

OZARK ONE EARTH ONE CHANCE SIERRAN

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Tickseed Coreopsis; a Missouri native
photo by Doris Sherrick

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

1999 Clean Air Leadership Conference — Action, Information, and Ideas

by Wallace McMullen

From all across the US of A, activists gathered in February for the 1999 Clean Air Leadership Conference held in Washington D.C. I had the pleasure of representing the Sierra Club Ozark Chapter at this conference.

The participants agreed to bring back a unified draft of basic principles to their varied constituencies under the banner of "A National Clean Air Agenda." Hopefully, broad support among participating organizations will allow the clean air movement to speak with a strong collective voice on core issues of concern. The proposed framework principles include:

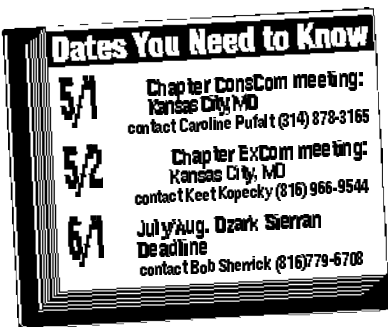
•**Breathing clean air is a basic right and necessity for all life.** We must clean up and prevent air pollution which threatens the health of our families. Health based air quality standards should be based on the best, most current science. Our society should learn to consider the full costs of dirty air which impacts our health, our environment, and our economy.

•**We have a right to know whether the air we breathe is clean and free of toxic pollution.** Over 70,000 chemicals are currently being used by industry, but industry is required to report their air releases of only about 600 of these chemicals to the Toxic Release Inventory. Everyone deserves to know what is being released into the air they breathe, and participate in the decisions about pollution limits.

•**There is no inherent right to pollute.** We all share in the responsibility to make our air safe to breathe through corporate practices, community decisions, and individual actions. Large industries such as power plants and refineries should not abuse the public trust with undisclosed pollution. Individuals and communities should be urged to make choices for less polluting transportation and better land use.

•**We have a responsibility to future generations to reduce air pollution today.** We must take steps now to ensure clean, healthy air in the future, and to halt the damage caused by acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion, mercury emissions (which get into the food chain), and global warming. As an initial goal, we need clear support for renewable energy as an alternative to burning fossil fuels, and energy efficiency to reduce existing consumption.

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•We must seek interstate and international cooperation to ensure that we continue to make progress in cleaning our air. International cooperation, national strategies to reduce pollution, and multistate planning regions are desirable; pollution across borders needs to be curtailed.

Because so many different themes came out of the activities at this conference, I am going to segment the rest of this report into a more detailed discussion of a few issues.

Reducing Nitrous Oxide Pollution: Will the NOx SIP Call Bring a Push for Clean Energy?

Nitrous oxides (NOx), are a major component of haze, lung irritants, and bad air quality. They also contribute to acid rain. Coal burning

electric utility power plants create and emit NOx, and are the largest source of this pollution in Missouri.

The Clean Air Act provides a framework for reducing NOx pollution. The EPA has published a Federal Rule under the authority of the Act, which requires about 37 states to develop plans for eliminating NOx. These plans are called State Implementation Plans, i.e., "SIP"s, and the requirement is referred to as a "Call." Thus, the shorthand lingo is "The NOx SIP Call."

Missouri's share of the required NOx emissions reduction is approximately 60,000 tons per year, going down from 175,000 tons to 114,000 tons emitted per year (Source: NOx SIP Compliance Table, NRDC, 2/6/99).

With this new requirement coal burning utility power plants are now under great pressure to clean up their polluting emissions. We have a chance to push for the elimination of some of these stinkers which, besides NOx, are putting out approximately 70,000 tons of CO2 per year, and screwing up the climate, as well as contributing to acid rain, haze, lung irritants, and mercury in the food chain.

The cost of reducing NOx emissions is estimated by various sources

Special People

The conference attendees were dedicated, upbeat, and knowledgeable activists. A group of pretty interesting folks, who included a grandmother with knitting in her lap who knew Clean Air case law like the back of her hand, and had a superb flair for tactics; young activists, already experienced and deeply immersed in running their particular environmental organization; a chap who looked like (the stereotype of) a senator, and liked to stir up the group like an evangelist; several nationally prominent Sierra Club activists, including the national Clean Air Chair; some techno-wonks with charts, and computerized displays; lawyers fighting the good fight in clean air litigation; doctors concerned about global warming; and seasoned veterans of many environmental battles in Washington D.C. The delegates brought to the conference the varied perspectives of regional clean air groups, environmental, health and social justice organizations, and well-known groups such as the American Lung Association, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Public Citizen. (A complete list of all the organizations represented would fill more than a page). The Sierra Club was well represented with participants from the far reaches of the USA, including Wisconsin, Texas, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Maryland. Getting to know these people was uplifting and informative.

And we now know that one Ken Midkiff has the nickname of "Senator Midkiff" in some Washington D.C. circles — it seems he debated US Senator Kit Bond to a standstill in a public meeting there recently.

from \$900 per ton of reductions to \$2000 per ton. Multiply that times 60,000 tons for Missouri, and the cost is \$54 million to \$120 million. So, this has a significant dollar impact. The next struggle may be over how much of this cost the big utilities are allowed to pass on to their consumers.

Some Missouri politicians may be considering a policy of fighting the EPA in court rather than complying with the NOx SIP Call for western Missouri. Kansas City emissions of air-borne pollutants apparently drift toward Iowa, rather than toward instate urban areas. Legally attacking the EPA Rule would slow down the implementation of NOx reduction measures in Missouri, possibly for years. This would be reminiscent of the St. Louis air quality situation — note the related story on page 15 in this issue.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the Missouri agency which will administer allocation of NOx allowances from the EPA. DNR has already issued a draft State Rule for its new Implementation Plan. The federal deadline for submitting the SIP to the EPA is September, 1999.

In summary: The goal here is to push for less use of dirty coal fired electric power by the utilities. The NOx emissions from coal burning power plants are nasty air pollutants which need to be eliminated if we are to maintain clean air to breathe. Reducing the use of coal would curtail other undesirable emissions as well.

Stationary Air Pollution Sources Now Need Permits Title V of the Clean Air Act Provides for Citizen Law Suits.

The Clean Air Leadership Conference sensitized us to the need for vigilance on Title V air emissions permits under the Clean Air Act which deal with stationary emissions sources such as cement manufacturing plants. Not only the level of emissions, but the monitoring provisions, and the

potential for violations and abuses need watchdogging by citizens and environmental groups. The experience with Premium Standard Farms' water permits has illustrated the value of watchful monitoring of permit compliance, and the potential abuse of those permits. The same watchfulness for Clean Air permits may be needed.

Citizen lawsuits were written into the Clean Air Act as a major part of the enforcement process for Title V.

The Ozark chapter has asked to be notified of future air quality permit applications by major emissions sources, i.e., big polluters. The DNR reports that they have issued about 200 of approximately 500 permits for the largest class of these emissions sources under Title V of the Clean Air Act.

Clean Air Leadership Conference Calls on EPA to Provide National Training on Title V of the Clean Air Act

A major component of the Title V program in the Clean Air Act was supposed to be public participation. But in practice, most states are issuing Title V permits without meaningful public participation.

So far the EPA has done virtually nothing to facilitate this process, or to develop a national plan for public participation. Recognizing the vacuum, participants at the Clean Air Leadership Conference, on behalf of the organizations they represented, joined together in writing to the EPA and requesting an EPA sponsored training conference on Title V.

Title V deals with stationary emissions sources under the Clean Air Act. Industrial air pollution sources that don't move, such as cement manufacturing plants, fit in this category.

Bob Perciasepe, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, responded to the request for an EPA-sponsored national Title V training conference. In a letter dated March 23, 1999, he said:

“We are very supportive of

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developing ways for active citizen participation in this program and recognize that training workshops can be an important step to facilitate this participation. We will be developing a national plan for outreach to local groups and communities that will focus on how best to achieve this goal of broader participation, and the national training workshop you suggested will be one of the mechanisms we will be considering.”

In other words, they're thinking about it.

While local training programs would be excellent, such programs would not eliminate the need for a national training program. First, it is clear that the EPA headquarters is not in a position to force either its regional offices or the state agencies to offer citizen training programs. Thus, if the EPA decides to focus solely upon state-level trainings, many areas of the country will be left out. Second, a national training conference could draw upon the knowledge of talented citizen activists from around the country. By contrast, due to lack of funding for travel expenses, state programs would be forced to rely upon local speakers—more often than not, this means EPA staffers. While EPA staffers are very knowledgeable, they aren't always in tune with the challenges that face citizen activists. Finally, through a national training conference, we can hope to create a strong group of activists who are knowledgeable about both the nuts and bolts of permit review and the Title V policy issues that are certain to arise in the future. Local programs, by contrast, are likely to focus almost exclusively upon individual permit review and how to write effective comment letters. This would be helpful on technical nuts and bolts, but probably would ignore policy issues that we might seek unified actions to address.

Keri Powell of the New York Public Interest Research Group will take the lead on continuing to work with the EPA to convince them that a national conference is both necessary and a worthwhile investment. In announcing Mr. Perciasepe's response she writes:

“I am in contact with someone from Perciasepe's staff who is very interested in pursuing the idea of a national training conference... The primary issue is funding... From what I can tell, the large number of organizations that signed on to the request for Title V training took EPA off guard... The good news is that lots of people are finally focusing on the importance of public participation in the Title V program. Thanks to all of you for working together to make this issue a priority at EPA!”

Tennessee Valley Authority — The nation's largest electric power utility needs greening.

A potentially valuable opportunity has come along to influence the leadership of the nation's largest federal electric power utility—a utility with one of the nation's largest environmental footprints. Two of the three Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Director positions will be vacant this spring.

Seeing a potential major impact from the next appointments, the Ozark Chapter's Executive Committee has sent a letter to Vice-President Al Gore, asking him to propose pro-environmental candidates for the TVA's Board of Directors. The letter states: “We see these appointments as a key step to addressing our nation's ongoing commitments to clean air, [mitigating] global climate change, and environmental stewardship. We hope you share this view and look forward to working with you through the Sierra Club national organization.”

TVA serves eight million people in seven southeastern states with a total generating capacity of over 28,000 megawatts and annual revenue of over \$6 billion. The giant utility presently ranks in the top three on SO_x, NO_x, and CO₂ pollution. Over the past decade, TVA has backed completely out of any serious efforts for energy conservation, although

in the 1980's it was a national leader. Like Missouri's big utilities, it has not yet made any significant commitment to renewable energy.

Vice President Al Gore will be instrumental in the upcoming selection process for the TVA Board positions. This could serve as a real test of the quality of Al Gore environmental appointments.

TVA Board members are appointed by the President of the United States for staggered nine year terms. One term is expiring, and one director has resigned to become finance chair of Gore2000, thus creating two vacancies at present. Once appointed, the Directors have enormous power to influence the direction of the agency.

TVA has danced around its potential role as a national leader on clean technologies in the past year. Last August, it announced plans for the nation's largest

reduction of NOx (75%)—more than any other major utility. However, it has taken no concrete steps on global warming, or pollution and radiation free energy sources. Good board appointments may provide the needed leadership and return the TVA to its former role as a solidly progressive utility.

The TVA Board of Director nominees go before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for a conformation hearing. Additional information on the hearing process can be found at <http://www.senate.gov/~epw/>.

The Planet is an exclusive benefit for Sierra Club Members who belong to the Environmental Rights Network, which links activists around the country.

Each issue contains:

- Environmental news;
- Legislative updates;
- In-depth look at regional conservation campaigns;
- Grassroots victories, Club organizing campaigns and more.

Please sign me up for the Environmental Rights Network and send me a free one-year subscription to THE PLANET. I agree to get involved in efforts to protect the environment.

NAME

MEMBERSHIP # (from mailing label)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Please clip and send to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 17-19 FOR OUR ANNUAL CHAPTER CAMPOUT & REUNION!

Once again it's time to register for the Ozark Chapter's Annual Campout and Reunion. This year we return to good old Cuivre River State Park and Camp Sherwood Forest. Due to school groups' arrangements with the park, this location has become nearly impossible to reserve in October. However, its proximity to St. Louis, where the majority of our membership lives, results in such better attendance we decided to try reserving for one of the remaining available fall weekends. We got lucky and were awarded the reservation for September 17, 18, and 19, 1999! So won't you please join us for all or part of this Friday-Saturday-Sunday get-together?

This is your opportunity to enjoy the fall weather and foliage, great hikes, campfire storytellers, and other fun activities. Cuivre River State Park is located in the rugged Lincoln Hills in Lincoln County, Missouri. The park's 6,350 acres include a 55 acre lake and prairie, an old-growth natural area, Frenchman's Bluff, with spectacular views of the farmland below, and a visitor's center with nature exhibits. Participants

will stay warm in the secluded old-time cabins. If you prefer to tent camp, you will have to pitch your tent in the regular campground area, which is a sizable distance from the group campgrounds, where tent camping is not allowed.

On Saturday and Sunday, there will be short and long hikes along the park's trails. Be sure to bring your camera, binoculars, and field guides; and maybe you'd like to bring your bicycle or canoe? If you want, just relax and visit with new or old friends. Activities for children will be planned, so bring the young ones. We will also be planning indoor activities in the event of less than perfect weather.

On Saturday, after the evening meal, we will honor Sierrans who have earned recognition for their contributions to the Club. Then, we'll have a roaring campfire sure to bring out plenty of storytellers — some funny, some scary — but all guaranteed to entertain. Space is limited, so we need you reservations by September 3. Send in the completed form with your check and we will send you a packet with all the information you will need to have an enjoyable weekend. Hope to see you there!



Fri. Sept 17 — Sun. SEPT 19

Registration Form for '99 CampOut

Send in your registration form today!
deadline Sept 3rd

name _____
 (please list names of all persons you are registering)
 address _____
 city/state/zip _____
 evening phone (_____) _____

#s		\$s	
	child: 0-3 yrs.	free	
	child: 3-6 yrs.	\$8	\$
	child: 6-12 yrs.	\$15	\$
	adult: (13 yrs. & over)	\$30	\$
	adult, partial weekend *	\$20	\$
	limited income	\$15	\$
	Saturday dinner <u>ONLY</u>	\$10	\$
total ◆		fee enclosed \$	◆total

maximum fee for a family \$80

Fees include cabin camping, and 5 meals (Sat. breakfast through Sun. lunch).
 * "partial weekend" defined as less than 3 meals.

- ◆ Make checks payable to "Ozark Chapter, Sierra Club"
- ◆ Mail form and checks to:
 Andrew Gondzur, 4037 McDonald Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63116
- ◆ Any questions, phone Andrew Gondzur (314)772-8810 or e-mail at agondzur@stlnet.com
- ◆ We must receive your reservation by September 3rd
- ◆ Camping fees will be refunded for cancellations received prior to Sept 13th
- ◆ We will mail you an information packet containing map in advance of the Camp-Out date.



Conference Highlights Problems and Promise of Missouri's Private Forests

by *Caroline Pufalt*

In March of this year the University of Missouri Environmental Sustainability and Public Policy Conference Series held a conference entitled "Towards a Vision for Missouri's Private Forests." The conference was sponsored by several agencies and organizations, including the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. Anytime would have been a good time to have a conference focusing on privately owned forests in Missouri, but the recent arrival of high capacity chip mills in our state has focused attention on their importance.

The majority of forested acres in Missouri are held by private landowners. The health of these many acres is vital to wildlife, recreation, timber, and watershed resources. Most landowners recognize the many contributions their forests make. Conference participants heard the results of surveys of Missouri landowners showing that owners value their forests for wildlife and aesthetic assets as well as for timber resources.

Managing forests for ongoing multiple values is not always easy. To do so amounts to achieving sustainability. Sierran Alan Journet presented a description of the major points of ecologically sustainable forest management. An example of sustainability in practice was provided by Clint Trammel, forester for the privately owned Pioneer Forest in Missouri. He described how that holding is successfully managed without the use of clearcutting or any type of even-aged management similar to clearcutting. The Pioneer forest is owned by Leo Drey. Many conference participants referred to it as a model for others to emulate.

Looming as a storm cloud over this vision of ecologically sustainable forestry was the presence of the chip mill industry in Missouri. High capacity chip mills

(HCCM) are capable of swallowing up vast acres of hard and soft wood and processing the trees into chips for paper or other fiber uses. Two are now operating in Missouri. Conference participants were eager to discuss their impacts. We heard about chip mills operating in the southeast and in Arkansas. HCCMs are a different type of timber industry operation than those currently doing business in the state. Experience has shown that HCCMs can have a negative economic and ecological impact as they offer short-term financial rewards and long-term environmental negatives.

Conference participants discussed how the small landowner can stand up to the financial pressures that HCCMs bring to the local economy. It was also recognized that although chip mills were a high priority problem now, private landowners faced other challenges as well. Ownership turnover is high in some areas and development is reaching many rural areas. Several responses to these problems were considered. Information and education for owners and loggers were seen as indispensable. Tax incentives and conservation easements are useful options. Regulations for basic, best management practices were also considered. This might involve protections for riparian areas, for example. With respect to the HCCM industry, some participants suggested requiring resource sustainability studies before permits were issued and requiring certification of the application of best management practices to lands from which logs are accepted by the mills.

This is a brief and incomplete summary of the conference. As a whole, I have focused on the issues raised which were related to HCCM. Thanks to the University of Missouri Environmental Affairs Council and the MU Environmental Studies Program for their work on the conference.

Ozark Chapter Leaders Continue in National Club Roles

by Roy C. Hengerson

I have been privileged to serve the membership of the Sierra Club for three 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. On May 22, when the new Directors are seated after the recent Board election, I will be stepping off the Board. However, several Ozark Sierrans, myself included, will continue to hold positions with the national entities of the Club.

The contributions of many Missouri Sierra Club activists and leaders over the years have given the Ozark Chapter a solid reputation for being effective. Having those national connections greatly helps and provides opportunities to influence Club policies and operations.

Some of the people from our Chapter holding national Club positions are:

- Gale Burrus – Council of Club Leaders Delegate,
- Ginger Harris – member, National Transportation Committee,
- Roger Hershey – Secretary of the Sierra Club Foundation,
- Keet Kopecky – Chapter Chairs Forum Executive Committee,
- Ron McLinden – Chair, subcommittee of the National Transportation Committee to review Club policies regarding freight transportation,

Ken Midkiff – Coordinator, Clean Water Campaign under the Environmental Quality Strategy Team,

Caroline Pufalt – member, Wild Planet Strategy Team under the Conservation Governance Committee.

After May, I will be switching roles and will become the Chair of the Clean Water Campaign and a member of the Environmental Quality Strategy Team. The Clean Water Campaign is one of the four major conservation campaigns adopted by the Board for 1999–2000.

I encourage you to learn more about the Sierra Club beyond your local Group and Chapter. It is exciting to learn of others around the country who share our values and are working to help the Club succeed in its mission. Periodically, national Club committees, task forces, strategy teams, and work groups recruit to find new activists willing to become involved in their programs. Please let me know if you have some interest in serving the Sierra Club in any of a wide array of roles. I can let you know of the scope of these positions and what sets of skills and experiences are being sought.

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



Agri-Industry Launches Preemptory Strike Against Mississippi River

by Caroline Pufalt

Fearing the scrutiny of an Army Corps of Engineers' study and public review, agri and barge industry interests are pushing legislation that would double the lock size of five lock and dam units north of St. Louis. This industry action is coordinated under the lobbying umbrella of the Midwest Area River Coalition 2000 (MARC 2000).

Their action is premature because the Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of completing a major study regarding potential lock and dam expansion. But MARC 2000 is pushing their legislation before the completion of that study. The rush was probably prompted by preliminary results of the Corps' study that showed the project economically unjustifiable. Since the Corps is an organization loathe to pass up an opportunity to build or expand locks and dams, the study results were somewhat of a surprise. The Corps itself seemed surprised and will likely review and redo its economic analysis.

But MARC 2000 could not wait for this process and the public review and comments that would follow a completed Corps' study. Those comments would likely have focused on two issues: the economics of the project and the environmental impacts of the expansion.

From an economic standpoint, expansion of the lock and dam system is a classic waterworks boondoggle. MARC 2000 argues that expansion of the system is needed for increased barge traffic for grain exports. The transportation advantage that barge traffic gives to agri-industry is supposedly needed to compete

with grain exports from other countries, such as Brazil and Argentina. Also, MARC 2000 claims that the U.S. will have increased grain shipments due to bioengineered crops.

Navigation on the Mississippi is the second most expensive method of transportation in the country. It is second only to space travel. And, the taxpayers foot most of the bill. The barge industry pays a modest gas tax that is set aside for navigation related "construction." It pays nothing for the day-to-day maintenance of the navigational system. Even with the gas tax set aside, the public would likely pay for half of the proposed construction. Any advantages of this subsidized transport are likely to benefit corporate agriculture more than the family farmer.

Expanding the locks and dams and the associated traffic increases would cause further environmental damage to the already strained ecology of the Mississippi river. Dams and related structures are designed to create sufficiently deep water for navigational vessels. But, that in turn limits the river's ability to create and maintain fish and wildlife habitat such as side channels and fresh water marshes. The river becomes more of a fast flowing ditch and less of a living, changing ecosystem.

At this writing, Missouri Senators Bond and Ashcroft and Representative Hulshof have expressed interest in the proposed legislation. Since Missouri is obviously a key state in the upper Mississippi river basin, our legislators' actions will have an important impact, for better or worse, on the river and on our pocketbooks.

Sierra Club Regional Conferences Highlight Issues Critical to Missouri

by Ginger Harris

Missouri's Ozark Chapter belongs to the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee (MRCC) and also has representation on the Southern Plains Regional Conservation Committee (SPRCC). RCCs typically arrange to hold a workshop on the same weekend as their committee meeting, partly to educate

themselves and the host community, and partly to get to know members of the host community.

Missourians were lucky to be able to attend two RCC sponsored workshops recently.

The MRCC held its workshop at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis on February 27 on the subjects of Global Warming and Nuclear Waste. Nuclear energy is suggested by some individuals as a solution to global warming because it replaces the burning of fossil fuels. The MRCC highlighted the dangers of nuclear energy to show that it is not an acceptable solution to global warming. The dangers of nuclear energy were addressed by Kay Drey (member of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and Board member of the Nuclear Information & Resource Service), Judy Treichel (Executive Director of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force), Steve Frischman (Technical Policy Coordinator of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects), Joe Campbell (member of the Indigenous Environmental Network in Minnesota), and Susan Patton (director of a health study of neighbors of toxic and radioactive material producers in Kentucky).

Kay Drey informed us that the amount of radioactive waste which Congress proposes to send to the Yucca Mountain Interim Storage Facility in Nevada (per HR 45 and S 608) over the next 28 years is equal to 2.3 million atom bombs. Since 76 of the 103 operating nuclear reactors in the U.S. are located east of the Mississippi River, a large percentage of this radioactive waste would come through Missouri by train and by truck, much of it through St. Louis, and even more of it through Kansas City.

Judy Treichel and Steve Frischman described the interim and geologically unstable nature of the "parking lot" at Yucca Mountain where these radioactive wastes would accumulate while scientists try to figure out how to contain the wastes "permanently."

Joe Campbell described his service on a nuclear plant advisory committee, describing it as an effort by the nuclear industry to coopt the Native American community.

Susan Patton described how, as a nurse, she became aware of the health impacts of chemical and nuclear industries in poor neighborhoods in Kentucky. She applied for grants and established her own non-profit agency to survey neighborhoods for diseases resulting from exposure to toxic and radioactive wastes.

Steve Pedery (Sierra Club national staff on Global Warming) summarized the scientific evidence for global warming and some solutions, including raising the corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) standards for cars and trucks and applying these standards to Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs).

After panel presentations, workshop attendees divided into two meetings: one on global warming; one on nuclear waste. In the global warming meeting, attendees made personal commitments to make at least one life-style change or take at least one action that would reduce global warming.

In the nuclear waste meeting, attendees developed a joint plan of action to raise awareness about nuclear waste. Each attendee volunteered to carry out an element of the plan: (1) obtaining or developing a fact sheet on nuclear waste production and storage sites; (2) obtaining a map of transportation routes from these sites to Yucca Mountain; (2) developing a list of activities for publicizing this issue; (3) disseminating these materials to other RCCs.

The SPRCC held its workshop in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas, on March 6 on "Reclaiming our Food System from the Corporate Giants."

Craig Volland (Kansas Chapter Sierra Club member) provided a historical perspective.

Mary Hendrickson (UMC professor) described market concentration in the food industry.

Ron Collins (attorney, Center for Science in the Public Interest) informed us about Orwellian food disparagement ("veggie libel") laws in 13 states (not yet in Missouri) which chill the media from reporting threats to food safety. The highly

continued on page 19... RCCs

Roger Pryor Mourned

by Roy C. Hengerson

Environmentalists, conservationists, and their allies were deeply saddened by the recent death of Roger Pryor, Senior Policy Director for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. He passed away on March 23, 1999 after battling illness and complications from diabetes. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, May 8 at 2 p.m. in St. Louis.

Roger was one of the most prominent and influential spokesmen for protecting the environment in Missouri and the nation. He was probably more knowledgeable about more conservation issues than anyone in the state. He also had a wonderful historical perspective developed during his more than three decades of being in the thick of environmental action. He was thus able to mentor and inspire many activists whose environmental work started more recently.

Although mostly known in recent years for his work with the Coalition for the Environment, Roger was active with other local and national environmental organizations, most notably with the Sierra Club. He was one of the Ozark Chapter's founding leaders, was later the Club's Midwest Regional Vice President, and was involved at the national level of the Club.

Roger Pryor began his service with the Coalition in 1985 as Program Director and later Executive Director. In addition to effective advocacy, Roger put

his skills as a writer and photographer to frequent use protecting the wildlands, urban landscapes, water, and air of Missouri. He was a mainstay in the many campaigns Missouri environmentalists have waged: against Meramec Dam and other river-destroying projects; for federal Wilderness Areas and state Wildlands; against Page Avenue Extension and other sprawl-promoting development; and for protecting urban open space and parks.

While he was a forceful advocate for environmental protection, he was also respected and appreciated by those who held opposing views. Roger had a delightful sense of humor, which often made his quotes resonate with the public.

Roger received many awards during his lifetime, including the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club's highest award: the Distinguished Service Award. He authored many articles and was co-author of a book about Missouri State Parks.

Roger also was a fine guitar player and singer. I remember many an evening after an Ozark Chapter or other environmental meeting sitting around the fire or in a rustic room listening to his tenor voice entertain the group with a vast array of folk songs.

The Missouri General Assembly passed a memorial resolution for Roger Pryor. The environmental community is looking for additional ways to memorialize and honor him. We truly have lost a gifted leader and a friend.

Bad Air Generates Hot Air

Bond and Ashcroft try to weaken USEPA enforcement authority

by Ken Midkiff

Back in November of 1998, the Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for failure to enforce the human health standards of the Federal Clean Air Act in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The St. Louis area has been out of compliance with the Clean Air Act from the git-go, and every summer the number of respiratory-distress hospital emergency admissions soars on “bad air days.”

Senators Kit Bond and John Ashcroft responded by introducing a bill to take away one of the enforcement tools of the USEPA — the ability to withhold federal highway moneys from areas with air quality problems. This bill was introduced a few days after several industrial and



economic development groups announced their intent to oppose the environmental lawsuit.

In a letter, apparently distributed throughout the state to local public officials, chambers of commerce, and others, U.S. Senator Kit Bond makes a number of allegations and unfounded innuendoes. His intent is clearly to gain support for the bill that he and Ashcroft have introduced.

A few facts:

- The St. Louis Air Quality Control Region (AQCR) — sometimes referred to as the “non-attainment area” — which includes St. Louis and bordering counties has never met federal air quality/human health standards — due to high ozone levels.

- This “bad air” quality causes human health problems, particularly in children, older adults, and persons with asthma or other respiratory problems. Hospital records document dramatic increases in admissions for respiratory distress on “bad air days.”

- The USEPA has determined that “mobile sources” (i.e. automobiles, trucks, and SUVs) are the cause of the problem: specifically the emission of the oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) as “ozone precursors.” The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the

USEPA and the State of Missouri to take steps to make the air healthy and safe. To this date, no such steps have been taken: all sorts of “plans” have been developed, but none have been implemented.

- The State of Missouri is required to develop transportation plans for the St. Louis AQCR that will reduce the air emissions problems. The current plan would exacerbate the emissions of NOx by relying

almost solely on more and bigger highways to address the area’s transportation needs.

- The environmental groups’ lawsuit quotes the provisions of law that require the Administrator of the USEPA to examine whether or not federal highway funds should be withheld from the state of Missouri for submitting a transportation plan that makes air quality problems worse in the St. Louis AQCR.

- However, the lawsuit asks the court to direct the USEPA to withhold federal highway moneys **ONLY FOR THE ST. LOUIS AQCR** — it is stated emphatically that the lawsuit does **NOT** ask that federal highway moneys be withheld for the entire state.

continued on page 16... **Hot Air**

Hot Air continued from page 15

- When the State submits plans to address the transportation needs of the St. Louis AQCR without causing more air quality problems, the federal highway moneys would be released.
- The USEPA cannot withhold federal highway moneys for projects conducted for safety purposes. Improvements to Highway 21 in Jefferson County, for example, would continue to be funded as the purpose is to reduce accidents and improve safety.
- The State's transportation plans for the St. Louis area perpetuate harmful human health effects and create situations where children with even minor asthma problems cannot play outside on warm summer days.

Rather than engaging in frivolous and confrontational legislative actions to remove an enforcement tool of the USEPA and writing letters full of half-truths to entities that won't be impacted, Senators Bond and Ashcroft should use their energies to secure more federal moneys to support such things as MetroLink extensions throughout the St. Louis AQCR.

This system is safe, efficient, and non-polluting. St. Louis area suburbs and surrounding communities are

enthusiastically competing to have MetroLink extended—but the funds are not there. But, as usual, Senators Bond and Ashcroft have chosen demagoguery over statemanship—and political currying over real solutions.

Thank You!

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 important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

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Short Trips

by Ron McLinden

General Assembly Says “NO” to Transportation Funding

As expected, a joint committee of the Missouri General Assembly listened politely to a presentation on Missouri’s transportation needs, then just said “No, thank you.” Thus, prospects for a dependable source of state funding for public transit and other non-highway transportation modes died on March 10, as did the hopes of highway interests for a massive infusion of new money. The committee reacted to a proposal developed by MoDOT and an ad hoc committee to raise taxes by some \$600 million per year for a multi-modal transportation program. The committee had been formed following the Governor’s Conference on Transportation in January, and included a representative from the Sierra Club. (See story in the March–April 1999 *Ozark Sierran*.) Prospects for another try next year are not promising, given that most politicians are pretty shy about talking about tax hikes in an election year — even when it’s a measure that the electorate would have to approve at the polls. Consequently, we can expect to see further delays in meeting the state’s public transit and inter-city rail needs, along with more potholes and rough pavement out on the highways. On balance, maybe that isn’t all bad.

We Talk with New MoDOT Director

Sierrans Ginger Harris and Ron McLinden met with MoDOT’s new director, Henry Hungerbeeler, in his Jefferson City office on March 26. Hungerbeeler took over as head of the troubled department on March 1 following a 30 year career in the Air Force. The 90 minute meeting was quite cordial, and we found we had a lot of interests and concerns in common.

Our conversation covered a variety

of topics including global resource limits; the need to create a transportation system that supports a more resource-efficient economy; the importance of work being done by MoDOT’s own Smart Growth Task Force; the potential for an emphasis on local pedestrian issues to raise public awareness of the need for better overall transportation planning; and the need for a more strategic approach to transportation decision-making. We cited the Page Avenue Extension as an example of state transportation policy run amok. We suggested he abandon MoDOT’s plans to build an elaborate headquarters campus at the far southwestern edge of Jeff City, and, instead, to demonstrate a commitment to the city by staying close to downtown.

While the meeting was positive, there are troublesome issues yet to be overcome, not the least of which is MoDOT’s intervention in a suit filed by the Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment against the EPA to get that agency to enforce provisions of the Clean Air Act in St. Louis. Press releases from MoDOT (and from Senator Bond’s office as well) have inaccurately characterized the purpose of the suit. Nevertheless, we are cautiously optimistic that in Mr. Hungerbeeler we have a MoDOT director who will listen to our concerns, and one who is willing to go out on a limb now and then for positive change.

Smart Growth Alliance Formed in Kansas City

Dissatisfied with the slow pace of change more than three years after the Kansas City Star published an award-winning series on urban sprawl, Kansas City activists have formed a “Smart Growth Alliance” to raise the public profile of the issue. In its first four meetings the group has attracted nearly fifty citizens from a range of backgrounds and perspectives that includes neighborhood advocates, ordinary citizens, and city, state and federal agency employees, in addition to the “usual

suspects,” environmental and transportation activists. An informal steering committee has been formed to deal with organizational matters, leaving the group’s monthly forums to focus on topics related to smart growth. The April forum dealt with public transit and smart growth. Future forums will be on Johnson County’s use of a visioning process to involve citizens in planning; a Mid–America Regional Council project to introduce local civic leaders and real estate developers to smart growth concepts (using “politically correct” terminology, of course); the importance of protecting the pedestrian environment; housing and neighborhood issues; and use

(and mis–use) of tax incentives to attract development.

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 others’ 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!

RCCs continued from page 13
publicized case of Texas Beef Group vs. Oprah Winfrey did not even address the free speech issue. After huge legal expenses, Winfrey has so far won only in the lower court, and only by arguing that cattle are not a "perishable food product." We also learned that less than 3% of imported food is inspected and that the US Dept of Agriculture relies on voluntary compliance, and has no mandate to pull contaminated food from store shelves. He advocates legislation to put food safety into the hands of a single agency devoted to that purpose, rather than leaving it up to several agencies with conflicting purposes.

Gail Eisnitz (author of *Slaughterhouse*) described and showed video clips of her harrowing experiences as an investigator for the Humane Farming Association.

Terry Shistar (Science Consultant to Beyond Pesticides) told about worrisome levels of atrazine in Kansas City’s water supply due to pesticide run-off.

Kathi Knipfer (Oklahoma Chapter leader and SPRCC Chair) reported on the threat to Tulsa’s water supply from chicken factories.

Kamyar Enshayan (U. of Iowa professor) showed us a "commodity chain analysis" and encouraged us with his experience convincing restaurant owners and managers to switch to locally grown

food.

Gary Valen (Humane Society’s Director of Sustainable Agriculture) spoke about successes his organization’s Eating with Conscience campaign has had in mobilizing consumer dollars to support non-polluting, humane, sustainable methods of food production.

Diane Endicott, Roger Allison, Carol & Jay Maddick, Susan & Herb White, Tim Maier, David Schafer, and Jack Graves described their own organic, humane and/or sustainable farming operations.

Our own Ken Midkiff presented an excellent summary of the symposium.

A farmers’ market was held concurrently inside the hotel and was visited by about 500 people.

Check out the fun you'll miss if you fail to send in your registration form on page 9!



Campfire Sing Along



Simon Says

OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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

Eastern Missouri Group

May 1 (Sat) Sierra Shutterbugs! Bring your camera as we go seeking nature photos at Cuivre River State Park. Photographers of all levels are welcome on this outing. Naturalist Bruce Schutte will be with us part of the morning. Walking will be at a leisurely pace as we look for Mother Nature's treasures. Bring a brown bag lunch. Claralyn Price-Bollinger, Richard Story, and Marsha Armentrout, (314)892-4279.

May 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Backpack trip to Ha Ha Tonka State Park. We will explore the rich diversity of one of Missouri's most beautiful state parks. Maybe we'll surprise some *echinacea* poachers and kick their butts! (Just kidding!) Limit 10. No beginners, please. Stacy Golladay (314)965-9624 before 9:00 p.m.

May 2 (Sun) Day hike in the canyon country of Southern Illinois. Our route through spectacular Jackson Hollow will follow the base of imposing, sixty-foot high

sandstone cliffs, wind through building size boulders and past hundred year old beech trees surrounded by lush ferns and spring wildflowers. Seven semi-rugged miles. Terry Allen, (618)398-1087 or Steve Viggers, (314)984-8752.

May 8 (Sat)



Forest Watchers hike and tour. We'll revisit

Grasshopper Hollow and check some areas of the Mark Twain National Forest. A full day outing. Ann Eggebrecht, (314)725-1560, or Hank and Katie Dorst, (417)932-4623.

May 8 (Sat) Highway Cleanup. Goldfinches can't find dandelion seeds unless we get this garbage off the roadsides. Give our feathered friends a break. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

May 8 (Sat) Inner city bicycle trek for the self-propelled. Soulard to Columbia Bottoms. See the world's longest graffiti wall and travel the St. Louis river front trail. Experience the meeting of the waters

four miles from the nearest internal combustion engine. Jim Young, (314)664-9392, or Bill McConnoughy, (314)771-2511.

May 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Two day canoe trip on the Current River. We will camp on the river and look for great blue heron rookeries. Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314)434-2072.

May 9 (Sun) Let's get a late start. We'll look for spring azaleas near Fredericktown to photograph in the late afternoon light. Kathy Wodell, (314)240-0675.

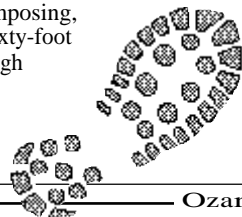
May 15 (Sat) Picnic sponsored by your Sierra Club trail builders and glade restorers. Everyone welcome. Our second annual picnic will be held at Babler State Park at the Alta Shelter starting at 1:00 p.m. Potluck. BYO. Bob Gestel, (314)296-8975, or Penny Holtzmann, (314)487-2738.

May 22 (Sat) One day canoe float near St. Louis. We'll go farther upstream if there is enough water. Colin Maag, (314)427-8011.

May 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Women's backpack trip. Nancy Shattuck, (314)776-3766.

May 23 (Sun) Tour de bluff. Bike ride on top of and below the bluff of the American Bottoms, Illinois' earliest settlement area where natura lbeauty and

continued on next page



Outings Continued

history abound. 10-20 miles at a moderate pace with frequent stops. Picnic lunch at scenic creek behind old stone mill. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

May 29 (Sat) Kaintuck Trail near Rolla. This trail has been rarely hiked by the Sierra Club. See a spring with a 3 million gallon a day flow and a 175 foot natural rock tunnel. 8 miles with several creek crossings. (Mod. difficult) Steve Viggers, (314)984-8752.

May 29 (Sat) Paul's Magical Mystery Tour: If the weather is just right we will hike to a special area in the St. Francis Mountains to look for wildflowers. If it's too hot I even have better magic waiting for you. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

May 31

(Mon) Valley View Glades. A special hike to view wildflowers on Memorial Day. Don't miss this opportunity to view a special area. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

June 5 (Sat) Shaw's Garden Walk. Spend an early Saturday morning walking at the garden. The garden is free; a great way to start the weekend. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

June 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Earth Day at the grand reopening of the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Enjoy the festivities and help the Sierra Club raise funds for

local



environmental work. We will be squeezing fresh lemonade and making veggie burgers. If you can donate a few of hours of your time call Jim Young, (314)664-9392.

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

June 6 (Sun) All day shut-ins sampler. We will visit some shut-in areas about two hours away. We will swim and just have fun. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549.

June 12 (Sat) Highway Cleanup. Can you be the first to spot butterfly weed growing by the roadside? Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

June 12 (Sat) Visit the Mid-America Aquacenter, St. Louis' own children's aquarium! Come pet a shark and learn about our fish friends! This outing is ideal for all ages. Bring a

sack lunch for our picnic in a nearby park, followed by our visit to the aquarium. Approximate costs: senior \$6, adult \$7 and child (ages 3-18) \$5. No group size limit. Claralyn Price-Bollinger & Matt Bollinger (314) (429-5748)

June 13 (Sun) Day canoe trip on the Huzzah or Courtois. Jonathan Lehman, (314)991-3969.

June 19 (Sat) Fourth annual summer solstice walk in Forest Park. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

June 20 (Sun) Father's Day canoe trip in the Meramec basin area. Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong, (314)434-2072.

June 26 (Sat) Trail maintenance and honeysuckle clearing in University City's Ruth Park Woods, a beautiful 26 acre forest. Bring a sack lunch and/or money for lunch at the Daily Bread after we work from 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Activities may include: spreading wood chips on a trail, trash pickup, maintenance of the handicap-accessible trail, removing honeysuckle and taking it to the chipper. Supervised children are welcome! If you have never tried trail maintenance, come join us on this adventure! Please call by June 19. Matt Bollinger & Claralyn Price-Bollinger (314)429-5748.

July 3-5 (Sat-Mon) Fair St. Louis. This is our most important fundraiser of the year. It's fun and a great opportunity to make new friends in the Sierra Club. Join us for a few hours making and selling fresh

Outings Continued

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

Osage Group

May 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Canoe the upper Big Piney. Kay Stewart, (573)875-4490.

May 6 (Thur) Wildflower walk with Randal Clark. Meet any Thursday until the end of May at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockbridge/Devil's Icebox parking lot. Dinner after the walk at a local restaurant. Randal, (573)875-0514.

May 9 (Sun) Hartsburg Rendezvous. Bike from Columbia or from Jefferson City and meet at the new (and will no doubt become historic) Hartsburg Thomhill Winery. Auto transportation will be provided for the ride home. Tom Moran, (573)442-6955.

May 13 (Thur) Wildflower walk with Randal. See above.

May 16 (Sun) Northwoods Exploration and Trail Tromping followed by evening picnic (potluck) and campfire. Kevin and Bitsy Allemann, (573)449-1568.

May 20 (Thur) This century's last Wildflower walk with Randal! Celebrate the beginning of summer, say "good-bye" to spring! Join us for hike, party, and picnic potluck and perhaps live music around the campfire. Meet at 5:30 p.m. Devil's Icebox parking lot, or come directly to the Boy Scout area of Rockbridge State Park.

May 29-31 (Fri-Sun) Third Annual Leisurely Memorial

Day float. A relaxed float trip, without (so far, at least) the crowds, on the Current or Jack's Fork. Daryl Meller, (573)395-4276, or Kay Stewart

Thomas Hart Benton Group

May 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Campout at Wallace State Park with St. Joseph Audubon. Sierra Club invited. Jim Voltz, (816)364-4702.

May 8 (Sat) Bike the KATY trail. Join us for some exercise and scenery along the historic KATY trail near Rocheport. Bike rental available at Rocheport. Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

May 15 (Sat) KC Zoo and IMAX theater.

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the ticket windows for the zoo. We will tour the zoo, eat lunch, see the IMAX, and then tour the zoo some more. Donna Clark Fuller, (816)779-7284

May 16 (Sun) Visit Powell Gardens for a look at the spring flowers. Gale Burrus, (816)763-5120.

May 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Flint Hills backpack. Our annual backpacking trip to the Ferrell Ranch near Beaumont in south-eastern Kansas. A lot of fun, and a great first backpack. Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284.

May 21 (Fri) Gastronomic outing. Bluebird Cafe at 1700 Summit for a variety of fresh food. Gale Burrus, (816)763-5120.

May 23 (Sun) Wallace

State Park trail maintenance.

Debra Dolly, (816)632-5167.



June 5 (Sat) Contra Dance for beginners. Dance with a group of the Sierra Club at the Merriam Community Center. Introduction for beginners starts at 7 p.m. Experienced dancers 8 p.m. Bring shoes with light soles and \$5 to cover the fee for the band. Claus Wawrzinek, (816)561-7863.

June 6 (Sun) National Trails Day. Konza Prairie dayhike. Enjoy a sack lunch among the beautiful prairie flowers. Bob & Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708.

June 12 (Sat) Dayhike at Overland Park Arboretum. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028.

June 19 (Sat) Bike outing to a bike trail south of Ottawa, Kansas. Claus, (816)561-7863.

June 21 (Mon) Summer Solstice and get together along with potluck near Peculiar, Missouri. Bring a music instrument and your songbook. Claus Wawrzinek, (816)561-7863.

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