

OZARK SIERRA

One Earth One Chance

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Settlement Reached on Holcim Cement Plant

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director

The Ozark Chapter settled its litigation challenging the proposed Holcim cement plant, a 4,000-acre industrial development planned for construction near St. Louis, Missouri. The final agreement was reached on October 5, 2004 between Holcim U.S. Inc., Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, American Bottoms Conservancy, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and Webster Groves Nature Society. The settlement will resolve several pending actions challenging various aspects of the Holcim project:

- 1) a federal lawsuit challenging a permit to fill wetlands under the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act;
- 2) a state lawsuit challenging a quarry permit;
- 3) a state administrative appeal challenging the Clean Air Act permit for the cement plant.

Background:

The proposed industrial development would span nearly 4,000 acres and would include a limestone quarry, a harbor, two barging areas, and multiple processing facilities. The proposed plant would impact an undeveloped area along the river that includes 30 acres of wetlands and provides rich habitat for plant and animal life. In addition, the plant would emit large quantities of fine dust particles, sulfur dioxide, mercury and other pollutants.

Settlement:

The Sierra Club has fought to block construction of the proposed Holcim plant or, at the very least, mitigate its environmental impacts. The Sierra Club and our environmental allies suffered a setback in this effort when a state court ruled against us in our challenge to the quarry permit. Following this decision, and several meetings with Department of Natural Resources, EPA and the Governor's office where agencies were reluctant to exercise their discretion for stricter permit conditions, the parties entered into settlement negotiations. While allowing construction of the cement plant, the proposed settlement achieves considerable environmental mitigation, including roughly \$3 million for land preservation and air pollution reduction. The four organizations involved in the suit do not receive any funding from the litigation.

Land Preservation:

Under the proposed settlement, Holcim must contribute over \$1.8 million to preserve land in Missouri and neighboring Illinois. The money will be divided equally between Missouri and Illinois (both receiving \$908,333) and will be used by government agencies and/or non-profit organizations to acquire land and purchase conserva-

tion easements. We are currently in the process of determine which parties will acquire the land or hold the easements, although several government agencies and non-profit organizations have been identified that are acceptable to both sides. The money will be held in escrow until the plant begins operation and then will be distributed to an agreed-upon entity for land preservation purposes.

In addition, Holcim will undertake several on-site conservation measures, including:

- 1) granting a conservation easement of over 1,900 acres to Ozark Regional Land Trust to maintain the undeveloped property in its present condition;
- 2) establishing a 100-foot riparian buffer along Isle du Bois Creek;
- 3) restricting annual land clearing and timber harvesting to areas that will be quarried by the following October; and
- 4) undertaking reasonable measures to minimize the generation of light from the developed area.

Air Mitigation:

Under the proposed settlement, Holcim also must contribute \$908,334 for air pollution reduction activities in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The money will be used to finance projects to reduce air pollution; educate the public about air pollution; and/or increase scientific understanding of air pollution and its causes and control methods. The parties will be sending out requests for proposals to agencies and organizations that work on agreed purposes. Both sides support using the money for:

- 1) reduction of energy usage—and ultimately air

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Our Strength is in Our Members

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director and Melissa Hope Blakley, Legislative Coordinator/Development Associate

It is a fact, legislators respond to constituent contacts. Contacts, whether by e-mail, phone, letter or personal visit can either thank a legislator for their vote or leadership on specific legislation or hold them accountable. Constituent contacts can also help to educate a legislator on an issue. The power of the Sierra Club is contained in the power of our active and engaged membership and their commitment to being involved.

Hopefully, most of our members are aware of the Bush Administration's sustained attack on the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, public lands and a host of other protections many Americans take for granted. But did you know the same brazenness for rolling back environmental protections is going on right here in Missouri?

For the first time since 1921 Republicans control the Missouri House, Senate and Governor's office. Why do

we mention Republicans specifically? For the simple fact that in recent years Republicans have led the charge for rolling back necessary, beneficial and hard-won environmental protections in Missouri.

We expect to see, back with a vengeance, all the business and industry friendly anti-environmental legislation from previous years. If you are a Republican feel free to call the Sierra Club office to discuss the record of a Republican legislator you may have supported or the record of the current Republican leadership—knowledge is power!

Several bills we have successfully fought back for years are sure to be introduced and moved forward. Two especially heinous bills, capable of doing long-term damage to Missouri streams and endangering the health and safety of Missouri families, are "No Stricter than Federal" and "Audit Privilege."

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Sierra Club Donor Appreciation Outing

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director

When John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892, he realized the importance of taking elected officials and club members out to the special places that he wanted to protect. Allowing individuals to experience the wonder of nature first hand was so critical to the foundation of the Sierra Club that it is imbedded in our mission statement:

To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystem and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment, and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

In honor of this founding principle, and as a means to honor the critical role that our generous donors play in the vital work we do, the Ozark Chapter held the First Annual "Sierra Club Donor Appreciation Outing." Generous donors to the Ozark Chapter were invited to spend the weekend in one of the most beautiful places in the world—the Ozark National Scenic Rivers area. Our reasons for choosing this region were twofold; first because of its beauty, and second because it gave us the opportunity to show our members firsthand the challenges we face in protecting this amazing and fragile region. It also provided us an opportunity to highlight some of the ongoing work being done by Sierra Club staff and volunteers in the area.

Due to the generosity and support of local business, Rivers Edge Resort, Air Corp and Acres Canoe Rental, our members were able to experience the beauty of the area in a truly unique fashion. Fifteen members and supporters of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club spent the weekend with local experts.



Those arriving Friday evening enjoyed a dessert reception and time around the campfire getting to know one another. Saturday morning Don and Becky Horton lead an educational hike for Sierrans to show the matchless beauty of Greer Spring. Greer is the second largest spring in Missouri, which in normal flows offers a gallon of water for every American every day. The Hortons explained that in 1992 the US Forest Service allowed the Doe Run Company to drill six exploratory holes just a mile and a half north of this natural wonder. We learned the threat is far from over. New geologic maps, produced by USGS, based on Doe Runs core samples, show the area near Greer Spring is the location of a sizeable deposit for lead and other minerals. We must be vigilant to ensure that this area remains free of industrial lead production. This area is truly a treasure; I had seen photos before of Greer Spring but they do not do justice

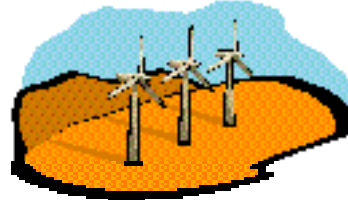
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Columbia Says "Yes" to Renewable Energy

by Chris Hayday

Advocates for renewable energy scored a major victory on Election Day. That's because over 78% of Columbia voters passed a ballot initiative requiring the city to use renewable energy. The proposal calls for the city to incrementally add renewable energy beginning with 2% in 2007; as much as 15% of Columbia's energy could be from clean renewable energy sources by 2022.

Columbians for Clean Energy, whose activists included Sierra Club members, began gathering signatures at Columbia's Earth Day celebration in April and collected over 3000 signatures by July 2004. The petition required the city council to vote on the proposed ordinance change and after the city council's deadlocked vote the issue was ultimately placed on the ballot for voters to decide. Columbia currently uses no renewable energy. Columbia voters quickly recognized the benefits of renewable energy and the initiative passed with 78% of the vote.



Columbia's proposal has a unique rate cap clause to protect consumers. Recognizing that there are unknown market factors that may affect the cost of providing renewable energy, Columbians for Clean Energy sought a creative way to protect consumers with a rate cap. This rate cap clause requires the city to obtain as much renewable energy as necessary without raising rates more than 3% above what rates would have been for fossil fuels. In other words, Columbians will never pay more than 3% more for renewable energy than they would pay for fossil fuels.

Columbia voters joined with voters in Colorado and Pennsylvania to pass similar statewide renewable energy proposals. As more communities commit to using renewable energy the larger the market for renewable energy grows, the cheaper the rates become and the faster the technology develops.

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 Claus Wawrzinek via E-mail at claus@missouri.sierraclub.org or phone (816) 517-5244, **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 CD, **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 CD), please include a SASE.

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Plain Talk about Protein Plants

by Albert A. Midoux, USDA FSIS, retired

Have you had your protein today? In order to understand the impact of a commercial rendering facility on health, food safety and the environment, one must know its purpose which I will do my best to clarify. Today, rendering plants are often referred to as protein plants in an attempt to disguise and somewhat glamorize their morbid but necessary service, which is to dispose of by means of cooking and dehydrating, all remains and/or parts of food animals and fowl which are by-products of today's meat and poultry processing plants. This would include entrails and their contents, blood, bones and feathers and spoiled product and would also include the entire carcass of any animal or fowl which was condemned for disease or other abnormality.

Rendering plants do not discriminate, they will accept for cooking and dehydrating practically anything of animal origin that is not breathing, at least not noticeably, this could include anything bovine or equine, lapin or swine, canine or feline. All types of fowl, fish and road kill. Cause of demise or condition at arrival is no obvious concern and can arrive fresh or in advance stages of rot.

Years ago such factories were usually located as far away from populated areas and our food supply as possible. The stench of decaying flesh, entrails and blood and the steam which rose from the cooking operation would literally gag a maggot. Unfortunately maggots are not deterred by gagging. The magical ability of these disgusting little creatures to reproduce must have increased the weight of the finished product to a noticeable degree.

Years ago, the vehicles hauling this cargo were called dead wagons and became popular as man began to replace the natural order of scavengers. Today the 18 wheelers have replaced the dead wagons but carry the same cargo, only in much greater volume and from much greater distance. They continue to leak blood and fluids laden with disease and bacteria along our highways, and on steep grades blood and critter parts at times will flow over the tail gate.

About now you are wondering what in blazes all this has to do with health, food safety and the environment. You don't eat it! You don't drink it! And you sure as hell don't swim in it!

Today the destination of the dead wagon convoy is no longer the remote and isolated areas of years past and no longer distant from our edible food supply. Their cargo will be delivered to meat and poultry processing plants which have the resources to handle the huge amount of waste waters from both a food processing operation and a rendering plant. The resources needed of course is one of our streams in which to dump waste waters, such streams are little more than a free sewage disposal for industry at the expense of the rightful own-

ers, you and me.

As with all harebrained ideas, it came about slowly and did not appear to be the dangerous monster it was destined to become. Years ago, meat and poultry processing plants asked for and were given permission to operate their own little rendering operations. This would be limited to the cooking and dehydrating of the waste from their own processing operations. This meant also that it would be rendered as it was produced, meaning fresh. As the processing plants grew, so grew the surrounding population. Most plants were on municipal sewage systems. Poultry slaughtering plants seemed to spring up in smaller towns than did beef and pork plants. These plants which had developed rendering facilities, in-plant or on-premise, soon discovered waste water treatment systems unable to handle the added sewage load of the rendering phase of their operations, much less future expansion of such an operation.

“Maintenance men complained to me that the maggots were falling on them from the roof as they entered and left the facility.”

Other processing plants located in more suitable areas (meaning a nearby stream to use as a sewage conduit) and already operating on-premise rendering, asked for and received permission from USDA to alleviate the suffering of those less fortunate (no stream) and that they did! Commercial rendering was born, and the monster grew.

Today only a few plants do the rendering of many. In the southeast area of Missouri alone, thousands of tons of this vile and, in most cases, decaying cargo is trucked in on a weekly basis from hundreds of miles in any direction, unregulated and unrefrigerated. The immense size of these operations created major problems almost immediately, such as the piling of decaying matter on the receiving aprons awaiting the process. Flies and crickets blackened the walls of the facility. Steam from the cooking process and organic dust from the drying phase of the rendering operations permeated the entire food processing area and settled as moisture and dust are prone to do, on everything and anything including packaging material and products destined for your kitchen. RTC, ready to cook, so to speak.

On one particular occasion, rendering dust had accumulated on the roof of a premise rendering facility, warm and humid conditions created the perfect breeding ground for fly larva (maggots). Maintenance men complained to me that the maggots were falling on them

from the roof as they entered and left the facility. Maintenance people worked on and repaired equipment in both edible and inedible departments—being only a few feet apart, it was a very short walk.

The putrid stench of a commercial rendering operation is disgusting and often overwhelming for many miles depending on the whim of the wind. No term can accurately describe the aroma of airborne molecules of bacteria laden filth of cooked carrion.

In some establishments where I have worked, plant management would become quite agitated if inspectors (USDA) complained of conditions in or about their rendering facilities.

To correct the problems management was forced to request, respectfully of course, that the USDA declare rendering facilities as off-premise operations, the request was granted and on-premise became officially off-premise and off-limits to official scrutiny of nosy inspectors.

There are two streams in this area of southwest Missouri that receive the waste water from two such operations. Millions of gallons of effluent pour daily into these streams from over burdened lagoons. These were once beautiful full body contact streams flowing clear, clean and containing abundant and diverse aquatic life. Today they are nutrient loaded and are choked with algae growth and bacteria runs rampant—for example fecal coliform colonies of 400,000 were recorded in the smaller of the two streams and well into the thousands in the much larger river. This is only my opinion, but it seems that our state health officials believe that exposure to the above is good for the immune systems.

One should know that the finished product of rendering is used mostly for feeding back to our food animals including flocks of laying hens used for commercial egg production. This should be a great deterrent to egg sucking. Feeding our food critters back to our food critters is economically induced cannibalism.

If ever there existed a mega-manufacturing corporation designed for the manufacture and distribution of food related illness, it is the commercial rendering plant operating within crawling distance of facilities processing poultry or meat for human consumption.

The decisions by our agencies which allowed such a deplorable practice as I have described were based on total ignorance of the facts as well as the consequence. I chose ignorance just to be nice, it was not my first choice.

Hopefully I have given you something to think about. I have certainly given the subject a great deal of thought, especially around dinner time. You know, I have always believed that “you are what you eat” which probably explains my bald head, tooth loss and red neck. The next buzzard you see, wave, he might just wave back. ☹

Siege of the Missouri River

by Leslie Lihou

Last September in St. Louis the Missouri Department of Natural Resources hosted the Transboundary Water Issues Group. Representatives from Canada, Minnesota, Native American tribes, and conservation groups formulated a defense against North Dakota's new push to divert the Missouri River across the continental divide to a different watershed. Manitoba and Minnesota are alarmed by potential contamination of the Red River with pollutants and invasive species from another watershed. The Native American tribes object to the destruction of cultural and fishery resources, as well as to the violation of treaty

obligations. Missouri criticizes the siphoning of water that would deprive downstream states, which depend on it not only for household and industrial water needs, but also for barge navigation. Conservationists perceive a threat to natural processes and ecosystems that can have dire environmental consequences. Legal questions arise: How will North Dakota's diversion of Missouri River water affect the prior rights of other water consumers?

North Dakota proclaimed irrigation, water shortages and estimated growth in water demand as justification for the diversion. In a recent Devils Lake Outlet proposal the North Dakota government and its ally, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District plan to channel the

continued on page 6...Siege of the Missouri

Dates You Need to Know

1/29	Chapter ConsCom meeting: Columbia, contact Ken Midkiff, kmidkiff@mchsi.com
1/30	Chapter ExCom meeting: Columbia, contact Keet Kopecky, kkopecky@kc.rr.com, (816)966-9544
3/01	Submission deadline, April-June Ozark Sierran, contact Claus Wawrzinek, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org, (816) 517-5244

Energy Notes

by Wallace McMullen

Missouri Electric Utility Buys Into Wind Power

Empire District Electric Company in Joplin has signed a 20-year contract to purchase wind energy generated at the new 150-megawatt Elk River wind farm project in Butler County, Kansas being developed by PPM Energy. Empire expects to buy about 550,000 megawatt hours of wind-generated electricity per year from the windpower project, enough to meet the annual needs of approximately 42,000 homes.

The project is expected to provide about ten percent of Empire's electricity load. This is quite significant. As far as the author knows, this is the first time a Missouri utility has committed to receiving a major

portion of its electricity supply from wind power. Aquila is purchasing wind power from another Kansas wind farm, but that is believed to be a much smaller part of their generating mix.

Also significant is the fact that the utility has invested in the project before it is operational. The company anticipates it will begin receiving wind power from this project in December, 2005.

Empire District provides electric service to about 157,000 customers in southwest Missouri, and neighboring regions of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Permit Issued for Springfield City Utilities to Build Coal Burning Power Plant

The Air Pollution Control Program in Missouri DNR issued a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit for Springfield's City Utilities proposal to build

a new coal-burning power plant on December 15, 2004. This permit, once final, will allow the municipal utility to begin construction on the new power plant during the next twelve months. However, in the summer of 2004 the citizens of Springfield voted down the rate increase and bonds that would be needed to build the 275-megawatt coal burning project. So at present, the utility does not have the money to build the new plant

Also, some environmental groups believe that the emission limits contained in the DNR permit are not as strict as they should be, and are considering an appeal to the Missouri Air Conservation Commission on those grounds.

City Utilities could implement efficiency programs to reduce the demand for electricity, or pursue clean renewable energy with fewer obstacles than building a new coal-burning power plant, but so far they have refused to seriously consider those options. ☞

Peabody Coal Tries to Lure Missouri Municipal Utilities

by Jill Miller, Conservation Organizer

Should Missouri's municipal public utilities risk buying electricity from a controversial, high-polluting, non-union coal-fired power plant in Illinois that threatens a National Wildlife Refuge—when far better options abound?

The Sierra Club and AFL-CIO expressed strong concerns about Peabody's proposed Prairie State coal plant to the Missouri Public Utilities Alliance in early

December.

Peabody Corporation, headquartered in St. Louis, wants to build a large (1,500-Megawatt) coal-burning facility in Washington County, Illinois, about 55 miles southeast of St. Louis.

The Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the plant would have an "adverse impact" on the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in the Missouri bootheel. The determination is rare. Only three such determinations on power plants have been made in the last twenty years.

At the core of the problem is Peabody's insistence on using conventional coal-burning technology. Had Peabody opted to gasify the coal using Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology, emissions from the proposed plant would be cut to a fraction. Another proposed plant in Illinois has elected to use IGCC technology. Its sulfur dioxide emission

rate is one-fifth of Peabody's level.

Peabody needs (among other things) to lure electric utility customers from other states into buying power from Prairie State. Some municipal members of the Missouri Public Utilities Alliance have already agreed to purchase 100 MW, and cities like Columbia, Missouri are being approached. The city of Batavia, Illinois recently decided to hold off purchasing electricity from Prairie State after learning that less risky options may be available.

Missouri's municipal utilities should consider cleaner, more cost-effective, responsible sources of electricity than Peabody's risky Prairie State generating plant.

Learn more by visiting <http://missouri.sierraclub.org> or <http://illinois.sierraclub.org> and clicking on Clean Air. To get involved, contact Ozark Chapter energy chair Wallace McMullen at (573) 636-6067, or Jill Miller at (314) 645-2032. ☞

Holcim Settlement . . . continued from page 1

pollution—by weatherizing low income homes and promoting efficient light bulb usage;

- 2) measuring air quality levels and educating people about pollution threats facing their communities; and
- 3) demonstrating the viability of solar energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The money may be used to help finance a school bus emissions reduction program in St. Louis. As with land preservation funds, the money will be held in escrow until the plant begins operation and then will be distributed to an agreed-upon entity or entities for air mitigation purposes.

Under the proposed settlement, the environmental plaintiffs will dismiss the pending lawsuits and administrative challenges and will release any potential claims with respect to the environmental permits already issued for the Holcim cement plant. The settlement in no way restricts us from monitoring, challenging and pursuing litigation on future violations of our Clean Water or Clean Air laws, or permit conditions. Holcim knows that we will be carefully monitoring the facility once it's in operation.

Entering into settlement discussions was not a decision arrived at easily. Despite the merits, both factually and legally, of our litigation, other factors outside our control such as the current political, economic and legislative climate and the unreceptive administrative agencies made the chances of us prevailing very doubtful. The Ozark Chapter had a major role in the fight against the Holcim cement plant. From the beginning, almost four years ago, Diane Albright represented the SC in this fight, dedicating hundreds of volunteer hours. Her dedication and professionalism in this matter deserve our appreciation. This effort was definitely a grass roots effort—Chapter activists have worked hard to block the construction of the plant—but after a legal setback, it appeared that this was no longer an attainable goal. The proposed settlement represents a hard fought victory that will go a long way toward offsetting the environmental impacts caused by the Holcim cement plant. We believe that the settlement reached was the best possible outcome given our circumstances. ☞

Sierra Student Coalition Summer Training – July 8-15, 2005

Hey, all you Midwest eco-activists, this one's for you!

We're focusing on Organizing 101, Communication Skills, Campaign Organizing, and Environmental Issues. A great way to build relations.

Our program is limited to 30 students.

Questions? Please call Erika Krider in SSC World Headquarters, 1-888-JOIN-SSC, or to reserve your seat, send an e-mail to Charlie Fredrick, Midwest Sprog Director, at charlie.fredrick@ssc.org

Deadline for signups is March 15, 2005. But don't wait until the last minute.

Bad Bills

"No Stricter than Federal"

This legislation would restrict environmental regulations that exceed low federal standards.

Federal regulations provide minimum protections nationwide, states are expected to provide the needed extra protection. Missouri as the Cave State needs extra protection as our groundwater is easily contaminated. It could roll back existing regulations and would seriously limit the Department of Natural Resources' power to stop corporate polluters. It could strip away groundwater protections, undercut odor laws for huge hog farms known as Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and undermine protections for clean streams and safe drinking water.

"Audit Privilege"

Dubbed the "dirty secrets" bill, this legislation could wreak havoc for years to come. The bill is intended to **allow corporations to escape penalties, punishment and public disclosure when they violate state environmental laws.** Some versions could establish unprecedented new privileges that allow polluters to hide evidence of violations from state agencies, from the courts and from the public, where such evidence is found through "voluntary" audit. "Audit Privilege" offers virtually unlimited immunity for self-confession, even if the confessed violations result from criminal negligence, serious harm, or place local communities at risk. Even worse, some versions of this legislation could limit the state's ability to obtain orders requiring violators to stop polluting and could render documented evidence of wrongdoing inadmissible, making it virtually impossible for people injured by pollution to recover damages for their injuries. Allowing corporate polluters to self audit and close their records to the public is bad for Missouri citizens and the environment.

For other legislative concerns see <http://missouri.sierraclub.org>.

Join Sierra Club's Missouri Legislative Action Alert List-serve

Receive urgent e-mail requests to communicate with your representatives.

Contact Terri Folsom to sign up — terri.folsom@sierraclub.org, 1-800-628-5333.

The purpose of the Missouri Legislative Action Alert is to empower members with information and the ability to quickly respond to action needed. Alerts will be limited. The list-serve is a one-way communication—you will only receive notices sent out from the Ozark Chapter office on key state issues that are at a critical voting juncture. The alert will provide a short summary of the problem, the Bill information, what action is needed and who and how to contact key legislators.

"The power of the Sierra Club is contained in the power of our active and engaged membership and their commitment to being involved."

Oppose:

☞ **Confined Animal Feeding Operations**

(CAFOs) — Oppose attempts to further exempt the waste from these large-scale industrial facilities from regulation (a CAFO can produce as much waste as a city of 10,000 people — untreated).

☞ **Sand and Gravel Mining** proposals to allow unregulated dredge and fill operations up to 5,000 tons will most likely be reintroduced. Gravel mining operations severely impact the health of a stream and its wildlife. Reasonable regulations are necessary to protect the health of Missouri streams.

Support:

☞ **Renewal of the Parks and Soils tax** (1/10 cent sales tax) that supports Missouri Parks and soil conservation programs. (Not to be confused with the 1/8 cent conservation tax). The tax must be placed on the ballot and renewed by Missouri voters every ten years. Missouri Parks are a source of important economic revenue for Missouri. The state park system's overall economic impact adds \$538 million annually to Missouri.

☞ **Waste Tire Fee renewal.** This fee, which has expired, funded a successful program that recycled old tires and provided for the clean up of waste tire dumps. Waste tires are not only an environmental concern, but a health concern as well. Waste tires are a major breeding ground for mosquitoes. West Nile virus continues to be an important health concern.

☞ **Alternative Energy** — support passage of a **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)** for all utilities in Missouri. RPS would require each electric utility to invest in electric generation from various renewable energy sources (such as wind and solar), increasing on a yearly scale until the standard is met. Diversifying our energy sources makes good sense. An RPS bill can provide Missouri with cleaner, safer and cheaper energy.

Melissa Hope Blakley joined the Ozark Chapter staff in November as Legislative Coordinator/Development Associate.

"Melissa is experienced and energetic. I am looking forward to working with her as we face numerous challenges in the state legislature this year." Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director.

Help Melissa and Carla protect Missouri by signing up for the Missouri Legislative Action Alert List serve

(Contact Terri Folsom terri.folsom@sierraclub.org, 1-800-628-5333. Additional communication options are being developed.)

What the Sierra Club is doing!

Your Ozark Chapter has taken several important steps to help us face the extraordinary challenges of the 2005 legislative session — your help is needed to support the efforts of staff and volunteer leaders:

Additional staff: Melissa Hope Blakley joined the Ozark Chapter staff in November as Legislative Coordinator/Development Associate. Melissa will be representing Sierra Club priorities at the state capitol and working to raise funds to enable the Chapter to communicate conservation priorities broadly and more effectively. Melissa's efforts will be coordinated with Chapter Director Carla Klein who will be working around the state to engage our members and build coalitions with other groups interested in protecting Missouri's natural heritage.

Missouri Legislative Action Alerts: It is essential that we have the ability to activate our members and friends quickly when **critical** issues arise that require **immediate** action. The new **Missouri Legislative Action Alert** list-serve will serve as a fast, efficient and effective tool to communicate with members/friends and provide an easy way for individuals to communicate with elected officials (Contact Terri Folsom to sign up — terri.folsom@sierraclub.org, 1-800-628-5333). Additional communication options are being developed.) The purpose of the Missouri Legislative Action Alert is to empower members with information and the ability to quickly respond to action needed. Alerts will be limited. The list-serve is a one-way communication—you will only receive notices sent out from the Ozark Chapter office on key state issues that are at a critical voting juncture. The alert will provide a short summary of the problem, the Bill information, what action is needed and who and how to contact key legislators.

Green Alliances—coalition building: Chapter staff attended Missouri's environmental summit on December 4, 2004. The Environmental Summit, organized by Missouri Votes Conservation brings together groups from around the state interested in preserving and protecting Missouri's natural heritage—Sierra Club, Audubon, Ozark Fly Fishers, The Nature Conservancy, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Republicans for Environmental Protection, The Conservation Federation, Labor-Blue Green Alliance—are a few that attended this year's summit. Every effort is being made to coordinate legislative alerts to all relevant groups.

GREEN REPORT: THE GREEN REPORT is an in-depth legislative report sent to subscribing members periodically throughout the legislative session. (To subscribe contact Terri in the Chapter office — terri.folsom@sierraclub.org, 1-800-628-5333)

Website: The Chapter website will continue to provide updates and information on important issues — <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>.

Develop additional communication tools: We will be working to develop the Action Alert List-Serve and expand its reach to more members and friends, but not all of our members are available by e-mail. Fax alerts, phone trees and automated phone messages will be explored. Members will be needed to help develop and implement these tools.

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 we will continue to be successful. ☞

Mark Twain National Forest Plan Draft Released Soon

by Caroline Pufalt

Call for Citizen Input

Most of us visit the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri and enjoy its benefits, such as wooded hiking trails, Ozark streams and wildlife, and sometimes curse its drawbacks, such as clear-cuts and illegal off-road vehicle traffic. Few of us contemplate the series of decisions that led to the conditions we see in the forest. But there is a process behind the management of our National Forests and there is a role for citizens to speak up for the good management of our public lands.

The Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) is in the process of preparing an overall plan for the forest, which will be the guiding document for the next 10–15 years. It is important that you participate in that process. Just as your vote was important in the last election, your input is vital to this process.

The Forest Plan will outline plans for uses for different areas of the forest, including logging, recreation areas (motorized and nonmotorized), wildlife management and other issues. The Forest Service will prepare a draft

document for comment, which will include alternatives. They want to hear what you think about the alternatives and/or what you think about the specifics of any part of the plan. If you have any area of the MTNF that you are especially concerned about you should also comment to tell the agency about your concern.

The draft forest plan is called a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

You can visit the MTNF web site and view the plan at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain>. The DEIS is expected to be available in January 2005. The Ozark Chapter will also post suggestions on how to understand the DEIS and guides on commenting. That information should be on the chapter's web site at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org> later in February 2005.

The Mark Twain National Forest will also hold five open houses regarding the forest plan. Each open house is an opportunity to visit with agency personnel and review maps, ask questions and give comments regarding forest management. The planned open houses will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the following locations and dates:

St Louis (February 8)
Powder Valley Nature Center
11715 Cragwood Rd
Kirkwood MO

Salem MO (February 15)
Old City Hall Bldg
202 N Washington
Salem MO

West Plains MO (February 22)
West Plains Civic Center
110 St Louis
West Plains MO

Poplar Bluff MO (March 15)
Black River Coliseum
301 S 5th St
Poplar Bluff MO

Springfield MO (March 22)
The Library Center
4653 S Campbell
Springfield MO

Siege of the Missouri....continued from page 3

Missouri River through a chain of completed channels, pipes and reservoirs to Devils Lake, then out of basin to the Sheyenne River and downstream to land and cities in the Red River Valley. The Bureau of Land Reclamation is now completing an EIS on a Devils Lake Intake project under the pseudonym, Red River Valley Water Supply Needs Project, which will require Congressional authorization of the Bureau's recommendations. Scientific studies have rejected the out-of-basin transfer of Missouri River water as economically unfeasible and environmentally disastrous. Furthermore, the statistics indicate that the irrigation project would benefit few farmers and would concentrate landownership.

However, a lack of water is not the only concern that the North Dakotans wish to address. Lately parts of North Dakota have experienced unusually heavy rainfall. Under the pretext of releasing water from the overflowing Devils Lake, next spring the state wants to begin delivering water through the last link over the continental divide to the Sheyenne River. However, in dry years the vast infrastructure of pumps and channels comprising the Devils Lake Outlet and the proposed Devils Lake Intake can disperse flow out of the Missouri basin into the Red River system and flush invasive species from the Missouri downstream into Canada. Although months ago Canada requested that the International Joint Commission convene to investigate the consequences of the Devils Lake Outlet, Secretary of State Colin Powell has not yet responded.

Since its 1889 Constitutional Conventional, North

Dakota has pressed Congress to build an irrigation canal from the Missouri River to the Red River Valley. In spite of rejections by Congress and administrations of Presidents Carter, Reagan, George Bush and Clinton, North Dakota has doggedly pursued this discredited and wasteful diversion. To perpetuate this project, North Dakota has grossly inflated population growth and exaggerated irrigation and industrial needs, surmounted the unenthusiastic response of its citizens, seduced conservation groups with promises of wetland preserves which never materialized, resisted legal challenges, evaded permitting procedures, dismissed the concerns of Canada, Missouri, Minnesota landowners and conservationists, and squelched alternatives which would provide water to the Red River Valley from sources within the watershed.

**Here is what you can do:
Write to
Senator Kit Bond
Senator Jim Talent
Governor Roy Blunt
Your US Representative**

To win approval the North Dakota government has devised a series of interrelated schemes stringing together piecemeal water projects. Devils Lake Outlet and proposed

Devils Lake Intake will make the last connections to this serpentine water diversion. The proponents have even marketed the scheme under a more alluring label, Dakota Water Supply Project. But the project is still the Garrison Diversion, an attempt by a local interest group to ignore the concerns and needs of downstream users and to control the Missouri River water for unsubstantiated needs.

The relentlessness of the North Dakota Congressional delegation assures that this issue will clamp onto the political and regulatory processes in the future. During the present transition to a new government, citizens, lawmakers and government officials must be vigilant. North Dakota's Senators, Dorgan and Conrad, have already slipped an amendment authorizing the Devils Lake Outlet into an Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Now the North Dakota Senators are seeking funding for this part of the diversion project. When the Bureau of Land Reclamation makes recommendations on the intake project, the Senators will probably maneuver to secure Congressional authorization for that segment.

You may write or call your U.S. Senators, your Representatives and incoming Governor Blunt. Remind them to be alert to North Dakota delegation's manipulations and prevent the passage of legislation that would facilitate diversion of the Missouri River. The sooner you contact your leaders, the quicker they can mount an effective response to this threat. ☞

The election may be over...but we vote with our money every day!

Learn about Environmentally Responsible Investing

To learn more about environmentally and socially responsible investing and for a FREE, one year subscription to our quarterly newsletter please mail, phone, or email your request to:

First Affirmative Financial Network
5960 Dearborn, #107
Mission, KS 66202
1-800-341-0528
Email: TreeHuggerJim@aol.com



**First
Affirmative
Financial
Network**

Jim Hochacher

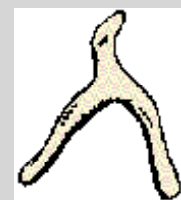
Comprehensive Financial Planner
and Investment Advisor



First Affirmative Financial Network, LLC is an independent Registered Investment Advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ozark Chapter Office Wish list:

We are looking for donations to the Sierra Club office:
paper shredder
printer (laser or ink jet) — color and/or label printing capability would be a very useful bonus
Please contact Terri Folsom, Chapter Office, (573)815-9250
Thanks!



Outings Continued

It is NOT too early to begin thinking about spring canoe trips. Let us know when/where you want to go. We usually have lots of takers. E-mail Tom at cavecreekfarm@yahoo.com to get on our canoe trip list...

Thomas Hart Benton Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/thb/outings>

Jan. 8 – 9, 2005 (Sat – Sun) Backpacking at Paddy Creek Wilderness, Licking, MO. One of our favorite backpacking spots should offer a great winter backpacking experience. A back up day trip closer to home is planned if the weather looks uncertain. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Jan. 16, 2005 (Sun) Hidden Valley Preservation, KC, MO. Join us for a lopping good time as we whack down some of the invasive honeysuckle that threatens the lovely native spring wildflowers. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Jan. 23, 2005 (Sun) Day hiking Bluffwoods Conservation Area, Buchanan County, MO. About one hour north of downtown KC. The rugged Loess geology

makes this a very nice area to hike. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Jan. 29, 2005 (Sat) Snow skiing at Snow Creek near Weston, MO. Ginger Kohler, (660) 886-8870, gingerk@missouri.sierraclub.org

Feb. 5, 2005 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class, KC, MO. Learn backpacking basics. We'll cover, equipment, places to go, and more. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Feb. 12, 2005 (Sat) Day hike on the Mill Creek Streamway Park Trail, Johnson County Kansas. A day hike on an asphalt surfaced trail that parallels Mill Creek through woods and meadows on its way to the Kaw River. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Feb. 13, 2005 (Sun) Hidden Valley Preservation, KC, MO. Join us for a lopping good time as we whack down some of the invasive honeysuckle that threatens the lovely native spring wildflowers. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Feb. 19 – 20, 2005 (Sat – Sun) Backpacking 101 Lab Backpacking at Hercules Glades wilderness area. Great for beginners. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091,

dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar. 5, 2005 (Sat) Day Hike at The Prairie Center, Olathe, KS. Come experience the subtle beauty of quiet streams, woods and native Kansas prairie. Anne McDonald, (913) 384-6645, anne.mcdonald@kansas.sierraclub.org

Mar. 6, 2005 (Sun) Hidden Valley Preservation, KC, MO. Join us for a lopping good time as we whack down some of the invasive honeysuckle that threatens the lovely native spring wildflowers. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar. 10 – 13, 2005 (Thu – Sun) Backpacking on the Ozark Highlands Trail, Section 3, Cass, Arkansas. A multi-day backpacking trip for experienced hikers. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, bob.wilshire@kansas.sierraclub.org

Mar. 19, 2005 (Sat) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Apr. 2, 2005 (Sat) Wild Edible Class along Little Blue Trace, Independence, MO. Enjoy this leisurely stroll as we learn about wild edibles and holistic health practices. Patty Brown (816) 737-2804.

Donor Appreciation Outing . . . continued from page 2

to the beauty and awesome power of this natural wonder.

Later that afternoon the group floated a short stretch of the clear and threatened Jacks Fork River. They learned that unregulated gravel mining, out of control horse trail rides and ATVs threaten the Jacks Fork's water quality and stream bank integrity. That evening we enjoyed a fabulous riverside dinner prepared by Chapter staff. As we gathered around the campfire, resort owner Alan Peters spoke to the group about some of the problems in the lower Jacks Fork and why that section of a National Scenic River is on the state's impaired waters list.

Sunday morning, Tom Kruzen guided the group to the "New Lead Belt" known as the "Viburnum Trend." This informative tour showed the ravaged landscape filled with "tailings ponds," mines, mills, spilled lead concentrate along the highways and other effects of thirty years of lead mining. Kruzen explained that much of the destruction caused by mining, milling and smelting of lead are not always obvious. Some streams in the region are actually runoff from dewatering the mines—devoid of fish and the insects that feed them. They went on to see tailings dams made of tailings (sand-like material) that had almost collapsed into the West Fork of the Black River few years ago when it became water-logged after five days of soaking rains.



We also observed numerous past clear-cuts on both public and private lands; the contrast to the single tree selection methods of Pioneer Forest was apparent. The weekend ended with a real sense of camaraderie. Donors left the event with a renewed sense of how their support of the Club was being used. They also had a personal relationship with Sierra Club staff and a better understanding of the challenges the Club faces in protecting this region.

Many members are unaware that the local and state levels of the Sierra Club receive very limited financial support from National Sierra Club. We must conduct our own fundraising to pay for the operation of our office, our Chapter staff, including the ability to have a full-time lobbyist at the Capitol in Jefferson City. The Ozark Chapter Sierra Club is the only statewide environmental organization that has consistently had a presence at the state level to monitor and report critical environmental legislation that impacts Missouri's environment. We depend on financial support from our members to carry on our critical work.

The essential ingredient of the Sierra Club's success has always been the commitment of extraordinary people—not only its activist leaders and staff, but also its members, through their participation in the Club's campaigns and through support of the Club by their contributions. We plan to make the "Sierra Club Donor Appreciation Outing" an annual event to thank those that help make our work possible through their generosity. ☺

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415)977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

Eastern Missouri Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx>

Jan. 1, 2005 (Sat) Another annual New Year's Day Hike. We will hike at Meramec State Park. As always, call early. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352.

Jan. 7, 2005 (Fri) Could be 6 or could be 9.5 mile hike at Washington State Park. The Walleye Shack after? Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 8, 2005 (Sat) Highway cleanup. While we clean our section of the highway we can listen for the pileated woodpeckers drumming to establish their territories. Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.

Jan. 8-9, 2005 (Sat - Sun) A January tradition. Our annual winter backpack trip. Where we go will depend on driving conditions. In the past we have had 12 degrees and snowing and even 70 degrees and sunny. One year we had "The Perfect Storm." It snowed all night but by the time we hiked out it had all melted off the roads. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net., or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Jan. 8-9 (Sat - Sun) Glade restoration. Fulfill your burning desires at glade restoration in Washington State Park. Free the glades of invasive cedars. Lug those logs and toss that timber onto bonfires. Make your limbs firm and limber. Come one day or both. Spend Saturday night in a cabin in the park. For Saturday call Leslie Lihou, (314) 726-2140. For Sunday call Diane Albright, (314) 729-7629.

Jan. 12 (Wed) Join us for a quiet walk through the winter wonderland of Rockwoods. We will watch for some of the wonders of winter in the forest. Maybe there will even be snow! Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675, before 9:00 p.m.

Jan. 14 (Fri) Let's explore Queeny Park to see if we can create an 8 mile hike. Lunch afterwards somewhere in West County. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 15 (Sat) Explore four knobs, three waterfalls, two creeks, and one river on a seven mile hike in the Mark Twain National Forest ten miles from Willow Springs. Hike conveniently ends near Little Yeoman Brewery. Ted Berger, (417) 962-3204.

Jan. 21 (Fri) Calling all you "eagle eyes!" It's time for our annual Pere Marquette eagle watching hike along the river. Lunch after to warm up. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 22 (Sat) Eight mile day hike from Marble Creek to Crane Lake on the Ozark Trail. The trail looks beautiful when it is snow covered, and we are rewarded with great views of Crane Lake at the end of this rugged winter hike. Hiking boots a must. June Stevens, (314) 822-3430, and Jim Moody.

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.

Jan. 28 (Fri) C.B. Joe's is calling to us. Come for barbecue. Great lunch after our winter eight-mile hike. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 29 (Sat) Let's explore some of the trails at Forest 44. Views will be good without the leaves and we can enjoy the solitude of the winter forest. Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675, before 9:00 p.m.

Jan 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. It's back to the Pioneer after our holiday break. We will work South from where we ended last month. Common commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net., or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 2 (Wed) For those of you who may be interested in the famous (or infamous) Greenrock Trail but don't want to do ten miles in a day, let's do half of it! This is a rugged trail but we will take it easy and see the sights. There are lots of good views and hills for climbing. We will complete the trail on the 23rd. (Half of ten is five miles) Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675, before 9:00 p.m.

Feb. 4 (Fri) Stay close to home. Join us for a hike around Forest Park. Then off to the loop or somewhere close for lunch. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb. 6 (Sun) Day hike. We will travel the back country of St. Francois State Park. exploring its many interesting geological features such as the overlooks and the table rock. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352.

Feb. 11 (Fri) La Barque Hills might have icicles (if the road is open to get there). We will hike La Barque only if there's a chance for icicles. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb. 12 (Sat) Devil's Backbone Wilderness, fifteen miles west of West Plains. Hike a 10.4 mile loop with side hikes to the backbone and Blue Springs, and one steep quarter mile off trail short cut. Ted Berger, (417) 962-3204.

Feb. 18 (Fri) Icicles at Hawn State Park. Let's find out on our ten mile hike. (We'll keep Harry in the rear part of the hike.) The food at the Old Brick House is worth the effort. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb. 19 (Sat) Hike three hollows, two icy river crossings, and lunch atop the bluff over Jam Up cave. See the part of the riverways the canoers miss. About seven rugged off trail miles. Ted Berger, (417) 962-3204.

Feb. 20 (Sun) Little Lost Creek Conservation Area has a loop trail and some paths to explore. We'll be doing four to five miles today, trying to burn off those Groundhog's Day pounds we put on. There should be some signs of spring. We'll meet, organize a car pool and drive west, midway to Columbia. Wayne Miller, (314) 569-0094, or millwy@aol.com.

Feb. 23 (Wed) We will do the other half of the Greenrock Trail. See Feb. 2. Half of ten is five miles. Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675, before 9 p.m.

Feb. 25 (Fri) Join us at Rockwoods for an eight mile

hike. Need suggestions for lunch afterwards. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762

Feb 26-27 (Sat - Sun) Trail maintenance on the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail. At this point we should be near Sugarcamp Hollow. We should then be able to camp on the gravel bar in April. Common commissary Saturday night. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net., or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net.) 737-2804..

Mar 12-13 (Sat-Sun) Cypresses, bald eagles, and more! Canoe and hike at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, the only remaining large tract of hardwood bottomland forest in the Missouri bootheel, supporting migratory birds and diverse wildlife. Air quality and visibility at Mingo are threatened by a proposed coal-fired power plant in Illinois; learn what you can do to protect this important ecosystem. Overnight camping nearby. June Stevens, (314) 822-3430, or Leslie Lihou, (314) 726-2140.

Osage Group

Jan. 13, 2005 (Thu) Evening outing to Fayette to search for stars at the observatory. Contact Denise Johnson at (573) 256-5228.

Jan. 22, 2005 (Sat) Grasslands and Guten Essen. Join us this lovely wintry day for a hike into one of the few remaining Missouri native prairies, just south of Sedalia, for a short hike, then off to Cole Camp, an historic town a bit further south, for an early, delicious German dinner. Carpool from wherever you are. Please call Tom to make a reservation for this one. Tom Moran (660) 841-5969.

Jan. 29, 2005 (Sat) Hike on the Katy Trail followed by a potluck at the home of Julie and Ken Midkiff, 1005 Belleview Ct. in Columbia (take Planter Rd. off Stadium Blvd - between Forum and West - an immediate right onto White Oak and an immediate left onto Belleview). The hike will begin at dark - the quarter-mile path to the Katy Trail from the Midkiff manse is semi-rugged; the Katy Trail is easy. Hikers should dress warmly, wear hiking boots, and have a flashlight. The potluck will begin at approximately 7:30 pm. While it is encouraged, it is not necessary to go on the hike to participate in the potluck. This event coincides with the Ozark Chapter Conservation Committee and Executive Committee meetings, so it is expected that there will be folks from such faraway places as Kansas City, St. Louis, Cape Girardeau and Springfield. For more information, call (573) 442-5570.

Feb. 5 (Sat) Join us for hiking at a local area to look for ice formations. Contact Randal Clark at (573) 875-0514.

Feb. 26 (Sat) Hike/Bike/Cross Country Ski with Denise and friends. We will decide which one based upon the weather. Contact Denise Johnson at (573) 256-5228.

Other:

Most any Saturday evening: call Tom to set up a hike and/or visit to one mighty fine little Missouri winery and microbrewery, west of Jefferson City. Good food, spirits, and fun, and home early too. Contact Tom at (660) 841-5969.