

OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth

One Chance



VOLUME 34 • NUMBER 4

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2002

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Headcutting and Hungry Water

by Cynthia Andre

It is twilight on a July night. There is a mist lying in the bottom, made softly luminescent by a gibbous moon still low on the horizon. Fireflies blink and weave through the fog, completing the sometimes ethereal experience of a warm summer night on a creek in the Ozarks.

The pleasant, familiar sounds of katydids, Chuck-will's-widows, and barred owls calling to one another through the summer night cannot be heard, however, over an all too familiar noise these days on creeks statewide—the jarring noise of a large dump truck in low gear making the last climb out of the valley for the night and the uneven, angry whine of a front-end loader down on the gravel bar.

That, some people would say, is the sound of

money—\$41 million dollars in Missouri alone in one recent year. In one weekend, working round-the-clock, an operator can mine as much as \$80,000 worth of sand and gravel from one stream site. And there is an almost inconceivable amount of gravel being removed nationally from our rivers and streams—1.1 billion tons in 1998, up from 800 million tons in 1980. That buys a lot of lobbying power.

It also buys legal representation. In a lawsuit ending in 1997, the sand and gravel mining industry successfully challenged the regulation of their industry by the Army Corps of Engineers (except where gravel is moved about within the stream). When the Corps' appeal was lost in January 1999, regulation in our state reverted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land Reclamation Program.

Although MDNR issued permits for gravel mining for three years prior to the Corps taking over that function, guidelines for the industry were not actually developed until that time. There were, therefore, no stream protection guidelines for this industry in Missouri when permitting reverted to MDNR in 1999.

While it is old news that gravel mining can have negative effects on streams, research in the last few years has clarified some of these effects. Generally, they fall into two categories—physical changes in the channel and changes associated with increased sediment in the water.

Physical changes in the channel itself can be caused by removal of gravel from either within the stream or beside the stream. The removal of gravel from within the stream creates a “nick point” which moves upstream during high water, a process called “headcutting.” This lowers the streambed (called “channel incision”) and destabilizes the banks, sometimes for miles. In such cases, operators who mine in one area over many years are actually mining gravel from some other landowners' banks upstream destabilized by their mining activity.

The channel, now deepened below the nick point, will cause the stream during high water to drop its gravel load, as the water in this area is moving more slowly. This creates what is known as “hungry” water below this point, i.e., water that is relieved of its gravel load. Moving faster and with more energy now in the normal channel downstream, “hungry” water has an increased capacity to scour and erode the streambed and banks.

The removal of gravel from beside the stream can also cause problems, most frequently resulting in a widening of the channel. This changes the water temperature, affecting the species of aquatic wildlife that can live there. Less frequently stream-side gravel removal can change the stream channel itself when areas of excavation deeper than the water level within the stream “trap” the channel during flooding.

An increase of sediment in the stream, often associated with sand and gravel mining, has a number of harmful effects. Decreased visibility for aquatic wildlife interferes with reproduction and food gathering. Increased sediment can also decrease light levels for algae and aquatic plants, negatively affecting the aquatic food web and altering the environment for organisms dependent on the use of aquatic plants for reproduction and protection from predation.

Further, increased sediment in the stream can smother fish eggs and fry, negatively affecting fish survival rates, and can alter the streambed environment, eliminating habitat for some of the macroinvertebrate species on which many fish feed.

Finally, disturbance of the banks and streambeds can release old mine tailings and other pollutants, redistributing them in the stream.

Research has also shown that the industry can actually cost states more money than it generates when costs to society—lost farm revenue, real estate value, fishery productivity, and recreational spending—are factored in. Too, damage to infrastructure such as bridge piers, exposed buried pipelines, and utility lines caused by channel incision must be borne by the public as well.

In March 2000, with evidence mounting of environmental problems associated with sand and gravel mining, the Land Reclamation Commission

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White River Group Update

A meeting was held on September 6th at Kathy Jackson's house. We had a great time socializing with other White River Group folks, sharing common environmental concerns and planning activities for the future. We have a number of people who have volunteered for various things and are in the midst of planning outings and future meetings.

We will be having a potluck picnic in October at Sequoia Park in Springfield—date to be announced.

Future events will be posted on the listserv. You can add your e-mail address to the listserv through the chapter website at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>.

We also need more volunteers, so if you have some time to help the Group, if you would like to share with us what you see as needs for the Group, or if you just want more information, please contact us.

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requested staff to begin the process of establishing guidelines for gravel mining as a part of the state permitting process.

In September 2001, the same guidelines developed by all stakeholders for use by the Corps were published in the Missouri Register, but bowing to the pressure from the industry, these rules were terminated and four public hearings were held.

The public hearings were attended predominantly by operators, representatives of companies using gravel, and those who are currently statutorily exempted from the permitting process—government entities and private landowners. The comments were overwhelmingly negative, threatening to end the process. When those interested in protecting streams were finally alerted to the situation, however, the Commission received approximately 200 letters in favor of adopting the guidelines.

Seeking some consensus, the Commission then agreed that a workgroup consisting of representatives of all the stakeholders be formed to once again review the guidelines. On September 9th two representatives of the Sierra Club sat down with 31 other stakeholders to begin this process, which is scheduled to be completed by late November.

But once again sand and gravel operators are

seeking to bypass regulation. State senators and representatives have reportedly responded to the industry's entreaties by urging the Commission to abandon their attempt to develop guidelines for the industry.

ACTION: Please contact your state senator and state representative. Request that they support the adoption of the stream protection guidelines for sand and gravel mining in Missouri requested by the Land Reclamation Commission and being currently reviewed for their consideration. (Using your zip+4 code, you can e-mail or find the phone number or address of your state senator and representative at the following website: <http://www.senate.state.mo.us/zipsrch.htm>.)

Dates You Need to Know

11/19 Chapter Cons Com meeting: St. Louis
contact Gina DeBarthe,
gdebarthe@aol.com

11/10 Chapter ExCom meeting: St. Louis
contact Keet Kopecky,
kkopecky@kc.rr.com,
(816)966-9544

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



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!

Items for publication: Contact Keet Kopecky via E-mail at kkopecky@kc.rr.com or phone (816)966-9544, **PRIOR TO SENDING**, for information on how to submit articles.

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

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

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a Mac or PC disk (3.5"), **WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT**. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your disk), please include a SASE.

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1998 Clean Air Litigation may reach end—cleaner air?

by Cheryl Hammond

Legal action by the Sierra Club and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment for clean air may reach an end this year. The Sierra Club-Coalition effort to make the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforce the clean air laws in St. Louis have met with constant delays and setbacks. Success in court has not yet resulted in cleaner air.

In 1998, the Sierra Club Ozark Chapter and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, with leadership from attorneys Lewis Green and Douglas Williams, started legal action against the EPA to enforce laws mandating reduction in ground level ozone. Ground level ozone is the prime ingredient of smog. Long-term exposure leads to premature aging of the lungs and chronic respiratory illness. The effects of ozone are worse for children and exercising adults.

St. Louis was formally designated a non-attainment area in 1978, but has never done enough to attain the national standard. In 1990, Congress became impatient with the failure of cities to meet clean air standards and set new standards with deadlines to reach attainment and penalties for not reaching it with the St. Louis deadline being November 1996.

The test for non-attainment was a simple test. At any monitoring station, four or more readings of more than 0.124 parts per million (hourly average) in three years constitute failure to attain the national standard. Penalties for failing the test, which would have forced reduction in ozone, should have kicked in automatically by May 15, 1997.

Unfortunately, in 1997 with monitors clearly showing St. Louis had not achieved the standard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency refused to enforce the new penalties and sanctions. With the EPA arguing that it had discretionary authority to delay penalties, the Sierra Club-Coalition took the EPA to court to demand that the EPA immediately publish St. Louis as an area needing remedial action and argued that the law clearly did not allow the EPA to delay action. A long series of court battles ensued.

Meanwhile, the EPA set a new standard in 1997 that required that the average level of ozone be measured over eight hours, rather than one hour. The new standard allowed a concentration of 0.08 parts per million, down from the 0.124 standard. The standard also allowed the three worst measurements each year to be disregarded. The new standard is more stringent, with the previous standard not giving adequate health protection, even when met.

Objections to the new standards were only resolved in a series of court actions by March this year. Apparently St. Louis will not be required to attain the new standard until 2005, or perhaps 2008.

The Sierra Club-Coalition court actions continued through 1999 and 2000. Finally, in March 2001, clean air activists celebrated that the courts had forced the EPA to publish St. Louis as an area

where sanctions would now be applied. However, in an unprecedented turn of events, the EPA within weeks withdrew the publication and extended the deadline for attaining the old standard to 2004. The EPA claimed that the old deadline no longer existed, because it had been extended, and therefore it had not been violated after all.

The Sierra Club-Coalition has picked up the pieces and moved forward to once again challenge the EPA. However, the issue could be moot. In the last three-year period, the St. Louis area has recorded only three exceedances of the one-hour standard at any single monitoring station. Unless another exceedance is recorded at the West Alton monitor within the next few weeks, any decision by the court will have no effect, since the St. Louis area will fall into attainment, closing the door to more government action to reduce ozone levels based on the old one-hour standard.

The Labor Day holiday produced a flurry of business and state government calls to cut ozone producing activity on this weekend where heavy traffic and hot, stagnant weather were expected. The St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association called for members to cut factory output and take other preventative measures. Missouri Governor Bob Holden urged residents to limit their driving and turn off home air conditioners. According to an August 31 St. Louis Post-Dispatch story, Mississippi Lime in Ste. Genevieve County volunteered to idle six kilns and shut down another one for about twelve hours on Labor Day. The Post also reported that Missouri officials called the top 30 or so ozone polluters in the St. Louis area to ask them to cut back for the weekend.

With the cutback in industrial activities and perhaps individual actions, the area passed the weekend without another exceedance leading to expectations that the St. Louis area will come into attainment.

Is the air cleaner?

Nationally, the American Lung Association reports decreases since 1991 in one-hour readings of 12% in urban areas, 11% in suburban areas, and 6% in rural areas. The Northeastern and Western states have had the most progress while the Southeast and Midwest have shown the least.

The St. Louis area has made progress. With legal action pending, Missouri started two programs in 2000 to reduce ozone levels within the St. Louis area: reformulated gasoline and special emission testing of motor vehicles.

However, the American Lung Association was still rating St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Monroe, and Jefferson Counties an "F" at the end of 2001. According to the St. Louis Regional Air Partnership, as of September 2, 2002, St. Louis had experienced four red alert days, 23 orange alert days and 35 yellow alert days for 2002.

Cause for concern

St. Louis clean air activists worry that without

the urgency of penalties to reduce ozone levels, the way is paved for the approval of such new facilities as the proposed Holcim Cement Plant in Ste. Genevieve County that could add significant new air pollution to the region. Holcim's plant would be the largest cement plant in the world. Cement kilns as combustion facilities contribute to not only ozone pollution, but other hazardous air pollutants as well. Environmentalists took note that closing some operations at the relatively small Mississippi Lime in Ste. Genevieve County was considered necessary to avoid an exceedance over Labor Day. Since plans for the Holcim plant became public, the Ozark chapter has strongly opposed the granting of permits for Holcim.

Motor vehicles are generally accepted to account for 50% of air pollution in the region. New highways continue to contribute to more vehicle miles and exasperate the ozone problem. The popularity of SUVs which can emit two or more times the amount of gases contributing to ground level ozone as more efficient cars have also had a big impact in the last few years.

Backdoor success?

While the EPA did not actually apply sanctions, EPA did make threats to apply the sanctions and these threats contributed to new programs and efforts to control ozone. More effort is still needed by federal and local agencies. St. Louis is a long way from healthy air. According to the EPA 1998-2000 Air Quality Report, the following counties in Missouri failed to meet the new eight-hour standard: Cedar, Clay, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, Ste. Genevieve, and St. Louis counties. Clay, Platte, and Cedar Counties, in western Missouri, failed to meet the eight-hour standard, but all three still showed ozone levels lower than any of the four failing counties in eastern Missouri. On average, the eastern counties were 5% higher with St. Charles County having the highest readings due to the West Alton monitor. There were 329 counties nationally which failed the eight-hour ozone standard in this report. —

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Energy Notes

by Wallace McMullen, Chapter Energy Chair

California gives renewable energy a boost

The California legislature has passed a bill (SB 1078), that will implement a renewables portfolio standard (RPS). The legislation will require utilities in the state to increase their purchases of renewable energy by one percent per year so that at least 20 percent of the state's retail sales are acquired from eligible renewable energy resources by December 31, 2015. This will approximately double current renewable energy production levels!

This is expected to have a large impact, as California is one of the largest electric markets in the USA. With a known market for renewable energy generating equipment, the costs for renewable energy generation are expected to drop throughout the nation. This will enhance the cost-competitiveness of generating electricity from renewable sources in all states.

AmerenUE plans new power lines

AmerenUE, the big electric utility on the east side of the state, is planning several new power lines in the area south of the Calloway nuclear

plant and around Jefferson City.

OSAGE – MARIES COUNTIES: The biggest new transmission line is proposed to run south from the Calloway plant, near the town of Linn, to a point near Waynesville. The utility can use the power of eminent domain to legally seize the right of way if the landowners are not willing to sell it to them. AmerenUE representatives have said they need a corridor roughly 250 feet wide. They will cut the trees in the corridor and kill the vegetation in the route with Roundup. This is distressing to those in the proposed route.

A group of about 250 farmers and landowners in the proposed path have been meeting regularly and have hired an experienced lawyer to help them oppose the project. Doug McDaniel, one of the leaders of "Concerned Citizens of Family Farms and Heritage" says that the Public Service Commission usually rubber-stamps such utility proposals. However, his group has been successful in persuading the PSC to give them a hearing. The hearing is scheduled for the end of September.

One of the reasons that the group has opposed this powerline is that it seems to be mostly intended to transmit power out of the service area. There has been no population growth in the area where it will end. However, Panda Energy has obtained permits to build a large merchant power plant near the northern end of the proposed route.

A large segment of the proposed right of way for this transmission line has been given to AmerenUE by rural electric co-operatives, primarily Three Rivers Electric Co-op. Why they were so generous is presently unknown.

JEFFERSON CITY: Also, AmerenUE has announced plans to build a new substation near Jefferson City, saying the electric load in Jefferson City has grown 32% in the past ten years, and they need to acquire 30 to 60 acres of land for that purpose on the northwest edge of the city. AmerenUE also plans to build a new 161 kilovolt line across Jefferson City from the proposed new substation to the eastern edge of the city near the new state prison, and then a new 345 kV line east for about 20 miles, plus a new 69,000 volt line along the southeastern edge of Jefferson City.

The new construction around Jefferson City is estimated to cost \$21 million. AmerenUE has not yet disclosed the proposed route of the new powerlines in the city. Stories in the Jefferson City News Tribune indicate that the landowner is very unwilling to sell the land for the proposed new substation. Again, the utility has the power of eminent domain to obtain the needed land if landowners are unwilling to sell, and a court rules that the infrastructure will be in the public interest (which has been usual in such cases). —

Voters Defeat Transportation Taxes: We Helped

An opinion editorial by Ron McLinden, Chapter Transportation Chair

On August 6 the voters of Missouri rendered their verdict:

In the matter of Voters vs. Proposition B: Shall the state increase the motor fuels tax by 5 cents per gallon, and the general sales tax by one-half cent per dollar? How find you? Voters responded, "NO WAY!"

The margin was almost 3 to 1 — 72.5 percent NO and 27.5 percent YES.

The Sierra Club opposed Prop B, along with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missourians for Tax Justice, the League of Women Voters, and others. Any number of other organizations remained silent, or expressed only nominal support.

We also put up more than a quarter of the money raised by the "No on B" Committee. Did we make a difference? Yes, a slight difference. Can we claim credit—or accept the blame—for sinking Prop B? No.

This was a "multi-modal" transportation package—the sort of thing that Governor Carnahan's Total Transportation Commission recommended in 1997. What happened?

There were almost as many reasons to vote against Prop B as there were voters. Here are some of them:

1. Most of the new money would come from a sales tax rather than increased highway user fees. Yes, the gas tax was to be raised by a nickel, but far more new road money would come from the sales tax, which most people consider regressive.

2. Transit and other modes were included in the package, but at a relatively low level. Prospects for improvement of intercity rail passenger service were almost nil.

3. MoDOT adopted a spending plan for the new money that had 87 percent of it going for "major projects," many of which would encourage more sprawl around cities and towns.

4. MoDOT's plan would have used only about twelve percent of new money for maintenance. This appeared to contradict the department's own first priority of "taking care of what we've got."

5. A lot of people harbored resentment about what they saw as the "broken promises" of the 15-year plan. That plan would have built a four-lane highway to every town of 5,000 or more, using a phased six-cent increase in the gas tax passed by the General Assembly in 1992. Within four years it was clear that there was not enough money to do it, and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission formally abandoned the plan in 1998. MoDOT's credibility has been in the tank ever since.

6. Time for Missouri, the Prop B proponents, ran a heavily financed media campaign that insulted voters' intelligence. Among other things, they tried to convince us that building a lot of new roads was the best way to improve highway safety. They also tried to convince us that heavy trucks would pay their fair share.

7. Most elected officials remained silent on the issue. The Governor had announced early in the year that he'd support whatever the legislature came up with, but once the issue was put on the ballot he limited his actual support to a few appearances late in the campaign. Even some legislators who voted to put Prop B on the ballot did so based on the rationale that "the voters at least have a right to vote on it." Everybody wants to do what's in the best interest of the state, but nobody wants to support a tax increase to do it.

8. As much as anything, a lot of voters were probably just lashing out at what seemed like a world increasingly out of their control: economic uncertainty, corporate accounting scandals, loss of retirement fund assets, unease about a vague "war on terrorism," general distrust of government in general, on-and-on. They retaliated with the only thing they had available: a NO vote in the voting booth.

One of the unfortunate things about the defeat of Prop B is that transit services throughout the state will suffer. Most are already hurting due to reduced local sales tax revenues, and due to the state budget crisis that has resulted in a cutback in the existing meager state support for transit.

In addition, passenger rail service between St. Louis and Kansas City faces a possible reduction beginning about the first of the year. Dreams of higher-speed service across the state are now side-tracked.

Where do we go from here?

Missouri still needs to invest more in its transportation systems. The problem is getting voters to

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Transportation Taxes.....continued from page 4
accept that fact, and formulating a proposal that appears balanced. We had hoped that a new General Assembly might be willing to take a fresh cut at it next year. Unfortunately, the margin of defeat makes that highly unlikely.

For the time being, we are faced with transportation funding gridlock. MoDOT will be forced to concentrate most of its resources on maintenance and preservation to keep its roads drivable, and perhaps that's not all bad.

With not enough money to build all those new "safer" highways, the safety focus is likely to turn to programs that improve driving habits—including use of seat belts—and more emphasis on enforcement of existing laws. That's good. Contrary to what the Time for Missouri campaign appeared to imply, education and enforcement are the most cost-effective ways to save lives and prevent disabling injuries. An extra million dollars spent to improve a few intersections or a mile of new road does nothing to improve safety on the OTHER 32,000 miles of state roads. A "buckle up" or "drive to survive" campaign, coupled with enforcement, can show immediate results on every single

mile.

Transit will have to look more to local jurisdictions for increased support, rather than to the state, and some service will probably have to be trimmed. That's especially unfortunate as entry-level jobs continue to migrate from center cities to suburbs where transit service is either not available, or highly inconvenient to use.

MoDOT will have to continue to work on its "credibility." Unfortunately, it has to overcome a multi-year steady drumbeat from the Farm Bureau about "broken promises." (That organization needs to grow up and accept the fact that "Daddy" never could afford the "pony" that he promised in the form of the 15-year plan. Daddy must have been drunk or otherwise "out of it" when he made the promise.) There's a political component as well: The 15-year plan was funded in the final year of Governor Ashcroft's administration, and its implementation was carried out under Governor Carnahan. It's tempting to point partisan fingers at Democrats, but unfair since implementation took place under the same MoDOT people appointed by the Highway Commissioners who were appointed by Ashcroft.

Our Position on Proposition B

Following is the statement we released on July 26:
SIERRA CLUB SAYS "NO" TO PROPOSITION B

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club today announces its opposition to Proposition B.

The Sierra Club has considered this issue very carefully, and we have concluded that the taxes are inequitable, and that spending priorities are ill-advised.

Prop B is flawed in at least four respects:

1. For the first time it shifts the cost of highways away from user fees.
2. It gets nearly two-thirds of new highway money from a sales tax, a tax that falls heavily on low-income citizens.
3. It fails to get significant new revenue from trucks, which do enormous damage to Missouri's highways.
4. It fails to link highway spending to a coherent state policy on sustainable public investment.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission had a chance to improve the package through the spending priorities that it set for the new money. It failed to do so. The Commission looked at three spending options that would have increased the percent of Missouri roads to be improved to "good" condition by 2013 and chose the smallest percent—just over half.

"Rather than using Prop B to dramatically improve the condition of Missouri's crumbling roads, the Commission has chosen to allocate only 12 percent of new highway money to maintenance, but a whopping 87 percent to major construction projects," stated Carla Klein, Chapter Director for the Sierra Club. "The Commission's stated first priority—'taking care of what we

have'—has been tossed aside."

Many of the 65 major projects the commission has promised will continue to encourage urban sprawl. Sprawling developments cost us all in terms of higher infrastructure and service costs, loss of open space and increased air and water pollution. Sprawl further limits our transportation choices.

Without Prop B, public transit will face short-term challenges. This concerns us, since we believe the state should provide significant funding for transit. However, we concluded that the highway components of Prop B will be bad for transit in the long run, and also bad for transit-dependent workers who will have to spend more time commuting to reach jobs that keep moving farther away from urban centers and affordable housing.

Missouri lacks a coherent policy toward infrastructure investment. It makes no sense to throw money at new suburban highways until the state adopts such a policy.

Highway safety concerns everyone, and the Commission should continue to give it high priority. But Missouri should also emphasize safe driving, seat belt use, and enforcement. These strategies save lives on all roads, not just the relatively few miles that Prop B will rebuild.

The Sierra Club will work to see that transportation funding is a campaign issue in the November elections, and that next year's General Assembly does indeed address this important need.

Missouri should invest more funding in improving the conditions of Missouri roads and improving our public transportation, but it needs to invest wisely. Prop B is a bad deal for Missouri. Missourians must demand that our decision-makers do better. We believe the way to do that is to vote NO on Proposition B on August 6.

For our part, we need to help Missouri reach a new understanding of transportation and reasonable expectations regarding it—call it a "new transportation consensus." Transportation is not an end in itself, but instead only a "means" to an end. It's a "good" only to the extent that it serves the "end" of a higher quality of life for all through access to "opportunities." Those opportunities include jobs, goods and services, education and culture, and other life-enriching experiences.

Many people within MoDOT already understand this. Unfortunately, MoDOT has repeatedly gotten "carjacked" by the chambers of commerce and road builders and truckers and other monied interests who still haven't caught on—who still think that increasing "auto-mobility" and laying more pavement are the best ways to assure quality of life. They are the "tough nuts" that have to be cracked.

Without realizing it, Missouri voters may have made a wise decision on August 6. The defeat of Prop B offers a welcome "cooling off period" during which we should expect a renewed level of dialogue about where transportation fits into our individual and collective lives—really—and how we can most cost-effectively set about to serve the needs of all citizens for "access to opportunities."

Hint: It is likely to involve a conscious level of attention to public and private policies and practices that shape the future growth of our cities and towns—but don't say "smart growth" because that gets peoples' hackles up—and it will likely end up requiring a whole lot less pavement and other new infrastructure than most people now believe. —

Control and the Environment

An opinion editorial by Donna Clark Fuller

I began by thinking about the ideas of control and the environment. That is, to what extent do people or should people control the environment? And then after the events of September 11th, I began to think in broader terms of how people try to control each other, and I saw a connection between our attitudes to each other and our attitudes to the environment.

Too often, I see in our culture the tendency to divide people into two opposing groups. Although the names may be different, this game is essentially the same, it is necessary to create "them" and "us." People are either Type A or Type B, leaders or followers, men are from Mars, women are from Venus.

We begin in school. There are the jocks, stupid but athletic, and the nerds, smart but unathletic. It is a game that has a certain appeal in simplifying life. If you can quickly pin a label on someone based on superficial appearances or traits, then you don't have to take the time to get to know a more complex person. But it is also attractive because the label for "them" is usually negative and we love to feel superior. All of us do at times, but for some it becomes a way of life. Perhaps, most importantly, it can also be a way to gain power over those we label in a negative way. Once a label has been issued, we begin to perceive only those things that reinforce our label and ignore those things that

continued on page 7... **Control and the Environment**

Annual Ozark Chapter Sierra Club Ballot



Ozark Chapter ExCom Ballot instructions

To vote:

- 1) Vote for **up to four** (4) people (you may write in additional names)
- 2) If yours is a joint membership, two (2) members may vote
- 3) Insert ballot into an envelope and address to
Brian Alworth/Sierra Club Election Committee
2444 Glenridge Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- 4) Write **your membership number** (the 8 digit number on top of the computer address label of your *Sierra* magazine) in the return address space of the envelope.
- 5) Affix a 37¢ stamp and mail to us so it arrives by **December 31, 2002.**

About this ballot

Your official ballot for the Ozark Chapter Executive Committee Election is on the right of this page. The ExCom sets Chapter policy and oversees the business of the Ozark Chapter. It is made up of nine members elected from the membership at large (you), plus one additional member appointed by each of the four Sierra Club groups in Missouri. ExCom members are elected to staggered two-year terms. Of the current ExCom members, Gae Burrus, Donna Clark Fuller, Chris Hayday, Keet Kopecky, and Wallace McMullen continue in office. That leaves four members to be elected this year. You may vote for up to four of the candidates named on the ballot, or you may write in the name(s) of other qualified member(s). If yours is a joint membership, two members may vote. Write your 8-digit membership number in the return address space of your envelope to validate your ballot. The number will be verified before the ballot is opened, and separated from the rest of the ballot before counting to assure that your vote is secret.

Executive Committee Ballot Profiles

Alex Harris (Kansas City) I have been active with the Thomas Hart Benton group of the Sierra Club since 1994. I have been particularly active with fundraising and conservation issues. I am a biology student at the University of Missouri at Kansas City with a goal of becoming a botanist. I also hold undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and European History from UMKC.

In today's political climate extra attention needs to be devoted to conservation and global climate change issues. A concerted effort to end our dependence on petroleum will help resolve many urgent climate problems, as well as the ongoing threat of terrorism. Because the answers to most environmental problems are within our grasp, failing to act now would be a tragedy of immeasurable proportions.

Since I intend to make a career in conservation biology I plan to integrate my efforts within the Club with my university studies. I also look forward to working with new people and learning as I go. Many of us draw a deep sense of meaning and purpose with a connection to the natural world. All of us obtain our air, food and water from natural sources. For these reasons, I cannot imagine a deeper responsibility being placed upon all of us. If elected I will serve with the utmost care, attention and responsibility that the office demands.

Gina DeBarthe (Kansas City) My name is Gina DeBarthe and I am 28 years old. I live in Independence, Missouri. I have been a member of the Chapter Excom for a number of years. Currently I am the Conservation Chair for the Ozark Chapter. I have a B.S. in Biology with an emphasis on Conservation and Wildlife Management. I have traveled extensively in Central America, studying biology and conservation issues. I have also worked as a Seasonal Naturalist with the Department of Natural Resources and as a Naturalist in the Costa Rican Rain Forest. I enjoy hiking and biking on Missouri's many trails. I am dedicated to preserving our environment, so that future generations can enjoy nature's beauty. Thank you for your vote.



Gloria Broderick (St. Louis) My name is Gloria Broderick. I have been a supporting member of the Sierra Club for a long time but didn't become an activist until my family wouldn't go camping anymore. The Sierra club offers a safe environment to get out and do a neat variety of activities. I have been the merchandise co-chairman for more than 8 years. This was to supplement the money raising activities we do in this chapter along with our lemonade. The calendars used to be the main sales but because of mall stores the sales have been falling off also. I have been exploring other ways to add income to our chapter.



I have also been organizing inventory of Nature Conservancy land in Hillsboro. I mainly inventory butterflies but have started to collect spiders and recording flowers and conditions in that area. This job started at least nine years ago when the DNR started butterfly inventory in a number of parks in Missouri. I love seeing the changes in one area through the years. I feel studies like this may be used later for research.

I feel we need to reach the people that have a strong feeling about the environment. In our chapter we have a large membership of 6,000 but only about 10% actually work in the clubs activities. This means people are interested but do not have time to do environmental activities. This could be explored more. I would like to get into the leadership to explore better communications in the clubs and supporters. Also to work on keeping my Missouri trees safe.

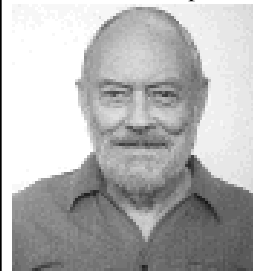
I vote for ...

(see personal profiles at left)

1st member	2nd member	
()	()	Alex Harris
()	()	Gina DeBarthe
()	()	Gloria Broderick
()	()	McNeer Dillon
()	()	Patrick O'Driscoll
()	()
()	()



McNeer Dillon (St. Louis) I ask the support of Ozark Chapter members to elect me to the Executive Committee of the Chapter. I have been an outdoorsman and environmentalist for a large part of my life, and fully support the environmental aims of the Sierra Club. I have hiked on the Appalachian Trail, canoed in Canada, climbed in Yosemite, and explored Ozark trails and rivers.



For the last four years, I have served as the Political Chairman for the Eastern Missouri Group. I have learned a great deal about political activity through study and practice. Now I believe that the most effective way to protect the environment is to find and elect candidates who care about the environment. I want to implement this belief at the Chapter level, and make political action a more significant Chapter goal. I would encourage political chairmen at the group level whenever there is an opportunity to do so. I would share my ideas, procedures and experience with others with the aim of making the whole Ozark Chapter more politically active and effective.

While pursuing these aims, I would not expect to interfere with the operations of any group's political committee. My only contacts with them would be cooperative in nature. I would, of course, collaborate with the Executive Committee in other ways also as may be appropriate to achieve other Ozark Chapter goals.

Patrick O'Driscoll (St. Louis) I am a candidate for a position on the excom. I am a Graduate of St. Louis University with a B.S. and M.A. in Geography. I earned a M.S. in Library Science from the U. of Missouri at Columbia. I was a Librarian at St. Mary's College of O'Fallon, Missouri. I worked six years at a major public library in this area. I was employed for 24 years by the U.S. Federal Government. I have lived in Ballwin, Missouri for twenty-four years. There are forty semester hours of Education on my transcript and a Lifetime certificate as a Librarian and Social Sciences Teacher in the Missouri Public Schools. I have written four books and numerous term papers and reports.

I have acquired knowledge of the History and Geography of the St. Louis Area, Missouri and Illinois. I have traveled to Spain and Canada. As a person who believes in conservation of our natural reserves, I recycle glass, aluminium soda cans, steel cans, newspapers, plastic soda pop bottles, etc. and take some to the Kirkwood, Mo recycling center and some to curbside recycling service. I am working to reduce my weight and maintain a healthy life style. I am a Director of the National Association of Investors Corporation, and other groups. I feed the birds who to my birdfeeders. I am running for this position because I want to preserve the beauty and unique flora and fauna of this great country for future generations of Americans and our grandchildren.

Control and the Environment....continued from page 5 contradict it. Because at that point, to change our opinion would be to admit that we were wrong, and people do not like to be wrong.

The terrorists of September 11th had a label for all Americans. It didn't matter how long they stayed in this country, how many different people they met or how much time they spent in conversation with Americans. They had the label "enemy" from the start. They found a way to gain power over a country they perceived as having power over them.

I think that this cultural attitude has gone on for a long, long time. In spite of the major religions of the world preaching love and respect for all people, it has been a constant struggle for them to counteract the "might makes right" philosophy that existed in many cultures for a long time.

Even with our pride in establishing democracy in this country, we still too often use very hierarchical systems, whether they are necessary or not. Some large corporations have moved to teamwork approaches with great success, but most have not. And how often do we admire people who grab for power, or find it amusing to hear someone insult others. Our television industry alone profits from this mentality with many of its programs. At the same time, we too often consider kindness to be a sign of weakness to be exploited.

It is not a very far step then to looking at nature as the enemy, as something to be conquered. To see "us" humans as superior to "them," i.e., other life on this planet, and therefore of greater value and more deserving of survival.

Some people believe that competitiveness is innate, even in nature. Survival of the fittest, with fittest being defined as those who are capable of destroying others.

But I believe that although a common attitude, it is one born of fear. The fear that if we don't attack others they will attack us, which becomes a cycle of striving for power. I also believe that we

Another Dam Project

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director

Here we go again with another ill-advised waste of tax payer money brought to you courtesy of the Army Corps of Engineers. L-142 an 1100 year levee proposed to be built on the north bank of the Missouri river located across from Jefferson City adds a new twist to the mismanagement of our river systems. It is not only a bad idea, it's illegal.

The Federal buyout of Cedar City, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) absolutely precludes future development or any protection of the area by levees. The purpose of the buyout—at taxpayer's expense—was to move businesses and residents out of the floodplain. The proposed construction of this levee over FEMA's deed to restricted land would not only be in violation of federal laws and regulations, it also sets a bad precedent for future river management.

Recent studies have confirmed that the building of levees and dams is the major reason we have seen an increase of frequency and severity of flooding. —

have a choice to resist that fear. There have been cultures that have emphasized creativity and the diversity of life over the acquisition of power. And I believe that we can create that kind of a culture again. It requires first of all opening our minds to the possibility.

Imagine a world without labels. How much could we, as individuals or as a group, accomplish if we did not spend time labeling others or have to spend time fighting the labels others want to pin on us? Take the time to talk to one of "them." Take the time to see the vast diversity of flowers in a prairie. For how can we appreciate the diversity in the rest of nature if we can't appreciate it in ourselves? How can we stop trying to control the environment to suit only humans, if we don't stop trying to control each other to suit only "us?" —











Outings Continued


Club, Kansas City. The ten-km route will take walkers through Westport, the Art Institute, UMKC and the Country Club Plaza. Start between 2-4:30 p.m. and finish by 7 p.m. Jim McCook (816) 229-6399, jmcocook@amfam.com.

Dec 14-16 (Sat-Mon) Big Piney Trail, south of Rolla, Missouri. Avid back-packers will enjoy this fairly strenuous early-winter hike on this beautiful 17-mile trail in the Paddy Creek Wilderness. Scott Hooper (816)561-0575, scott@hooper.net.

Trail of Tears Group

None submitted. —

U.S. SENATE	
	
SEN. JEAN CARNAHAN Incumbent	JIM TALENT Candidate for Senate
 Supports enforcing the Clean Air Act, which mandates that polluting smokestack industries, such as power plants, improve outdated pollution controls. (Letter to EPA Administrator Whitman, 8/1/02)	 Voted to delay tougher, more protective smog standards. (Amendment to H.R. 4635, 6/21/00)
 Voted to limit federal subsidies to large industrial animal feeding operations, protecting our water from animal waste runoff. (Amendment to S. 1731, 2/6/02)	 Voted to allow mining companies to dump their waste on even more public lands, contaminating water supplies. (H.R. 2466, 10/21/99)
 Voted to strengthen enforcement of the laws that protect our air and water. (Amendment to H. Con. Res. 83, 4/5/01)	 Voted against the EPA Funding Bill, prohibiting the EPA from enforcing tougher arsenic standards for drinking water. (Amendment to H.R. 4635, 6/21/00)
 Voted to protect our national monuments from oil drilling and mining. (Amendment to H. Con. Res. 83, 7/11/01)	 Voted to allocate money for states to protect open space. (Amendment to H.R. 2466, 7/13/99)

Get the facts before you vote on Nov. 5  Visit our website at www.sierraclub.org

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Eastern Missouri Group

Oct 18 (Fri) Wonderful fall colors from the scenic bluffs at Taum Sauk State Park. Join us for a six-eight mile day hike and lunch after in Arcadia at an old historic cafe. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Oct 19 (Sat) Visit Cuivre River to see the fall colors on the prairie grasses and we will see a spectacular view from a great overlook at Rock Bridge State Park. The trees in this area are full or color and great for taking pictures. Diane Favier (314)894-5549 (before 9 pm).

Oct 19-20 (Sat-Sun) EMG Fall Celebration at Silver Mines Campground or Hawn State Park. Great for beginner campers and families. Learn the basics: tent set up, stove use, food preparation. Bring your own gear and food, call if you need advice or suggestions. Must have sense of humor. Small camping fee to be determined. Enjoy day hikes and fall colors. Bring musical instruments for sing along. George Behrens (314)821-0247 (after 6 pm only) or Stephen Finch (314)352-0743.

Oct 19-20 (Sat-Sun) Revisit Big Creek by a different route. Be prepared for stream crossing and a ten mile hike as we camp by the creek. Creek shoes are a must. Limit ten people. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Oct 25 (Fri) Colorful day hike possibly on an Ozark Trail section. Optional camping at Meramec State Park. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Oct 26 (Sat) Ozark Trail Council meeting (10:00am at the Meramec State Park Visitor Center). The Ozark Trail Council is composed of the Federal, State and County agencies through whose jurisdiction the Ozark Trail passes, as well as the Sierra Club, AYH and several other hiking clubs. Anyone who uses the Ozark Trail should be interested in this meeting. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

Oct 27 (Sun) One day float on the Huzzah or the Courtois. Enjoy these beautiful streams without all the summer crowd. Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener (314)434-2072.

Nov 1 (Fri) Day hike or backpack. Part of the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail before the weekend trail maintenance. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Nov 2-3 (Sat-Sun) Halloween Party and trail maintenance. We will continue working the Blair Creek section south. Common commissary and Halloween Party on Saturday night. Don't forget your costume. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Nov 3 (Sun) Float on the Meramec River between Route 66 State Park and Castlewood State Park. Total distance is eight miles and some experience is desirable. No rental canoes are available. Contact Jim Rhodes at (314)821-7758.

Nov 8 (Fri) Day hike under the falling leaves, probably at Hawn State Park. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Nov 9 (Sat) Highway Cleanup. Please come and join the friendly crew by the road. With all the mallards migrating, we'll have to get it clean before Veteran's Day. Diane DuBois (314)721-0594.

Nov 10 (Sun) Woods navigation with topo maps and compasses at Hawn State Park. Basic map reading and compass skills for the beginner. This is an essential art for those spending lots of time in the outdoors. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or George Behrens (314)821-0247 (after 6 pm only).

Nov 15 (Fri) Day hike at Meramec Conservation Area. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Nov 15 (Fri) An evening movie at the Omnimax. People will be responsible for getting their own tickets. If the movie is full we will enjoy the science center until the next show time. Option to go out to eat afterwards. Call to find time and movie. Diane Favier (314)894-5549 (before 9 pm).

Nov 16 (Sat) Southwest county sampler. Spend the afternoon discovering short hikes along the Meramec Greenway at Fenton City Park, Unger County Park, and Sunset Hills City Park. You may discover new areas for walking and biking. Good for beginners and families. Joe & Lois Walsh (636)343-6875.

Nov 16-17 (Sat-Sun) Training classes in trail building and maintenance in the Pioneer Forest. There will be classroom sessions and field work taught by the knowledgeable people from the Pioneer Forest and Americorp. Classroom work Saturday. Camp out Saturday night and field training Sunday. Training will end early Sunday afternoon. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

Nov 16-17 (Sat-Sun) Weekend canoe trip. Those who attended the 9/21/02 canoe camping clinic have priority. June Stevens, (314)822-3430 and Jim Moody.

Nov 17 (Sun) Day hike at St. Francois State Park. Three mile hike with optional additional three-four mile hike. Beginner to intermediate. Chuck Guenther & Margaret Gilleo (314)991-1305.

Nov 21 (Thu) Members Slide Show. Show your outstanding slides at the November General Meeting, 7:30 pm. Litzinger School. Please call to get on the list of presenters. Limit eight. Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

Nov 29-Dec 1 (Fri-Sun) The Brushy Creek Trail. We will hike five miles a day to complete this 15 mile trail. This is the newest backpacking trail in Missouri and may be one of the best. Springs, waterfalls, beaver ponds, and much more will greet us on this backpack trip. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

Dec 7 (Sat) Test water quality on Fox Creek near Eureka. Help us identify the aquatic insects, test for DO and other chemical parameters, and measure stream flow. We should see a lot of macroinvertebrates. Call Leslie Lihou at (314)726-2140 or Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758.

Dec 7 (Sat) Hike at Mastodon State Historic Site and also visit the park museum. We then go to Kimmswick and walk around while waiting to eat at the Blue Owl. Of course we can peek into stores to see all the Christmas crafts. Great for beginners. Diane Favier, (314)894-5549 (before 9 pm).

Dec 7-8 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Washington State Park. Help restore native wildflowers and grasses through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. We pile the cedars into bonfires: it's fun, dirty and a good work-out! It's never too cold for a glade restoration: the bonfires will keep you warm. Come one day or both; spend Saturday night at a cabin in the park with us if you choose. Call Susan Farrington at 1 (636)583-0948 (home, long distance) or leave a message at (314)577-9402 (toll-free) or e-mail susanfmo@aol.com.

Dec 13 (Fri) A day hike on the Ozark Trail. Suzanne Smith

(618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

Dec 14 (Sat) Endangered species/biodiversity annual winter outing. This will be informative and fun. For details contact Diane Albright (314)966-3645.

Dec 14 (Sat) Holiday party and potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall (636)394-6549 or Marilyn Harlan (314)966-8797 or Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

Dec 15 (Sun) Day hike at Taum Sauk State Park. This loop hike will take us to the highest waterfall in the state along with some great views and Devil's Tollgate. Six-eight miles, some cross country and the Ozark Trail. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

Jan 1 (Wed) Hike about 5 miles at Meramec State Park. This is always a great hike, and a great way to start the year off. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Osage Group

Nov 1-3 (Fri-Sun) 6th Annual Halloween float, complete with gourmet campfire dining. Somewhere on the Current River. Tom Moran (573)442-6955.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Oct 12 (Sat) Autumn Tour of the Haskell-Baker Wetlands, Lawrence, Kansas. We'll see how autumn transforms these wetlands along the Wakarusa. Jim Horlacher (913)649-1611, jimhorlach@aol.com.

Oct 19 (Sat) Blue River Glade Restoration, Kansas City. Help protect one of KC's last natural landscapes by removing exotic plants. See Bethany Falls limestone outcroppings & 300 year old chin-quapin oaks. David Anderson (816)678-4359, davidanderson@sb-global.net.

Oct 26 (Sat) Ha-Ha-Tonka State Park & Ozark Caverns, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Missouri. Enjoy fall colors enroute to and at these state parks. Tour the caverns, eat a sack lunch and hike in Ha-Ha-Tonka. Lee Ann Googe, (816)453-8558, googe_lee@netzero.net.

Oct 25-27 (Fri-Sun) Sycamore Creek Trail, Mountain View, Arkansas. Tim Ernst, author of Arkansas Hiking Trails, calls this 14-mile trail "...one of the most scenic backpacking trails in the state." Moderate. Dave Patton (816)461-6091, dgpatton01@aol.com.

Nov 2 (Sat) Bicycling the Little Blue Trace, eastern Jackson County. Once shunned due to industrial waste and trash, the Little Blue's wide crushed rock trail is great for a leisurely ride. Jim Horlacher (913)649-1611, jimhorlach@aol.com or Dave Patton (see above).

Nov 9 (Sat) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, Kansas. Help maintain the Perry Lake Trail. Bring water, lunch, and tools if you have them. Steve Hasler (913)599-6028, hasler@planetk.com.

Nov 14-17 (Thur-Sun) Ozark Highlands Trail, Ozone, Arkansas. Over four days, we'll hike 40 miles of this scenic trail. Join us for all four or meet us on the way. Paul Gross (816)228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com.

Nov 30 (Sat) Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge, Mound City, Missouri. The whole family will enjoy seeing migrating bald eagles, geese and other wildlife. Dan Fuller (816)779-7284, dannadan@accessus.net.

Dec 7 (Sat) Plaza Lights Walk with Heart of America Volkssport