with little attempt to treat them as an total system.

A key question is, “How many more roads are we willing to live with in order to get state funding for public transit?”

My own role as the lone citizen environmentalist was to make the package as good as we can make it, recognizing that after it goes through the legislature it might end up being something we couldn’t live with.

I asked that serious attention be given to “transportation demand management” efforts by MoDOT to reduce the rate of growth of VMT (vehicle miles traveled). Director Mickes has

admitted openly that “We know we can’t build our way out of congestion,” but the program he proposed appeared to try to do just that. Part of the interstate program Mickes proposes assumes adding lanes in urban areas without first determining if traffic could be reduced. Similarly, many of the projects from the fifteen year plan are urban and suburban roadway expansion projects. I pointed out that if MoDOT persists in doing so, its credibility could be called into question. (MoDOT is highly sensitive about reestablishing its credibility after the failure of the fifteen year plan.)

In addition, I asked for a commitment of additional funds for highway safety education and enforcement, and for adding sidewalks and bicycle accommodations along existing state routes within cities and towns.

Realistically, chances of getting many of the additional things I asked for are slim. The public transit and metropolitan planning organization folks could be expected to be sympathetic at heart, but they had to defend their own narrow interests and couldn’t risk going out on any green limbs.

I asked that MoDOT consider tolls to help finance some interstate work, and that a transportation benefit district be established along the interstates with a special sales or gross receipts tax levied on gas stations, restaurants, and motels within a mile of interchanges, and on all billboards along the route. I also asked that local jurisdictions pay a greater share of the cost of road capacity needed for local travel. Those proposals were politely ignored.

While all of this was going on, MoDOT’s Smart Growth Task Force was finalizing its report to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. That report was expected to go to the Commission in March. Pressing MoDOT for a more aggressive “transportation demand management” program (of which smart growth could be a part) might lead them to produce a better task force report.

continued on page 10... **Sausage Factory**

Sausage Factory continued from page 9

Or it might backfire.

Bottom line is, would this committee (and the legislative process that would follow) come up with something we can support? I'd already told the committee chairman I might not be able to go along. Later, it will be up to the Ozark Chapter leadership to help determine what stance we take during the legislative hearings, and then whether we support or oppose the package when it goes to the voters for their approval.

Interesting times in the sausage business. ■

quality of life. In addition, the Club was a conference co-sponsor.

Air Quality Suit in St. Louis

Representatives of the Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment met with EPA officials in early February regarding their suit to force the EPA to enforce clean air standards in St. Louis. Details of the discussion can't be released, but suffice it to say that the EPA is now better aware of our resolve.

Short Trips

by Ron McLinden

Sprawl Grants Sought

The Ozark and Kansas Chapters of the Club have applied separately for grants from the Sierra Club to conduct environmental public awareness campaigns in St. Louis and Kansas City, respectively. The "EPEC" grants are awarded to local Club entities to work on locally selected issues. Both efforts would focus on urban sprawl, one of the Club's four long-term priority issues. In addition, the St. Louis effort would include a clean water emphasis. With or without the grants it is anticipated that the Club's activists will become even more active in the coming year.

Kansas Citians Consider Smart Growth

Led by Sierra Club transportation activists, a broader groups of citizens has been meeting in Kansas City to discuss formation of a Kansas City Smart Growth Alliance. Rick Zbinden has initiated this effort, whose scope and direction are yet to be determined. Rick can be reached at (816)531-2154.

Commission to Meet in St. Louis

The Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission is scheduled to hold its regular monthly meeting in the St. Louis area on March 12. Call MoDOT at 1-888ASKMODOT (275-6636) for details about meeting location. ■

Members Attend Governor's Conference

Three Ozark Chapter transportation activists attended the second annual Governor's Conference on Transportation in late January. Ginger Harris, Claralyn Price-Bollinger, and Ron McLinden attended the conference, and Ron spoke on a panel discussion of transportation and

Missouri River Forum to be held in St. Joseph

by Gina De Barthe

The Corps of Engineers is reviewing its Master Water Control Manual for the Missouri River. At this time they are working with and soliciting comments from the public.

The river flow is controlled using six dams. These are the Fort Peck Dam in Montana; Garrison Dam in North Dakota; Oahe Dam, Big Bend Dam, and Fort Randall Dam in South Dakota; and Gavins Point Dam in Nebraska. Traditionally the river has been managed for navigation and flood control.

The Corps is currently looking at eight plans differing from the current water control plan. Three deal with the conservation of water for times of drought. These are C18, C31, C44. This deals with keeping 18, 31 or 44 million-acre-feet of water in the permanent pool in the upper three reservoirs.

Unfortunately this has had a negative impact on the fish and wildlife that depend on the river's fluctuations for habitat.

There are three plans which focus on improving habitat for endangered fish and birds in and along the river; FW10, FW15, FW20. Under these plans, an

additional 10, 15, or 20 thousand cubic feet per second (kcfs) of water would be released.

The last plan, M66, deals with release of an extra 66 kcfs of water to aid the navigation on the Mississippi river.

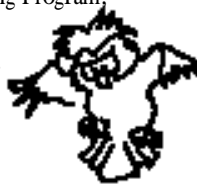
Many different groups of people have an interest in the river. These include navigators, farmers, recreationists, Native American, and Fish and Wildlife personnel.

A forum on the Missouri River will be held April 29, 1999 at 7 p.m. on the campus of Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Mo. in the Little Theater Room 101 at the Learning Resource Center. This forum will include:

Rosemary Hargraves, a representative from the Corps of Engineers, who will cover the various aspects of the proposed plans; a representative from the barge industry who will discuss navigation issues; tribal representative Richard Bad Moccasin; Karen Uhlenhuth from the Audubon Society who will discuss management of the river and how it affects endangered species; Jerry Vineyard, a representative from the Missouri River Basin Association; and Chad Smith with American Rivers. ■

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



Alien Invasion

by Caroline Pufalt

Aliens have invaded the length and breadth of our country. They have so worked themselves in among us that many go unnoticed by the average citizen. Our heritage is clearly in peril—our government has taken action. No, it's not another X Files episode: unfortunately this is not fiction. The truth is, that out there, in our woods, prairies, and backyards, invasive alien species are the very real threat.

President Clinton recently (Feb. 3, 1999) issued an executive order to try to address this problem. The executive order calls for an interagency advisory committee to coordinate a response. That committee includes the Department of Defense no less, but not the FBI. The Secretary of the Interior will chair the group. The breadth of the committee

participants gives one an idea of the complex problem invasive species present. Included are representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Treasury and the EPA.

The committee is charged with developing an Invasive Species Management plan which will present a strategy for coordinating efforts at controlling or eradicating invasive species. Invasive species are described as non-native, i.e. alien, species that are likely to cause economic or environmental damage. Missouri has many such species. Well known examples are Japanese honeysuckle and purple loosestrife. Many Sierrans work to protect native ecosystems from non-native species. Our efforts at glade and savanna restoration are examples of such. Look for more information in future *Ozark Sierrans* regarding efforts to combat this alien invasion. ■

Hands On Clean Water Workshop

While you may not literally need to get your hands wet to participate in this workshop, you will learn some practical steps at evaluating water quality. The Ozark Chapter is conducting a workshop designed to help Sierrans learn about the laws that regulate clean water, how to understand citizen participation in the process those laws initiate, and provide an introduction to water quality testing. No advance knowledge or skills are required, just an interest in learning.

Scott Dye will conduct the workshop with the help of other volunteers who have worked on water issues. Scott is our chapter's rural outreach coordinator. He has been very active, and successful, in guiding our efforts to expose and reform confined animal feeding operations (otherwise know as CAFOs or mega hog farms) in Missouri.

The workshop will be held April 10 (Sat) at the Powder Valley Nature Center in St. Louis county. It will start at 9 a.m. and run till about 4:30. The schedule is roughly as follows:

9:00 – 1:00: Overview of stream monitoring and equipment and review of the Clean Water Act and related issues.

1:00: Lunch approx. 45 minutes

1:45 – 4:30: Advocacy techniques and understanding your local watershed; discussion of Ozark chapter water quality activities; planning for the future

You are welcome to come to part of the workshop if you don't have time for the entire schedule. There is no charge. The above agenda is flexible. If you need more information you may call the Eastern Missouri Group office at (314)909-0890 or the chapter office at (573)815-9250. Out of towners who want a place to stay Sat evening, call Caroline Pufalt at (314)878-3165.

ANNUAL CAMPOUT AND REUNION — WELCOME FUN FOR FRIENDLY SIERRANS

by Andrew Gondzur

Autumn always feels like a time for relaxing fun to most Sierrans. One reason is the Annual Campout and Reunion, which was held at wonderful Camp Pin Oak in the stunning beauty of Lake of the Ozarks State Park, October 9–11, 1998. As always, we had an enthusiastic core of volunteer coordinators from across the state who worked together in the spirit of camaraderie to make this fun weekend a great success. We began with the Friday night meet–n–greet to welcome the weary travelers from the far corners of the state. Campers checked in with staff, got their cabin assignments (unless they preferred the more primitive lifestyle of the tent campgrounds), stored their gear, then had a snack among friends. The next morning was the traditional BIG breakfast of a variety of pancakes and sausage (including meatless), which groups of campers pitched in to prepare. Fresh fruits, cereals, and Caroline’s popular Indian cornbread were just a few of the other choices devoured to fuel up for an active day of hiking, nature study, or just plain relaxation (we had great napping weather!).

The day was filled with fun activities: for the kids, we had plaster art and discovery hikes (and we even had two wee Sierrans under the age of 1!!); for the adults, we had many outings including Keet Kopecky’s annual jaunt to nearby Ha Ha Tonka State Park. This gorgeous jewel of Missouri parks is filled with a variety of interesting native plants and animals, and geological features like the natural bridge, sinkholes, and Devil’s kitchen. Campers and hikers enjoyed curious mushrooms, dazzling lizards, and, at night, the song of hooting owls and other mysterious bird calls. Even a skunk was sighted, and in the spirit of minimizing complaints of air pollution, it kindly chose to make a scent-free visit!

Saturday evening saw the traditional

BIG dinner followed by the announcement of the chapter’s annual awards. After enjoying a lasagna feast fit for a vegetarian king and desserts like Gale’s homemade pecan pie, the awards were handed out. Notable conservationists from around the state were recognized for their contributions to the protection of the environment as well as service to the club during the previous year. Afterwards, a roaring campfire attracted a vocal crowd who took turns exchanging very entertaining stories, either spooky or humorous, and sometimes both! Several Sierrans spotted two young deer passing close to the camp, but quietly chose to keep this experience a personal one.

Sunday morning came quickly, as we recycled the surplus foodstuffs for breakfast while adding some new items, too. The quiet, peaceful morning allowed us all one last chance to get back to nature before heading out. We ended with a quick lunch and then everyone pitched in to tidy up the camp. The overwhelming consensus was that you couldn’t have asked for a better weekend. The weather was absolutely perfect — gentle, warm winds accompanied by plenty of sunshine during the day, and cool evenings with starry skies, perfect for sleeping during the night. The wildlife and fall colors were magnificent. The kids had fun, the adults had fun, we left with a sense of joy and camaraderie. The renewing of friendships alone were well worth the trip. Won’t you join us again, same time next year? ■

Against the Grain: Biotechnology and the Corporate Takeover of Your Food

by Marce Lappe and Brit Bailey

reviewed by Caroline Pufalt

Missourians who read the newspaper, especially those in the St. Louis area, would be hard pressed not to be aware of the controversy surrounding genetic engineering of food crops. St. Louis is home to Monsanto Company, a major player in this field. Reports on Monsanto's bioengineering efforts are frequently reported in the business and news sections of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and the local *Riverfront Times*. In 1998, St. Louis was also host to a major conference of activists concerned about effects of bioengineering. Despite this coverage many readers, myself included, find this a complicated and challenging subject. A book like *Against the Grain* can help readers make sense of the bioengineering controversy.

As the title suggests, the authors of *Against the Grain* are skeptical of the benefits of bioengineering. But they don't call for a halt to all genetic or bioengineering. They view genetic engineering as an unavoidable path made available by the state of biological sciences today. The authors certainly want us to take that path slowly with more caution and direction than that with which we are traveling it today.

Against the Grain is not always an easy book to read, but it does try to start from the beginning and explain basic concepts. It describes the difference between traditional development of genetic variety and characteristics in crops as opposed to genetic engineering in which, for example, genes from one organism or plant are spliced into another. Forget Gregor Mendel's sweet peas that we all learned about in basic biology. Genetic engineering has resulted in crops that are engineered to resist herbicides; in crops that produce their own herbicide; and in crops whose seeds self destruct after one generation. This last example has been dubbed the terminator seed. While this may sound counterproductive,

it is a way for a corporation to protect its investment by prohibiting the storage of seeds for next year's crops.

Critics of genetic engineering point to many potential problems. These problems can be classified as those relating to human health, to ecological health, and to cultural or social concerns. Critics fear that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not tested well enough to weed out short and long term health problems they may present. Fear of cross pollination with wild plants raises concerns about ecological integrity. Also of concern is the rise of resistant strains that only accelerates and perpetuates the perceived need for more "advanced" GMOs. The sometimes heavy handed presence of corporations in controlling their "product" (GMOs) has led to social and cultural conflicts. This is especially true in developing countries where small farmers are vulnerable and inexperienced in dealing with corporate influence.

The authors of *Against the Grain* examine each of these problems in detail and offer some recommendations for their solution. They recognize the need for much closer and stricter regulation of development and testing of GMOs. GMOs have been touted as a second phase of the green revolution, a way to feed a hungry and growing world. But if there is potential for this good to come from GMOs, allowing corporate decision makers to guide its development may not be the path to take. Furthermore, effort placed on GMOs diverts us from less risky solutions to problems such as pest control and soil erosion.

I recommend *Against the Grain* as a good introduction to the bioengineering debate. If you want to read further, the St. Louis area Greens have published *Synthesis/Regeneration 18*, a magazine about this general topic. The Sierra Club has a policy on Biotechnology, developed in 1993, available on our web site. Our policy expresses many of the same concerns as raised in *Against the Grain*. Companies such as Monsanto also have information on line. ■

EAST OR WEST, WILDERNESS IS BEST

JOIN A SIERRA CLUB ACTIVIST OUTING FOR ZEST

by Vicky Hoover, Chair National Activist Outings

Wilderness—it has always been at the core of the Sierra Club mission. Wilderness protection has just received a boost with adoption as a Sierra Club national priority campaign. Our outings program was started in 1901 to educate and inspire people to fight for wilderness. The newest Sierra Club outings—National Activist outings—carry this outreach a step further: they notably show off wild areas that need help; they train participants to become strong advocates for preservation on their return home!

This summer's activist outings are directly tied to our national Wildlands Protection campaign. Become a leader in this vital effort by taking one of these three routes to wildlands protection: in Maine, Nevada, Florida — take your choice. Wildlands are everywhere— east and west!

A fourth trip deserves honorable mention: celebrating the 75th anniversary of America's first wilderness area.

In the Heart of Wild Nevada

A monumental wilderness campaign is unfolding in this virtually unknown state. Nevada has a greater proportion of its land publicly owned than any other state. But it also has the smallest amount of designated wilderness of any western state. You can help change that! Join us to learn first hand about wild Nevada's diverse, mountainous terrain. This eight-day car camping adventure with an optional overnight backpack explores unprotected Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management areas in central Nevada. Longtime wilderness activists Vicky Hoover and Marge Sill will share with you the hidden, real Nevada and the need to keep Nevada forever wild.

Experience the variety! We'll travel

at the edge of Nevada's vast roadless areas, from the marshes of the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge to the majestic snow-covered Toiyabe range, from the broad expanses of the Antelope and Park Ranges, to the stark volcanic buttresses of Morey Peak and the Hot Creek range. Bristlecone pines and aspen thickets will mingle with lush wildflowers. Trip #99101A, June 26 – July 3, 1999: cost \$390.

Vision for the Maine Woods

A bold new initiative is gaining momentum in the once vast unbroken forests of Maine — to restore these to magnificence in a great new national park. Never has a national park vision been so focused on restoration of former wilderness. Our Maine Woods activist outing offers a unique canoe trip through the heart of the proposed national park. Activist leaders Joan Saxe and Ken Cline will put you in the forefront of leadership in this flagship campaign.

You will canoe down the West Branch of the Penobscot River, following the path traced by Henry Thoreau through this "immeasurable forest with ...countless lakes..." Your itinerary includes both pristine and dammed areas. A car camping and hiking finale will permit a climb of Big Spencer Mountain for a view of millions of acres of the spectacular North Woods. Trip #99102A, July 25–31,1999. Cost \$550.

Florida Keys Marine Ecosystem Workshop

A much different campaign is underway in southern Florida, where the extraordinary ecosystems of the Everglades and Florida Keys are threatened as never before. Based in Key Largo, the Everglades to the Coral Reefs activist outing is under the guidance of

continued on page 16... **Activist Outings**

experienced activists Vivian and Otto Spielbichler. The week-long Marine Lab program features classroom training and first hand sea encounters with snorkel, mask, and microscope. Visited by thousands of tourists, the complex and interrelated wetland and coral reef ecology is understood by few. But this marine wildland deserves protection no less than a purely terrestrial one. Understanding is essential to protection, so treat yourself to our intensive course with "classrooms" in the coral reefs, mangrove estuaries, sea grass beds, and the "back country" of Everglades National Park. (This trip is part of our water issues campaign as well as the wildlands protection campaign.) Trip #99103A, Aug. 22-28, 1999. Cost \$580.

For more details call activist outing subcommittee chair Vicky Hoover at (415)977-5527.

<vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org> Ask Vicky about how to become a Chapter coordinator for the issue on the trip you choose, and how to work with your Chapter for potential partial funding support for your trip expenses.

Here's an extra special wilderness outing that deserves your attention. Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the first wilderness area in the U.S. by backpacking in the Gila Wilderness with veteran leader Bob Madsen. Inspired by

Aldo Leopold, the Forest Service set aside this preeminent Arizona area in 1924, and now a Forest Service ranger will accompany this spring trip. Evening "campfires" will discuss current wilderness topics and wilderness philosophy in the spirit of Aldo Leopold. The grand finale is a ceremony on 3 June at Gila Cliff Dwelling followed by an appropriate service project the following day. Trip #99115, Gila Wilderness 75th Anniversary Backpack. May 29-June 5. Cost \$615.

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 website at www.sierraclub.org/outings. To apply, send completed form with \$100 deposit (\$50 for Nevada trip) 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.

Adventure and advocacy go hand-in-hand! Join the Wildlands Protection conservation campaign while you enjoy breathtaking wilderness. As John Muir said, "The best way to convince people to defend wild areas is to take them out and let them see wild splendor for themselves." Sign up today! ■

SUPPORT THE OZARK CHAPTER APPEAL

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting the Ozark Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect Missouri's wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Thank you.

**This photo is made possible
by over 550,000 members
of the Sierra Club**



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

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Contributions, gifts or dues are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter publications.

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Nature's Invigorating Presence Abounds at Ha Ha Tonka State Park

by Marsha Armentrout

Seasons of beauty abound in our Missouri State Parks. Mother Nature provides her wonders to view throughout the year. Be it summer, fall, winter, or spring, getting outdoors, walking the trails, and viewing nature can be both inspiring and invigorating. While many of us visit our state parks in the warmer seasons of the year, winter brings

has a refreshing display including views of the areas within the park; such as glades, the spring, and castle remains, as well as providing historical information about the park. The Trail and Natural Area Guide is helpful in choosing how to spend one hour or many in viewing areas of the park.

I was fortunate to be at Ha Ha Tonka on a day in December when the sky was a deep cobalt blue and water by the area



Spring Trail, Ha Ha Tonka State Park

photo by Marsha Armentrout

that approaches the spring was very still. The bluff along the trail to the spring area was colored pink from the morning sun as it reflected in the Lake of the Ozarks. Reflections of trees abounded drawing my eye to their varied shapes.

Walking along the boardwalk, I viewed patches of frost here and there while I breathed the cool, clean air. The pure water in the spring area was transparent. As I stood by the shore, I could see through it clearly. The spring area itself was its usual aqua blue with the bluff above seeming to watch over it, as it has for generations.

Reflections in the water led to reflections in thought. How I value nature, clean air, and clear water! What a gift to be able to be in this natural setting and share its refreshment like so many have through the ages. Nature's beauty – inspiration for poets, painters, and

musicians through the years. Peace, solitude, and

its own beauty. I was reminded of this in a recent visit to Ha Ha Tonka State Park.

Ha Ha Tonka State Park, located near Camdenton, on the Niangua Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks, offers a variety of trails and scenes. The new Visitors' Center

refreshment were among the gifts I received as I viewed the scenes.

I visit Ha Ha Tonka in all seasons of the year. Its beauty is there – waiting because those who care invested their time and energy to see that it was preserved. In

our communities, states, and nation, each of us can take some time to do our part as we work together to encourage continued preservation of clean air, pure water, and the natural world we value. These are

priceless treasures to be shared by many in years to come. ■



The bluff near the entrance to the Spring Trail

photo by Marsha Armentrout



Reflected trees in the clear air along the Spring Trail

photo by Marsha Armentrout

Ozark Chapter Participates in Energy Planning

by Wallace McMullen

The Division of Energy, within Missouri's Department of Natural Resources, recently held focus group meetings to get feedback on the views of the citizens pertaining to its mission, and how the Division should allocate its resources. Representatives from utilities, environmental groups, the AARP, Community Action Agencies, colleges, advocacy groups, and energy specialists took part in the four meetings held around the state.

The Sierra Club was invited to participate, and was represented at the final focus group meeting in Jefferson City. We had a chance to present our views to the Division Director and senior staff during the discussion. The priority which should be given to possible initiatives, and the most effective methods for delivering needed programs were considered during the conversations. The participants were asked to rate selected

initiatives.

The participants seemed to agree overall with the Sierra Club position that the US is consuming too much fossil fuel, and that promoting/developing more efficient energy technologies in our state would be good for Missouri's economy. The extent to which promoting renewable and alternative technologies should get more attention than the implementation of energy efficiency initiatives provoked lively discussion. The participants agreed that electric industry restructuring needed to be watched, as well.

Holding these open meetings was a positive step for the Division of Energy. The Ozark Chapter has been impressed by this initiative. We hope that the agency will be effective in delivering policy leadership for Missouri's citizens that will help move the state away from the current addiction to fossil fuels and toward an efficient, renewable, non-polluting future. ■



1999 ExCom: 1st row, Claus Wawrzinek, Gina DeBarthe, Ginger Harris; 2nd row, Andrew Gondzur, Keet Kopecky, Gale Burrus; 3rd row, Caroline Pufalt, Wallace McMullen, Brian Alworth, Rebecca Schedler

OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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

Eastern Missouri Group

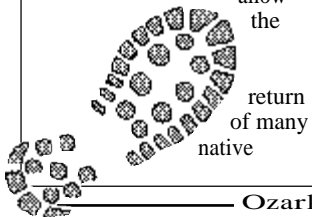
Mar. 7 (Sun) Castor River. Let's visit the Castor River shut-ins and maybe find the lost cistern. Possible creek crossing. Kevin Hunter, (314)544-5157.

Mar. 13 (Sat) Jack's hike. Let's set a gentle pace to explore Jack's front yard: Taum Sauk, Mina Sauk, and Russell Mountain trails, about 8 miles of great scenery. If you don't know what a high pointer is, better sign up and get a certificate. Possible cookout after. Jack Longacre, (573)546-5255, or Mary Ann Vogt, (314)963-1311.

Mar. 13 (Sat) Highway cleanup. When I hear those spring peepers it must be time to pick up trash again. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

Mar. 13 (Sat) See Omnimax show on the coral reefs. Join us for dinner afterwards. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

Mar. 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration. Removal of Eastern Red Cedar will



grasses and wildflowers. This is our 25th outing at Meramec State Park. Come one day or both. Penny Holtzmann, (314)487-2738.

Mar. 14 (Sun) Hike at Meramec State Park. If you missed the New Year's Day hike at Meramec State Park this is your

opportunity to see this special park. Caves, glades, springs, and savannas will all be seen along our cross country hike. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

Mar. 19 (Fri) Shake off the winter doldrums. Five-six mile hike at scenic location near St. Louis. Moderate difficulty. Optional lunch afterward. Dick Klosterman, (314)776-1339, or Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 5 p.m. weekdays, please).

Mar. 20 (Sat) Afternoon walk in Jefferson Barracks County Park. Near Telegraph Road and I-255. Let's walk three or four miles, see part of the second largest national cemetery and some historic buildings and start to get in shape for longer hikes soon

to come. Call after March 5, please. Marsha Armentrout, (314)892-4279.

Mar. 20-21 (Sat-Sun) White water races on the St. Francis River.

The Sierra Club provides judges for the slalom races through the rapids of Millstream Gardens. Come one day or both. Free camping nearby at Silver Mines. No experience necessary. We will train you how to judge gates. This is a fun weekend and your chance to see some of the best canoeists and kayakers in the area negotiate gates on white water. Alternate weekend in case of poor river conditions is March 27-28. Jim Nyberg, (314)725-0767.

Mar. 20-21 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail, Blair Creek section. We should have the main trail cleaned up by now and can go back to the Himont Trail and continue with the tread work required there. Common commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975.

Mar. 21 (Sun) Weldon Spring. Coast-to-coast, end-to-end, or bust, 9 miles. Wayne Miller, (314)569-0094.

Mar. 27 (Sat) Moderately easy hike to Savannah Ridge in Meramec State Park. Joe and Lois Walsh, (314)343-6875.

continued on next page

Outings

Apr. 3 (Sat) This hike will take us into the heart of Taum Sauk State Park. The Ozark Trail, Mina Sauk falls, and many spectacular glades will be the highlight of this hike. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

April 10 (Sat) Highway cleanup. Last chance to contribute to unsullied roadsides before Earth Day. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

Apr. 10-11 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration. Last chance this season to join this human community repairing a biotic community at Washington State Park. Come one day or both. Penny Holtzmann, (314)487-2738.

Apr. 11 (Sun) Meramec State Forest should be starting to turn green now. We will hike the 8-mile loop trail. Wayne Miller, (314) 569-0094.

Apr. 11 (Sun) Day hike to search for wildflowers at Emmenegger County Park. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

Apr. 16 (Fri) Easy four-five mile spring wildflower hike at the Arboretum. Optional lunch afterwards. Dick Klosterman, (314)776-1339, or Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 5 p.m. weekdays, please).

Apr. 17 (Sat) Wildflower hike at St. Francois State Park. Easy walk. This hike

always fills up, so call early to reserve your place. Bring your wildflower field guide and plan on an informative outing.

Jack and Pat Harris, (314)894-9021.

Apr. 17 (Sat) New Members Get-Acquainted Hike at Powder Valley Nature Center. Near I-270 and I-44. This morning hike is for new and old members. Hike two or three miles on the paved hiking trails over the bridges and through the woods as we get acquainted. Enjoy visiting the creative Nature Center. Limit: twenty. Marsha Armentrout, (314)892-4279, or Liz Burton, (314)240-6575, before April 15th.

Apr. 17 (Sat) Water quality testing at Fox Creek near Greensfelder Park. Discover creatures you've never encountered before. Newcomers and trainees welcome. Leslie Lihou, (314)726-2140, or Jim Rhodes, (314)821-7758.

Apr. 17-18 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail. Get to know your Ozark Trail. All work should be finished by now, so we will spend two days hiking sections of the trail you have not seen or sections you have worked on. Common commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975.

Apr. 18 (Sun) Beginner hike at Pickle Springs and Hawn State Park. Call by Friday April 9. Margaret Gilleo and Chuck Guenther, (314)991-1305.

Apr. 22 (Thu) Bring outdoor gear to swap or sell at the Sierra Club meeting at 7:30 p.m..

Apr. 24 (Sat) In search of the white trillium, we will amble the trails of Weldon Springs. Join us for this day hike. Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

Apr. 25 (Sun) This hike to Bell Mountain will take us in to the heart of the Bell Mountain Wilderness. We will also travel the Ozark Trail as part of this hike. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

Osage Group

Mar. 6-7 (Sat-Sun) Backpack Sam Baker. Backpack through magnificent forests bordering spectacular shut-ins. This overnight trip, at Sam A. Baker State Park, will be a perfect start to your spring outings. Tom Roscetti, (573)636-8205.

Mar. 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Trout fishing and early wildflower viewing on the upper Current River. One or two day canoe trip. Daryl Meller, (573)395-4726.

Mar. 18 (Thur) Spring Wildflower Walk with Randal! This weekly spring excursion has become a mid-Missouri tradition! Randal Clark will guide our viewing of a succession of spring wildflowers in the Rockbridge/Three Creeks areas. Meet any Thursday until the end of May at 5:30

Outings

p.m. at the Rockbridge/Devil's Icebox parking lot. Dinner after the walk at a local restaurant. Randal, (573)875-0514.

Mar. 20 (Sat) Osage New (& Old) Member Party. Marion Mace, (573)875-2916.

Mar. 25 (Thur) Spring Wildflower Walk. See above.

Mar. 28 (Sun) Leek Seek and Trilliums. A short hike to a secret spot will put us in the midst of 1000's of the very elusive, very rare native leek, accented by 100's of also very rare snow trilliums to be at their peak bloom. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at MDC parking lot at Stadium and College Avenues. Jim Whitley, (573)442-6929.

Apr. 1 (Thur) Spring Wildflower Walk. See above.

Apr. 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Canoe the upper Buffalo River. Daryl Meller, (573)395-4267, or Kay Stewart, (573)445-0115.

Apr. 10-11 or 17-18 (Sat-Sun) Canoe the upper Jack's Fork. Kay Stewart, (573)445-0114.

Apr. 23-25 (Fri-Sun) Shannondale backpack outing. Hike some of the most scenic places in the Ozarks at the peak of its beauty. Stay at the Timber Lodge of Shannondale Center in Shannon County. There will be a fee. Sign up early. Randal Clark, (573)875-0514.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Mar. 13 (Sat) Perry Lake trail maintenance. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028.

Mar. 13 (Sat) Gastronomic outing. Blue Nile on 39th Street near State Line for Ethiopian food. Gale Burrus, (816)763-5120.

Mar. 20-21 (Sat-Sun) Backpack the Flatside Wilderness, Arkansas. This trail, in the Ouachita National Forest near Hollis, Arkansas, was featured in the

December, 1998 issue of Backpacker magazine. Jeff Pierce, (913)599-3966.

Mar. 27 (Sat) Hike at English Landing. Meet at 11 a.m. for a hike along the Missouri River near Parkville, followed by lunch at one of Parkville's fun restaurants (optional). Ana Royal, (816)531-2371.

Mar. 27 (Sat) Dayhike Pomona Lake trail. We will hike the Black Hawk trail which wanders north along the lake. Jim Horlacher, (913)492-7818.

Mar. 29 (Mon) Beginner's Backpack Workshop. Bob & Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708.

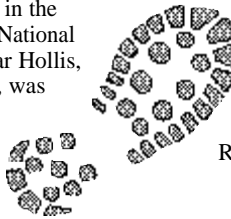
Apr. 10-11 (Sat-Sun) Prairie State Park, Lamar, Missouri. Beginning backpacker hike. Limit: 10

participants. Bob & Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708.

Apr. 15 (Thu) Gastronomic outing. Bo Ling's at 4800 Main for Chinese food. Gale Burrus, (816)763-5120.

Apr. 15-18 (Thu-Sun) Backpack hike along the Ozark Highlands Trail. Bob Wilshire, (913)384-6645.

Apr. 30 (Fri) Sunset hike in Union Cemetery. This will be a full moon night. Ana Royal, (816)531-2371.



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