

# OZARK SIERRA

One Earth

One Chance

VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 1

JANUARY-MARCH 2003



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## Kinder-Morgan Withdraws from Missouri

by Alan Journet, Conservation Chair, Trail of Tears Group

As a consequence of its scandalous Board Room mentality and subsequent actions, Enron became a household word. Enron has become an icon for what is wrong with leadership in U.S. corporations. The CEO of Enron as this mentality developed was Richard Kinder, cousin to Missouri State Senator and Senate Leader Pro-Tem Peter Kinder. Before the shenanigans at Enron brought the company to its knees, Kinder bolted the company and, with a long-time friend and colleague in the energy business, established the energy company Kinder-Morgan (K-M). This quickly became one of the shining stars in a free-wheeling energy industry, an industry that we now learn was significantly responsible for the so-called "California energy crisis" that the Bush Administration has used as an arrow in its campaign to drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

A major component of the Kinder Morgan business

was to buy, construct, and operate energy pipelines throughout the nation. In the 1990s, however, the company decided to diversify into energy generation, and start constructing and operating power plants. Apparently because they own a power grid that runs to nearby Marble Hill, K-M decided to attempt the construction of an electrical power generating plant in Cape Girardeau County in Southeast Missouri.

Currently, Cape County enjoys relatively clean air. Because of this, Kinder-Morgan argued to the State Department of Natural Resources in

its application for a license to operate its plant, that it should not be required to install Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to maintain air quality in the county. Kinder-Morgan also successfully negotiated with the pliant Cape County Commission to gain a series of tax breaks that would have had the county guaranteeing hundreds of millions of dollars in construction loans for the plant, and suffering tax losses for several years. The Commission defended their largesse to K-M on the grounds that the company would provide jobs to the area – both in plant construction and plant operation. In order to promote local public support for the project, K-M worked out deals for payments in lieu of taxes to a local school board and a rural fire district. Naturally, these payments represented a small fraction of what their tax liability should have been and would have been had they been negotiating their own loans as a business independent of public support and County guarantees.

Opposition to the proposed power plant sprang up almost immediately in the form a loosely knit group styling itself the Cape Citizens Against Pollution. This group, aided by local Trail of Tears Sierra Group members, held town hall meetings to publicize the issue and energize the community. While little local interest seemed to have been generated either by the proposed plant itself, or the opponents, Missouri's DNR abided by its constitutional mandate to protect Missouri's environment and refused to cave in to the political pressure that K-M was attempting to exert by calling in heavy hitters to prevent DNR from doing its job.



When Kinder-Morgan began exploratory drilling, a hole and cavernous cracks appeared in the soybean field of the neighboring Seabaugh farm.

When K-M appealed the DNR decision to the ultimate authority, the state Clean Air Commission, a hearing was held at which DNR and K-M made their respective cases. After some unavoidable delays, not the responsibility of DNR but of the hearing officer, and after repeatedly claiming that the company was in for the long haul, K-M abruptly withdrew its application for permission. In doing so, the company incorrectly blamed DNR for delays rather than acknowledging that the fault was in its own refusal to abide by clean air requirements of the state

When K-M started exploring the areas as a potential


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**Kinder-Morgan Withdraws.....**continued from page 1 site for its power plant, the company dug and began drilling exploratory wells in the southwestern corner of Illinois. The power plant was destined to use thousands of gallons of water to cool its facility, more, indeed, than the entire city of nearby Jackson, Missouri. Within days of this well being dug and accessed, a huge plug of land about 30 feet in diameter on the property of adjacent land-owner 80 year-old Alvin Seabaugh collapsed 25 feet downwards (see photo). Additionally, huge cracks in the soil radiating from the well site opened within days and the water table in the area dropped 6-9 feet. Typical of its abdication of responsibility to the environment, K-M denied responsibility for problems that appeared after it began to drill.

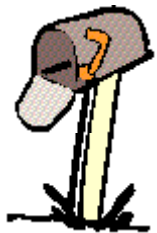
In its initial air permit application, K-M argued that the company would have negligible economic impact on the community. This argument, however, changed when the project became public. When the number of potential employees jumped from just 5 to over 20, it was explained that the application was wrong. "If wrong here, where else?" project opponents argued. Interestingly, the company never seemed to address the issue of the impact of discharging heated wastewater into local waterways; this should have required a permit from DNR, but an application was apparently never filed.

Considering that State Senator Peter Kinder has long argued against tax incentives, or public financial support from taxes for programs serving social or environmental and human health goals, it is ironic that a company bearing the Kinder name should adopt a business venture dependent entirely for its success on financial assistance from public governmental sources.

In its letter to the Missouri DNR, K-M whined about state regulations and delays in hearing the appeal. This gave State Senator Peter Kinder an opportunity to lambaste Governor Holden and the state DNR for turning away millions of dollars of economic investment. Curiously, however, on exactly the same date (October 28th), K-M sent a similar letter withdrawing from a power plant project in Virginia. In that letter, it cited dramatic changes in the power generation market as the cause. Maybe K-M ultimately suffered outfall from the power generation manipulations for which Enron and the industry as a whole had been responsible a few years earlier.

The only shame coming from K-M's withdrawal from the project was that it came but a few weeks after the death of Alvin Seabaugh, who never was able to see that the threat to his property had been averted. —

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



In March we will mail each of our members an appeal for funds. These contributions really do make a difference to us and are an important part of the

Ozark Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own back yard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife,

# Big Change in Funding for Sierra Club Chapters

by Roy C. Hengerson

The Ozark Chapter, like all 62 United States Sierra Club chapters, receives a significant portion of its annual revenues from the national Sierra Club. When you pay Sierra Club dues or when the Club receives bequest revenues, part of that money goes into what is called the Chapter Revenue Subvention pool. This is then distributed on a quarterly basis to all chapters based on a formula which includes the membership of the chapter, its geographical area, and the number of groups it has. In 2001, the last fiscal year for which data is available, the Ozark Chapter received about \$53,500 from the chapter subvention pool. The total distributed to chapters was \$3.87 million.

In previous years all this money for the chapters was "hard" money, also known as 501 c(4) money from that section of the IRS code. This is money given directly to the Sierra Club which is not tax deductible for the giver. The Sierra Club also uses "soft" or 501 c(3) money. This is money given to the Sierra Club Foundation and it is tax deductible for the giver. This money is then transferred to the Sierra Club, which can use the money for educational and charitable purposes, but not for legislative lobbying or political work.



The Sierra Club has learned in recent years to make effective use of "soft" 501 c(3) money in its conservation campaigns. Much of what the Club does to win on a particular environmental issue is educational in nature, and therefore fundable with 501 c(3) money. Litigation can also be funded by 501 c(3) dollars.

Starting in 2003 Sierra Club chapters will receive 45% of their subvention revenues in 501 c(3) dollars and 55% in 501 c(4) dollars. However, the total size of the chapter subvention pool is being increased by 14%. The pool will now total \$4.4 million, with the Ozark Chapter getting \$63,000 from the pool (\$33,600 in 501 c(4) funds and \$29,400 in 501 c(3) funds). So the Chapter will get 18% more from the national Club.

The Ozark Chapter has received (from sources other than the chapter subvention pool) and used effectively "soft" money revenues for a number of years and should benefit from this change. Other chapters who may not have as much experience with using "soft" money may have a bit harder time coping with the change. Therefore, the Sierra Club is stepping up the training and assistance available to chapter volunteers and staff in managing their available funds, both 501 c(3) and 501 c(4), for maximum effectiveness. —

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.

**Items for publication:** Contact Keet Kopecky via E-mail at kkopecy@kc.r.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...

## OZARK SIERRAN

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the

issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

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

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

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# St. Louis Firm Gets Permit for Coal Power Plant Near Mammoth Cave National Park

by Wallace McMullen

Kentucky has issued a permit to St. Louis based Peabody Coal to build a large new power plant that is expected to adversely affect the air quality in Mammoth Cave National Park. The proposed facility is called the Thoroughbred Generating Station. The Sierra Club and another environmental organization have filed an appeal of the permitting decision.

Peabody Coal (a.k.a. Peabody Energy) is reported to have plans to build a number of coal-burning power plants in the Midwest. They have announced plans for another such facility in Illinois approximately 50 miles from St. Louis.

If built, Thoroughbred will be a 1500-megawatt coal-fired power plant. (For comparison, the Callaway nuclear plant is a 1100 megawatt plant). It will be constructed near Central City on the Green River in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. According to information released by Peabody, it would operate as a base load plant and would supply electricity to the Southeastern and Midwestern regions of the country. In other words, it will be merchant plant which will not serve residents nearby.

As this is a St. Louis firm proposing a pollution problem in Kentucky and threatening a National Park,

the Sierra Club's Midwest Regional Conservation Committee intends to support the effort to oppose Thoroughbred. Ozark Chapter members are encouraged to keep an eye on this situation. There will be organizing and planning work undertaken in the next few months to focus efforts on responding to this issue.

Frequent users of Mammoth Cave Park consider the park to already have a serious smog problem. The Thoroughbred plant would only exacerbate this problem. The emissions of mercury will also impact water quality above and below ground in the area.

Documents filed with the permit application indicate the plant would emit approx. 420 lbs per year of mercury (constituting the 4th largest emitter of mercury in Kentucky), 123 lbs/yr of beryllium, 509 tons/yr of volatile organic compounds, 326 tons/yr of sulfuric acid mist, 6,000 tons/yr of nitrogen oxides, and almost 11,000 tons/yr of sulfur dioxide.

An administrative appeal of the Kentucky Division of Air Quality's (DAQ) issuance of an air quality permit for the proposed Thoroughbred Generating Station has been filed on behalf of the Sierra Club, Valley Watch, Inc., and three individual Mammoth Cave users. Long-time Sierra activist Hank Graddy is the attorney of record.

The challenge to DAQ's issuance of the permit is

based on procedural problems with the agency's processing and consideration of the permit application and technical problems with the basis of the permit. The latter include an inadequate analysis of impacts on visibility and to vegetation and soils in Mammoth Cave National Park, failure to ensure that best available control technology is used for all emissions, absence of an adequate maximum available control technology analysis, and problems with the emission limit, monitoring, and recordkeeping provisions in the permit. The appeal asks that the permit be revoked.

Thoroughbred also has to go through a number of other permitting hurdles, including a Clean Water Act dredge and fill permit for barge facilities, and the impact on the Green River. This past September, EarthJustice, on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Valley Watch, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, and the Clean Air Task Force, submitted extensive comments on the Army Corps of Engineers' review of the proposal, including the inadequate analysis of impacts to threatened and endangered species. —

## Three Receive 2002 Ozark Chapter Awards

by Roy C. Hengerson

Two active members of the St. Louis environmental community, Ginger Harris and Yvonne Homeyer, and the Washington University Environmental Law Clinic received awards from the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club at the annual Awards Dinner. This year the event was held November 9, 2002, as part of the Ozark Chapter's bimonthly meeting weekend.

### Ginger Harris — Sierran-of-the-Year

Ginger received the Sierran-of-the-Year award for her steady and tireless efforts supporting the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club and its groups. She became a member in 1992 and has served on the Ozark Chapter's Executive Committee. She is currently serving on its

Conservation Committee, Legislative Committee, and Political Committee. She has participated in the work of the Missouri Energy Coalition.

Ginger has served for many years as Chair of the Eastern Missouri Group's Transportation and Smart Growth Committee. She led the effort to develop a citizen's transportation policy and worked to get St. Louis regional officials and planners to adopt elements of that policy. She has served and continues to serve on the Metropolitan Sewer District's rate commission, representing the Sierra Club.

Ginger has actively worked for pro-environmental candidates during elections. She is strongly involved in many conservation issues, including transportation, energy, international trade, environmental justice, and campaign finance reform.

### Yvonne Homeyer — Citizen Conservationist

Yvonne received the Citizen Conservationist award, which is given for significant contributions to the improvement of Missouri's environment by an individual or an organization. A lawyer with her own practice, she has been an active member of the St. Louis and Missouri environmental community since 1998. She is a member of many environmental groups and served on the Board of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Yvonne is currently President of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and President of the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. She is also serving on the Board of the Missouri Parks Association. She has been and continues to be a leader in many environmental campaigns and battles. This past year she has been particularly involved in the fight to stop a proposed

cement kiln and quarry in Ste.

Genevieve County along the Mississippi River. The Holcim plant would cause major negative environmental impacts locally and to the St. Louis region's airshed.



### Washington University Environmental Law Clinic — Special Recognition

The Washington University Environmental Law Clinic began with a kickoff symposium and reception in November, 1999. The main force in starting the Clinic was Maxine Lipeles, who is Director of the Law Clinic. She attended the award presentation along with Beth Martin, the Clinic's Engineering and Science Director. The Clinic provides critical legal, engineering, and technical services for their clients, who usually have limited resources to work on environmental problems and issues.

The Law Clinic has provided important legal and other services for the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club on a number of legal actions and initiatives in the three years they have been in operation. These include the Premium Standard Farms CAFO lawsuit and the effort to add impaired waters of the state to Missouri's list of impaired waters (the Section 303d of the Clean Water Act list) that were left off — this as a first step to cleaning them up. The Clinic has had major involvement with the efforts to clean up lead contamination from the Doe Run Company smelter in Herculaneum.

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club is indeed fortunate to have and work with people and organizations like those recognized this year as we work to explore, enjoy and protect the wild and natural places, ecosystems, and human environments of the Earth. —

### Dates You Need to Know

**1/25** Chapter ConsCom meeting: Columbia, Missouri  
contact Gina DeBarthe, gmdebarthe@aol.com  
(816)461-4753

**1/26** Chapter ExCom meeting: Columbia, Missouri  
contact Keet Kopecky, kkopecky@kc.rr.com,  
(816)966-9544

# Biopharming Threatens Our Food Supply

Care for prescription drugs or industrial chemicals in your corn flakes? If the USDA continues to allow biopharm food crops to be planted in open fields, this may happen.

Horizontal gene transfer has already been shown to occur in fields of genetically engineered (GE) canola resulting in the creation of "superweeds" that have become herbicide-resistant. Now the production of drugs or industrial chemicals in GE plants, called biopharming, poses new alarming concerns.

Biopharm traits can spread through pollen carried by wind or insects, spilled seed, unharvested seed sprouting the next year, and biopharm seed residues carried by farm equipment to conventional fields.

Three hundred (300) open-air field trials have

already been conducted in unidentified locations across the country. While most of these substances are kept secret as confidential business information, a few known examples include a contraceptive, potent growth hormones, a blood clotter, blood thinners, industrial enzymes, and vaccines. (For more info, visit [www.ucsusa.org/pharm/pharm\\_open.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/pharm/pharm_open.html)).

The ecological implications of hacked genetic code slipping into our food and forests and multiplying is worse than a bad computer virus.

## ACTION:

Contact your Congressional representatives online at: <http://www.thecampaign.org/alert-pharmacrops.htm>.

Sample message:

I am writing to express my profound concern over the United States Department of Agriculture's policy that allows food crops to be used to create genetically engineered pharmaceutical drugs and industrial chemicals.

In mid-November, it was widely reported that the biotech company ProdiGene had twice violated USDA guidelines established to prevent the contamination of the human food supply.

I urge you to call for Congressional hearings into this matter.

I also ask that an immediate moratorium be placed on the outdoor growing of all pharmaceutical drug crops that use agricultural plants to produce them.

We cannot wait for an equivalent of a "Chernobyl-type" of catastrophe to occur in the food supply.

Signed, your name and address. —

# Help the Ozark Chapter Celebrate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

by Roy C. Hengerson

All along the route taken by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804 through 1806 a wide variety of activity is being planned to commemorate its bicentennial (and boost the local tourist industry). The State of Missouri is already featuring some of these events on its website. The Sierra Club has noticed that public attention to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial provides an opportunity to focus on the environmental problems and opportunities of the once wild region that Lewis and Clark traveled through. The Club has a national task force working on plans for featuring the conservation opportunities still available to protect and restore the wild rivers, prairies, and forests discovered by Lewis and Clark.

Here in Missouri, where the Voyage of Discovery began and ended, interest in bicentennial events and activities is certain to be high. The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club thus has a great opportunity to tie into planned events and orga-



nize its own events. These may serve to increase interest in protecting and improving the much abused Missouri River and her major tributaries, focus on opportunities for protective acquisition of key tracts along the river corridor, and promote increased efforts in protecting threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The bicentennial provides many historical and educational outings possibilities as Sierrans trace the journey of the Voyage of Discovery and participate in commemorative events.

Responding to this opportunity, the Ozark Chapter has appointed a Task Force to develop ideas and plans for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial materials and activities. Cheryl Hammond and Roy Hengerson agreed to kick off this effort and recruit other interested Sierrans from around the state to be a part of our Lewis and Clark celebration. Hence this article.

If you have an interest in being involved in this exciting endeavor, please contact Cheryl at 314-291-5907 ([chammond@todaydata.com](mailto:chammond@todaydata.com)) or Roy at 573-635-8066 ([roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org](mailto:roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org)). —

# Lewis and Clark's Cape Girardeau Connection

by Brian Alworth, Trail of Tears Group Representative to the Ozark Chapter

The exploits of Lewis and Clark and the "Corps of Discovery" have enjoyed renewed interest in recent years, due in part to the popularity of Stephen Ambrose's wonderful book *Undaunted Courage* and also to the approaching bicentennial of the expedition.

On most maps the Lewis and Clark expedition begins in the late spring of 1804 along the Missouri River in St. Charles. But in fact, Lewis and Clark's famous keelboat, along with a couple of smaller flat-bottomed pirogues, first launched on the Ohio River near Pittsburgh in the summer of 1803. Call it a "shake-down cruise" or just getting to the starting line, but the trip down the Ohio to Cairo and back up the Mississippi to St. Louis was important in giving the expedition a small taste of what was to come over the next few years.

Even the very construction of the expedition's keelboat was not without adventure. Meriwether Lewis had contracted with a boat-builder near Pittsburgh to build the 55-foot boat, but it turned out that the builder had a certain weakness for strong drink and the construction was much delayed. Lewis threatened several times to fire the man, but since he turned out to be the only qualified boat-builder in the region the threats were less than



effective. In any event, the expedition finally dipped into the Ohio on August 31, 1803. In October Lewis and his men picked up his friend and future partner in adventure, William Clark, near Louisville, Kentucky. And by the middle of November 1803 the now Lewis and Clark expedition was rounding the point at Cairo onto the Mississippi River.

According to Lewis' journals, it took four days to fight the powerful current upstream to Cape Girardeau.

In about 1733 a French soldier named Jean Girardot had established a trading post among the numerous indigenous tribes on a rock outcropping overlooking the river. Girardot eventually moved on, but later in the century Louis Lorimier built a military post farther downstream close to what is now downtown Cape Girardeau. Although they tried to name the settlement "Lorimont," the name Cape Girardot (now Girardeau) had apparently already stuck.

In any event, in late November of 1803 the expedi-

tion pulled ashore at Cape Girardeau and enjoyed some early Heartland hospitality. Lorimier was at a horse race, and Lewis' associated journal entry was colorful. "The scene reminded me very much of their small races in Kentucky among the uncivilized backwoodsmen, nor did the subsequent disorder which took place in consequence of the decision of the judges of the race at all lessen the resemblance." Lorimier's wife was a Shawnee, and Lewis also remarked on one of their daughters: "She is remarkably handsome and dresses in a plain yet fashionable style...much the most descent looking female I have seen since I left Louisville." After their stay in Cape Girardeau the expedition continued northward up the Mississippi, past Tower Rock, the army post at Kaskaskia, and on toward St. Louis to await the spring of 1804.

As part of the commemoration of the expedition a group of local volunteers has formed the Cape Girardeau Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. Among their goals is the construction of the "Red House Interpretive Center" near the site of Lorimier's original house just inside the present-day river wall. The rock and timber house is being built in as authentic a style as possible, based on an old sketch of the original home. The group is confident that the house will be finished in time for a bicentennial reenactment of the meeting of Lewis and Lorimier on November 23, 2003.

Information for the above article taken in part from *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West* by Steven E. Ambrose, Simon & Schuster, 1996. —

# Call to Join the new Missouri Legislative Action Alert Listserv

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director

As we begin a challenging legislative session, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club is providing a new way for members to help protect Missouri's natural resources. With control of the House and Senate in the hands of less than environmentally friendly leadership it is more critical than ever that we be able to activate our members quickly when critical issues arise that require immediate action. The Missouri Legislative Action Alert listserv will be an effective tool to help us accomplish this.

In today's hectic lifestyle we are often bombarded by several demands on our time. Environmentalists have been particularly busy trying to keep up with the Bush Administration's onslaught on environmental protec-

tions. State issues such as the "No Stricter than Federal" legislation (which we soundly defeated last year) limiting Missouri's ability to determine protections for our state take on new and even more paramount importance. It is easy to feel discouraged and overwhelmed during these difficult times and to doubt how much influence we can have on the legislative process. That is when we need to remind ourselves that our strength as Sierra Club members is in our numbers. When we take collective action to hold our legislators responsible to their constituents we will continue to be successful.

The purpose of the Missouri Legislative Action Alert listserv is to empower activists to quickly identify action needed. Alerts will be extremely limited; this is a one-way service so you will only receive notices sent out from the Ozark Chapter office on key state issues that are at a

critical voting juncture. Included in the alert will be a short summary of the problem, the Bill information, what action is needed, and how to contact key legislators.

This list serve is not a replacement for the Green Report; we will continue to send out our more in-depth reports via regular mail throughout the legislative session.

Please e-mail Ozark Chapter Coordinator Terri Folsom at [terri.folsom@sierraclub.org](mailto:terri.folsom@sierraclub.org) if you are interested in signing on to this quick and easy way to help us protect Missouri's environment. If you have questions or would like to receive more information on the Green Report or to learn more about how you can get involved in the legislative process, please e-mail Terri or call our office at 1-800-628-5333. —

## Missouri Environmental Groups Join Forces

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director

The first Missouri Environmental Summit was held October 19, 2002. The summit sponsored by Missouri Votes Conservation (MVC) was a program of the Missouri Coalition of the Environment. The goal of the summit was to bring together Missouri environmental organizations from local, state, and regional areas to begin building a proactive legislative coalition to protect Missouri's natural resources.

MVC sent out over 107 invitations to conservation organizations across the state. Invited groups were asked to complete a questionnaire identifying key environmental issues for their respective groups for the upcoming legislative session. Twenty-seven groups responded and submitted their organizational priorities. The following groups sent a representative to the forum: Audubon Society, Coalition for Responsible Transit, Confluence Greenway, Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, Missouri Clean Energy Coalition, Missouri Coalition for

the Environment, Missouri Farmland Preservation Trust, Missouri Park Association, Missouri Public Interest Research Group, Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, Sustainable St. Louis, and Trust for Public Land.

The information gathered was used to identify the following key issues for an environmental priority platform:

- nTransportation: public transit, urban sprawl, pedestrian and biking.
- nOpen Space Preservation: restrictions on floodplain development, restrictions on use of tax increment financing (TIF's), farmland preservation.
- nParks.
- nPrevention of Bad Stuff: defend DNR's budget, no stricter than federal, environmental audit, keep a watch for new assaults.
- nElectric Utility: net-metering, clean energy.

nWater Quality: big river water quality issues, septic tank legislation, watershed protection, water permits.

nSustainable Forestry: chip mills, better management practices.

Organizations with expertise in the various areas will submit background information that will be used for a briefing book outlining information on the priorities selected at the Environmental Summit. The briefing book will also contain the contact information for the organizations involved. The briefing books will be distributed to the entire legislature to inform them of our key conservation and environmental issues.

This is an exciting project that has opened up new lines of communication between the state's environmental groups and has helped all of us gain a better understanding of our organizations' goals. The prospect of the entire environmental community speaking with one united voice on issues of major legislative importance is a very exciting and powerful prospect. —

## Oh! So That's What Happens on Election Night?

### An Opinion Editorial

by Chris Hayday, Ozark Chapter Political Chair

This last round of elections was certainly interesting, to say the least. With only two weeks until Election Day, Democrats were poised to expand their lead in the Senate, re-take the House, and capture the majority of the Governor's mansions that were up for grabs. Then the President, or, perhaps more accurately his advisors, decided to take his 63% personal popularity ratings (not to be confused with job approval) out for a test drive. So President Bush spent 13 straight days on the campaign trail.

Comforting to know that this "war on terrorism" isn't getting in the way. So, the President hops from campaign site to campaign site stumping for the Republican candidates he needs in Congress so he can rush his agenda through the legislative process. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party fails to counter, claims "me too" whenever a Republican pledges their support for the President's war on evildoers, and effectively responds by going AWOL.

The result? Nearly all of the close races broke Republican. By slim margins in virtually every race, the Republicans retook the Senate and expanded their majority in the House. They won all the races they had to and even won many races in which the experts considered their chances less favorably than the flying pig. As for those can't-lose governors races, a Teamster-

endorsed Kennedy lost the Maryland Governors race, Georgia elected its first Republican Governor since 1872, and a Democrat once again failed to be elected Governor in Massachusetts.

Perhaps the Grateful Dead said it best proclaiming, "what a long, strange trip it's been."

Knowing that everyone is interested in how our candidates fared, below is the final tally of how Sierra Club-endorsed candidates performed on election night:

U.S. Senate	
Jean Carnahan	LOST
U.S. House	
01 William L. Clay, Jr.	WON
05 Karen McCarthy	WON
MO Senate	
04 Patrick Dougherty	WON
14 Rita Days	WON
24 Joan Bray	WON
MO House	
23 Robert (Jeff) Harris	WON
80 Ted Hoskins	WON
24 Chuck Graham	WON
83 Barbara Fraser	WON
25 Vicky Riback Wilson	WON
87 Marilyn Morton	LOST
30 Margaret (Meg) Harding	LOST
90 Rick Johnson	WON
44 Jenee Lowe	WON

91 Scott Sifton	LOST
64 Bob Hilgeman	WON
105 Harold Selby	WON
73 Margaret Donnelly	WON
110 Belinda Harris	WON
82 Sam Page	WON

For the Ozark Chapter, election night was a mixed bag. Most of our endorsed candidates won, but there were many local victories that were unfortunately soured by some losses. At the top of "bummer" list is the defeat of Senator Jean Carnahan. We Sierrans should pat ourselves on the back for our efforts, from the EVEC program in St. Louis to phone banking in Springfield, as our hard work made the environment an issue and translated it into support for Senator Carnahan. Sadly, she was plagued by the Democrats' inability to effectively campaign. The Republicans now control the White House and both chambers of Congress, so it'll be much easier for the eco-thugs to work their evilness. We still have some allies, in both Democratic and Republican camps, but we have our work cut out for us. We lost a friend in Senator Carnahan, and the Sierra Club should say a big "thank you" for her support of environmental protection.

I am very excited about Joan Bray's election to the Missouri Senate. As a State Representative, Joan has long been one of the best friends the environment has ever had in Jefferson City, and her victory gives us another advocate; something we desperately need. She

continued on page 6...Election Night

**Election Night.....**continued from page 5

won in a Republican leaning district and Joan's win shows that our messages resonate with suburban Republicans. We should be optimistic about finding support from these moderate Republicans. I'm also excited about Belinda Harris' win. The 110th House District (Washington and Jefferson Counties) is a conservative Democratic district and Belinda is a true environmentalist. She won convincingly, and we've gained an advocate and ally.

I'm very upset about Meg Harding's loss (H-30). Meg was a great supporter of ours and we lost a great environmental legislator. This was an extremely tough race and Meg lost by only a handful of votes. This is most upsetting because I don't feel that I did enough. We were handcuffed with only 66 members in

this district and I'm not sure what else could have been done, but I know that we should have done more.

With statewide Republican victories, the Missouri General Assembly now rests in Republican control with Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. This creates several interesting situations and leads me to not expect much to happen during the next legislative session. I believe there will be so much in fighting amongst the Republicans and so much hostility from the Democrats that it will require a special session just to complete the budget. However, we will need to be vigilant and ever watchful for sneak attacks. Given the budget situation, there will likely be attempts to gut DNR's budget and other environmental and public health protection programs. This will be an extremely defensive session and I see little hope of passing anything, which sometimes isn't all bad.

With so many new faces in Jefferson City, it is more important than ever that we make our voices heard. Your newly elected legislator campaigned on the promise of doing something for you so it is your responsibility to let them know what it is that you want. We will need to call and write our elected officials and let them know what we expect of them, and publicly applaud them when they get it right and scold them when they get it wrong.

I want to thank everyone who voted on November 5 as you made a difference. I'd like to further thank everyone who made a phone call, walked a neighborhood, gave money, placed a yard sign in front of their house, called a radio show, wrote a letter-to-the-editor or convinced someone to vote for candidates who pledged to protect the environment and public health. Your efforts and involvement matter. —

## Who Really Protects The Environment?

### An Opinion Editorial

by McNeer Dillon, Eastern Missouri Group Political Chair

**L**egislators pass laws that protect or destroy the environment. Law establishes bureaus that work to protect the environment. Money goes from revenues to the support of such agencies according to laws. Agencies are given power to regulate activities by law. Limitations are placed upon enforcement of regulations by law. Fundamentally, legislators are the principal ones who protect or destroy the environment. The influence of other people to protect the environment is secondary and subordinate.

The pervasive influence of some other people to destroy the environment is like a natural force, such as gravity or hurricane wind. Provision must be made in advance to resist such forces wherever it is necessary to oppose them. Only the laws furnish floor and shelter to the environment, but it, nevertheless, continues to be degraded in various ways.

People and businesses first pursue their own interests without regard for collateral damage to the environment. Without some enforceable standards of good conduct, most would not even feel regret for causing damage; they would probably feel satisfaction that they had escaped the cost of avoiding or repairing damage to it. Business organizations that do damage will obey laws before considering moral standards apart from law. Good companies are law-abiding rather than moral. They define their morality to the public in terms of obedience to the laws that had to be passed to rectify their former conduct. They usually do not consider environmental protection and public safety first. They consider their conduct to be perfectly righteous until there comes a law to alter that point of view.

Passing laws can protect the environment; not passing environmental laws results in its piecemeal destruction. Therefore, electing legislators who are interested in protecting the environment is the only way we are going to get those laws to save the natural world in Missouri or elsewhere.

In view of this, it is extraordinary to me to be surrounded by so many people who profess their love for the natural world and then flee from political activity. Apparently, they see no connection between their love and taking this action. Maybe that love is really no stronger than their will to act.

If we announce a day hike, we might have twenty-five to show up voluntarily. If we want people to come canvass for an environmental candidate, we may not even see two.

Working to elect the right kind of legislator is the only way to place the right kind of people in the Missouri Legislature and the U.S. Congress. There is no effective way to protect the environment without doing

political work. There is no effective way to do the political work with just a few people.

I will try to give you a view of what comprises the political work for a Group. We identify the issues of concern to us. Then we must find the candidates who agree with us. We decide whom we want elected and whom we will work to support. Then we bring them to the attention of voters and ask for their votes. Finally we await the election returns. This is a very broad outline. The details are more complicated and time-consuming. If they are to be effectively dealt with, the tasks must be distributed over a large number of volunteers.

Federal candidates do not have quite as many opportunities to protect or destroy the environment as our state candidates do at the present time. This observation does not rate the importance of the issues to be dealt with on both levels: clearly global warming and air quality, federally treated in large part, are very important issues. Significant states' environmental issues are simply more numerous at present, and they are important too. So what can a group do besides wringing hands and complain?

The Eastern Missouri Group Political Committee undertook to discover which state candidates supported the environmental protections of concern to us by sending out a questionnaire to all candidates. Those who answered and returned the questionnaires indicated that they sought support from the Sierra Club, or they expressed their opposition to our views. Those who did not return the questionnaires were regarded as disinterested in our concerns and received no further consideration. Those who answered the questions in a manner that concurred with our views were further considered for endorsement.

In every instance, the environment cannot be protected unless there is a specific law. The honor system has never served to protect the environment. The only people in this state who can pass the proper or the inappropriate laws are the representatives and senators, serving in the Legislature. So how do we get them to protect the environment? Well, we will ask them to do it. Only the ones who wish to do it can be encouraged to act. Most of those who do not want to do it will not be changed and will act against protection. We have to elect those who are disposed to protect the environment. Otherwise we are guilty of neglecting our cause.

Those legislators who are firmly pledged to support

business interests will not change their positions. They will not vote to protect the environment where it may cost or inconvenience any business. Businesses employ many lobbyists to promote their interests relentlessly to senators and representatives. If it costs a business anything to spare the environment from pollution or destruction, that organization sacrifices the environment instead. Then it obfuscates the issue for the public, if it cannot hide its act. The only chance we have to protect the environment is to elect a majority in both houses who care enough about it to defend it. We must find, support and elect environmental candidates. Consider this a high priority.

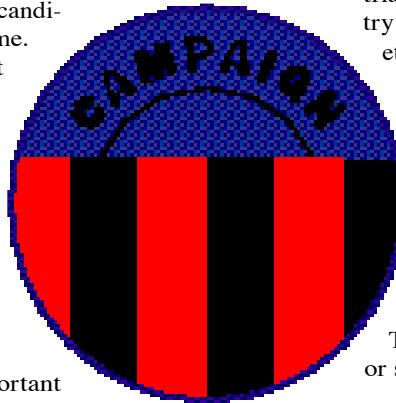
In every session of the Legislature for the last decade, it has been necessary to defeat proposals to limit the enforcement power of the DNR and to enable industrial self-policing. It is wrong public policy to free industry from restraint. Instances abound of poor business ethics in various industries. Deregulation has usually worked to the disadvantage of the public. Prices go up, while service and quality go down, and often the environment suffers some deterioration.

Industries may not be trusted to serve the public interest simply out of good will; none are organized for this purpose. They provide products and services, which make them money. They must be required by law to act in the public interest. Good companies are law-abiding, not ethical. Take notice! They care for people only when it makes them money or saves them trouble.

The balance of power for our side has slipped in the Senate. We need to regain it. We must work as relentlessly as the business and industrial interests to place people in the Legislature who will understand us most. Otherwise, our cause will be lost. Business will govern. The environment will be destroyed. Do not imagine otherwise. This is an ongoing struggle.

Since the term limit law is now operative, turnover in office will occur more frequently than has been customary in all Missouri districts. More new environmentally interested candidates must be found to run for office. This requires that we improve at keeping the public, the potential office seekers, and the candidates informed of our views and concerns. We need to develop better procedures to learn what candidates believe. We must be more attentive to state politics, lest a shift in power from the protection side to the destruction side may occur abruptly in the Legislature. Term limits have not simply made office holders more insecure; they are making environmental causes less secure as well.

That we must do political things to save the world does not necessarily mean that we will do these things. Attention to political realities may stretch the mentality of the average club member beyond its elastic limit. These attentions may thrust people into learning about politics, thinking about issues, making uncomfortable



# Outings Continued

trailheads but we'll be using a secret entry. For discreet hikers only. Wayne Miller (314)569-0094.

**Apr 11 (Fri) Big Creek. Catch the wildflowers before Spring fades into Summer.** A good portion is protected and runs through Sam A. Baker State Park. We will have dinner at the lodge on the way home. The required skill level is for a class I or II whitewater. Colin Maag (314)721-7397, (314)477-6659, or Katherine Powers (314)863-1073.

**Apr 11 (Fri) Explore Giant City State Park in Southern IL.** Many trails, many miles. Optional: overnight camping before the Jackson Hollow weekend. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Apr 12-13 (Sat-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. Camping will be in a primitive Shawnee Forest campground. This is a strenuous eight-mile hike for experienced hikers. Hiking boots will be required because of the rugged terrain. Terry Allen (618)398-1087.

**Apr 13 (Sun) One day canoe trip on a river in the Meramec basin.** Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener (314)434-2072.

**Apr 18 (Fri) Bluebell time at St. Francis State Park.** Hopefully as colorful as last year. Tentative: hike about 7 miles. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Apr 19-20 (Sat-Sun) The upper section of the Jack's Fork.** Plan on bringing your gear with you in the canoes and camping overnight on the riverbank. We will stop and see picturesque Alley Spring. We will also take some time out to explore Jam up cave. Colin Maag (314)721-7397, (314)477-6659.

**Apr 25 (Fri) Blue-eyed Mary time at Washington State Park.** Hike about 6-9 miles. Yummy B'B'Que afterwards. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Apr 26 (Sat) Explore the new White Oak Trail at Hawk State Park.** On this 6-mile hike we will see lots of spring wildflowers. Optional 2 miles at nearby Pickle Spring Natural Area. Margaret Gilleo and Chuck Gunther (314)991-1305.

**April 26-27 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Blair Creek Section of the Ozark Trail.** This will be our last trip for this work season. We will try to camp on the gravel bar so we can cool off in Blair Creek if it is hot. Common commissary on Saturday night. Menu suggestion welcome. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975, or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

**Protects the Environment?.....continued from page 6** decisions, disciplined efforts, and even confronting opposition. It demands much of people who prefer escaping into the outdoors for hiking, bird watching, canoeing, and flower identification, to ask them to plunge into politics.

Political activity is war without the sound of gunfire. It requires planning, organization, and people. If the Sierra Club members can't engage in this one, who will?

Stand up now! With the most recent election over and the wounds transcended, the planning and organizing must begin immediately for the next campaign. The recent experience should be taken into account. The organization and training should be improved. The number of "warriors" must be increased. If not, then the cause is abandoned and defeat is accepted in the next election. —

## Osage Group

None submitted.

## Thomas Hart Benton Group

**Jan 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Clinton Lake Backpacking, Lawrence, Kansas.** A short drive, an easy walk along the lakeshore, a good introduction to winter camping. Scott Hooper (816)561-0575, scott@hooper.net

**Feb 2 (Sun) Ice Skating at Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri.** Join us at the Ice Terrace, Kansas City's finest outdoor ice rink. Don't worry, we're not very good either. Fun for the whole family. Skate rentals available at the Ice Terrace. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

**Feb 15-16 (Sat-Sun) Hercules Glades Wilderness, Hilda, Missouri.** This short (8 miles round-trip) weekend backpacking trip will help cure your cabin fever. Dave Patton (816)461-6091, dgpatton@comcast.net

**Feb 22 (Sat) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, Kansas.** Sharpen your bow saws and loppers to help us prepare for summer. Bring water, lunch, and tools. We'll start about 9 a.m. and finish by 3 p.m. Kevin Otterman (913)856-8281, skiotter@aol.com

**Mar 1 (Sat) River Bluff Park, Eastern Jackson County, Missouri.** This little-known park is my secret suburban getaway. We'll hike 2.6 miles along some scenic bluffs near the Missouri River. Dave Patton (816)461-6091, dgpatton@comcast.net

**Mar 8 (Sat) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, Kansas.** Here's a chance to work on a different part of the trail this spring. Bring water, lunch, and tools. We'll start about 9 a.m. and finish by 3 p.m. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

**Mar 13-16 (Thu-Sun) Ozark Highlands Trail, Ozone, Arkansas.** A fairly strenuous 36-mile backpack along a beautiful part of this hilly trail. Call for details. Scott Hooper (816)561-0575, scott@hooper.net

**Mar 22 (Sat) Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, Blue Springs, Missouri.** We'll visit the fascinating displays in the nature center and maybe take in a trail or two as well. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

**Mar 28-30 (Fri-Sun) Starlight Campout, Astronomy Village, Osawatomie, Kansas.** Camp out under the stars at Astronomy Village, a super-dark site south of Osawatomie in

Linn County, Kansas with great celestial views. Cost \$10/person. Red flashlights only, please (paint a cheap one with red nail polish). No white lights or car headlights after dark. Bring binoculars if you have them. Telescopes will be available for sharing. We will have use of barbecue grills, coffeepots and a heated "meteor shower." Ellen Brenneman (816)274-8062, ebrenn1@hallmark.com

**Mar 29 (Sat) Preschool Nature Awareness Program: Kids & Critters, Ernie Miller Nature Center, Olathe, Kansas.** Kids & Critters is the second in a new quarterly series of half-hour nature programs for children age 3 to 5 being presented by the Park Rangers and Naturalists at Ernie Miller Park. "Go on a Kansas safari. Introduce your preschoolers to a live amphibian, reptile and mammal. Discover their secrets...and a whole lot more!" Admission to the program is \$2.50 per child to cover the cost of putting on the program. Limit: 20 children. Steve Hassler (913) 599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

**Apr 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Hemmed-In-Hollow, Compton, Arkansas.** This 7.2-mile backpacking trip will take us by the Buffalo River in Arkansas. Experience the tallest waterfall between the Appalachians and the Rockies on this steep rocky section of the Compton trail loop. Moderate. Paul Gross (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**Apr 12-13 (Sat-Sun) Osage Wilderness, Iconium, Missouri.** An easy, beautiful 7-mile overnight hike in a lovely area near Truman Lake. Scott Hooper (816) 561-0575, scott@hooper.net

**Apr 19 (Sat) Little Blue Trace Bicycle Outing, eastern Jackson County, Missouri.** We'll ride about 12 miles on this wide, level crushed rock trail along the Little Blue River. Dave Patton (816) 461-6091, dgpatton@comcast.net

**Apr 27 (Sun) Tour of Full Circle Farm, Kansas City, Kansas.** Full Circle Farm is a certified organic vegetable and herb farm, specializing in organically grown vegetables and herbs, including exotic & adventurous varieties, as well as seasonal standards. We will tour the farm for about two hours on Sunday. Steve Hassler (913) 599-6028, hassler@planetkc.com

## Trail of Tears Group

**Feb 1 (Sat) Eagle Days.** Visit Mingo and Duck Creek to view Bald Eagles. Meet at Cape Public Library at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and warm clothes for a little light walking. —

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Please mail this to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

# SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

## Eastern Missouri Group

**Jan 10 (Fri) Eagle watching time at Pere Marquette and lunch in Grafton afterwards.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Jan 11 (Sat) Highway Cleanup.** Enjoy the morning picking up trash while the red-tailed hawks watch from the trees. Diane DuBois (314)721-0594.

**Jan 12 (Sun) Enjoy a wonderful midday hike around Shaw Nature Reserve.** Easy hiking with some cross country travel and back to my house for something hot after the hike. Helen McCallie (636)451-3512 (w-toll free), or (636)742-4380 (h).

**Jan 17 (Fri) Let's see how many hiking miles are available at Castlewood State Park.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Jan 18 (Sat) 8 mile hike from Marble Creek campground to Crane Lake on the Ozark trail.** Good vista of lake at the end of the hike. Hiking boots required. June Stevens (314)822-3430.

**Jan 19 (Sun) Johnson Shut Ins State Park.** Take a walk on the wild side. This hike will take us to a beautiful glade for lunch. Approx 8 miles. Lots of rocks and a good climb. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Jan 19 (Sun) Eagles and Brunch.** What better combination! Join us as we look for eagles near Pere Marquette St.Park and then stop for brunch at the lodge. Dress warmly for this windy walk. Diane Favier (314)894-5549.

**Jan 24 (Fri) Hike the 10 mile wilderness loop at Meramec State Park.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Jan 25 (Sat) Jakk Longacre Memorial Hike.** Lets hike the Mina Sauk falls trail on Taum Sauk Mtn. and side hike over to Wildcat Mtn. for wonderful winter views. 3 to 4 miles. Dinner afterwards at the Arcadian Cafe in historic Arcadia Missouri. Limit 10 people. Glenn Wolters (314)845-5859.

**Jan 25-26 (Sat-Sun) St. Francois Mts. backpack trip.** Under 10 miles. Some cross country. George Behrens (314)821-0247 (after 6 pm only).

**Jan 31 (Fri) Hike to Babler State Park.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest.** We will take up where we left off last and work South. We need hikers to walk the trail and inspect it. Common commissary on Saturday night. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Feb 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Meramec State Park.** Help restore native wildflowers, grasses and tarantula

*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.*

habitat through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. Come one day or both; spend Saturday night at a cabin in the park with us if you choose. Susan Farrington (636)583-0948 (home, long distance) or leave a message at (314)577-9402 (toll-free).

**Feb 7 (Fri) 10 mile hike at Washington State Park.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Canoe floats on Courtois Creek and Huzzah Creek.** Stay overnight in heated cabin. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Colin Maag (314)721-7397.

**Feb 9 (Sun) Explore Graham Cave State Park in Montgomery County west of St. Louis.** We will see this spectacular cave and then take one or two short day hikes. Possible stop in Hermann on the way back. Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758.

**Feb 14 (Fri) Goggins Mountain for our 10 mile hike.** Lunch at the Chocolate Garage in Caledonia. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 15 (Sat) Hike to the Rockpile Mountain shut ins for lunch.** We will take time to explore the area before we hike back to our cars. Approx 8 miles with a steep climb. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Feb 16 (Sun) Let's check for signs of spring at Little Lost Creek Conservation Area - a 5 mile walk.** Wayne Miller (314)569-0094.

**Feb 21 (Fri) 7.5 mile Chubb Trail hike.** Maybe we'll hike it east to west for a change. Lunch at Soup-r-Salad, buffet after. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Washington State Park.** Help restore native wildflowers, grasses and lizard habitat through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. Susan Farrington (636)583-0948 (home, long distance) or leave a message at (314)577-9402 (toll-free).

**Mar 1 (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 macro invertebrates. Leslie Lihou (314)726-2140, or Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758.

**Mar 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest.** Walk and work the most beautiful section of the Ozark Trail before Owls Bend. Common commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Mar 7 (Fri) Day hike to Little Grand Canyon in Southern Illinois and other adventures in the vicinity.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Mar 8 (Sat) Highway cleanup.** Let's take spring cleaning to the roadway. Join the crew for fun with trash. Diane DuBois (314)721-0594.

**Mar 8 (Sat) We will hike the newest trail in Hawn State Park.** We will take a cross country route to the north loop to complete our 7-9 mile hike. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel, (636)296-8975.

**Mar 9 (Sun) Outings Leaders Workshop.** If you have ever considered being an outings leader, come find out what is involved in leading a successful outing. You are welcome even if you just want to be a better outings participant. Learn from our pros. Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

**Mar 14 (Fri) Hike about 9 miles to Bell Mountain. Lunch at the Chocolate Garage.** Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Mar 15-16 (Sat & Sun) Glade restoration at Meramec State Park.** Help restore native wildflowers, grasses and bird habitat through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. Susan Farrington (636)583-0948 (home, long distance), or leave a message at (314)577-9402 (toll-free), or e-mail susanfmo@aol.com

**Mar 15-16 (Sat-Sun) In search of the rare and endangered farting frogs.** Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352 or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Mar 22-23 (Sat-Sun) White water races on the St. Francis River.** The Sierra Club provides judges for the slalom races through the rapids of Millstream Gardens. We need volunteers for one day or both. This is a fun weekend and your chance to see some of the best kayakers and canoeists in the area negotiate slalom gates on white water. Jim Nyberg (314)725-0767, George Behrens (314)821-0247 (after 6 pm only).

**Mar 28 (Fri) Day hike 6 or 10 miles at Hawn State Park.** Spring wildflowers, hike the new 4 mile trail in addition to the 6 mile loop. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Mar 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance in the Pioneer Forest.** If we are on schedule we should be working the Sugarcamp Hollow area to the cemetery. Common Commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352, or Bob Gestel (636)296-8975.

**Mar 30 (Sun) Hike at Fults Hill Prairie, IL, where a short but very strenuous climb will afford a fantastic vista of bluffs and river bottom across the river from where Holcim, Inc., has proposed building the world's largest cement kiln and quarry.** On the return trip, we will cross the Mississippi by ferry and have lunch in Ste. Genevieve. Jill Miller (314)664-7895.

**April 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Beginners backpack trip.** A planning meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20. We will make a short hike to camp. There we will demonstrate tents, stoves, water purifiers and the use of map and compass. There will be a common commissary Saturday night after which we will sit around the fire and tell wild stories of past adventures. Limit 10 people. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975, or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

**Apr 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Buffalo River (Arkansas).** This is one of the premier rivers in the United States because of its beauty. We will be canoeing in a deep gorge. There will be some side hikes to Eden Rock Cave and Hemmed in Hollow. It was the first rivers to be protected under the Wild and Scenic Waterways Act. Colin Maag (314)721-7397 or (314)477-6659.

**Apr 6 (Sun) Visit Bell Mountain with outstanding views from its glades and a gem of a St. Francois stream called Padfield Branch with its surprising spring.** This is an adventure hike to a hard-to-reach spot from the usual