

OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth One Chance



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Attorney General Sues to Halt Removal of MKT Bridge at Boonville

by Susan Flader, Missouri Parks Association

This article first appeared in the Missouri Park Association's HERITAGE newsletter.

A bitter controversy has arisen this spring about whether the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should allow the Union Pacific Railroad to remove the former MKT Railroad bridge at Boonville in order to use the steel to build a new railroad bridge across the Osage River. This complex dispute has led to the resignation of a long-time high-ranking MDNR official and it has resulted in a lawsuit by the Missouri attorney general against MDNR Director Doyle Childers. At bottom is a question about the integrity of Missouri's enormously popular Katy Trail State Park.

In 1986 the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad (also known as the MKT or Katy) stopped using its rail line between Sedalia in Pettis County and Machens east of St. Charles. If the right-of-way had been officially abandoned, much of it would have reverted to the adjoining property owners. The Missouri

Department of Natural Resources began negotiations to preserve the railroad right-of-way under the National Trails System Act by entering into a railbanking agreement with the railroad. The result was Katy Trail State Park.

What is railbanking? According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, railbanking (as defined by the National Trails System Act, see: www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html) is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until some railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Because a railbanked corridor is not considered abandoned, it can be sold, leased or donated to a trail manager without reverting to adjacent landowners. The railbanking provisions of the National



Boonville Bridge

photo by Jim Denny

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Taking the Lead on Energy and Global Warming

by Richard H. (Dick) Ball, Energy Issues Chair, Virginia Chapter

We recently observed the spectacle of the President and Congress stepping up to the plate and swinging at a curve ball called the energy problem. It appeared to environmentalists and some other observers that they hit a foul ball and then declared it to be a home run. What is now quite clear is that Washington is not going to lead us down the path to a sustainable energy future or seriously tackle the global warming issue. Those problems include pollution, global warming, degradation of land, increasing dependence on imports of oil and natural gas, and future shortages as the World exhausts its global oil and gas resources. In fairness, there are a few parts of the sprawling Energy Policy Act of 2005 that attempt to address energy problems in a positive manner, including a number of energy efficiency provisions (e.g., improving appliance and commercial equipment efficiency standards), providing some subsidies for efficient or renew-

able energy for industry and consumers, and supporting R&D on cleaner energy. It is estimated by the American Council on an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) that the final bill would reduce electrical energy consumption about two percent by 2020. Overall savings are only about 1/10 of the recommendations by ACEEE. Home owners may be able to take advantage of modest tax credits for efficient home improvements and solar power, with larger credits for builders of efficient new homes. High-efficiency vehicles may earn rebates up to \$3400. But on balance, the bulk of subsidies are for the fossil fuel and nuclear industries plus a host of pure pork. Furthermore, new provisions give far-reaching power to the federal government to dictate sites for liquefied natural gas terminals, provide eminent domain for routing transmission lines, begin to survey currently-protected coastal waters for oil and gas drilling, exempt oil and gas drilling from some water pollution control

continued on page 5...Taking the Lead

Food Plants — Pharmacological Factories

by Gale Burrus

It sounds like a good idea. Get your daily insulin to control your diabetes in your oatmeal. Receive a vaccination against a deadly disease in your banana with breakfast. Keep third-world country children from dying from diarrhea by giving them medicine in a granola bar.

This process of using biological factories to produce drugs and industrial chemicals is called *pharming*. Pharming is the genetic engineering of organisms to produce pharmaceuticals.

What's new?

Historically, we have derived many of our drugs from plants. Examples are aspirin and opiates. And mankind has selectively bred plants and animals for certain characteristics for hundreds of years. So, what's different with pharming? In pharming, the genetic material, DNA, of two different species is combined. These resulting genetically modified (transgenic)

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Decision 2005

by Chris Hayday, Ozark Chapter Political Chair

Governor Blunt has scheduled a special election for Tuesday, November 8 to fill the three legislative vacancies in the 29th Missouri Senate district (McDonald, Barry, Stone, Taney, Ozark and Lawrence Counties), and the 94th (Kirkwood) and 150th (Crawford and Dent Counties) Missouri House of Representatives district seats. Since candidate filing will not close until September 18 (after time of printing), the Sierra Club cannot yet take a position in any of these three races. However, the Ozark Chapter Political Committee will be watching these races closely to determine our level of involvement should the Sierra Club decide to support or oppose any candidates or if we see an opportunity to influence the debate on any of the important issues the candidates discuss.

Be sure to check the political committee webpage to keep current with the Political Committee decisions or to learn of any opportunities to get involved with the chapters political program, http://missouri.sierraclub.org/Political/2005_ozark_chapter_political_page.htm. You can also contact me directly at chayday@mchsi.com or (573) 234-2492.

Dates You Need to Know

Oct 8-9	Ozark Chapter Annual Reunion & Campout: Mark Twain State Park
Nov 12	Chapter ConsCom meeting: St. Louis, contact Ken Midkiff, kmidkiff@mchsi.com
Nov 13	Chapter ExCom meeting: St. Louis, contact Keet Kopecky, kkopecky@kc.rr.com , (816)966-9544
Nov 27	Submission deadline, January-March Ozark Sierran
Jan 28	Chapter ConsCom meeting: Columbia, contact Ken Midkiff, kmidkiff@mchsi.com
Jan 29	Chapter ExCom meeting: Columbia contact Keet Kopecky, kkopecky@kc.rr.com , (816)966-9544

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



The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later!

Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

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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Sierra Summit Draws Crowds

by Roy C. Hengerson, Ozark Chapter ExCom

On September 8 through 11, 2005 the largest gathering ever of Sierra Club leaders, members, and supporters filled the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco. Club staff and volunteers had been planning this event for well over a year and judging by the comments from Summit attendees, they were successful in holding an event that appealed to the wide variety of participants. At least 1,500 people attended the Summit.

For me, the highlights of the Summit were the three plenary speakers that addressed the throng. On Friday morning Vice President Al Gore focused his remarks on global warming and the failures of the governmental response to the unfolding disaster of hurricane Katrina. In fact, with the Summit coming so soon after the hurricane smashed into New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, just about all Summit presenters, whether in the plenary sessions or the breakout sessions, had some comments on Katrina and its aftermath. Al Gore compared the federal government's response to Katrina with the response to September 11, 2001 and noted how little they had improved emergency response to major disasters. It was ironic that Vice President Gore could speak at the Summit; he had earlier declined an invitation to speak, citing a conflict: he was to address a convention of insurance executives about global warming in New Orleans. Needless to say, that event was cancelled, and Gore spoke to the Sierra Club at the Summit.

On Saturday afternoon, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. addressed the Summit. He is President of Waterkeepers Alliance and was recognized as one of Time Magazine's "Heroes for the Planet."

He also discussed global warming and invited people to participate in the virtual Global Warming Initiative March. He noted the terrible record on environmental issues by the Bush administration. He said that polluters really do not want a true "free market system," but want subsidies and other tax breaks. For this reason, corporations should be kept out of the political process. He said that we need a vigilant media and more activists to get involved.

The Sunday luncheon speaker was Arianna Huffington, the nationally syndicated columnist and commentator. Using her well known satire and ironic humor, she stirred the crowd with her comments. She said there is a leadership vacuum in this country and we can help fill it. She noted the close connections between the three major crises in America: energy, security, and the divide between rich and poor. She urged people to "Look for the leader in the mirror," and concluded with "We are the leaders, the politicians are the followers." All three main speakers fired up all who heard them.

In addition to the plenary sessions, there were time slots throughout the day for concurrent sessions on a widely divergent series of topics under the following general topic areas: master speakers, environmental expression through art, living well, natural heritage, outdoor adventure, visionary solutions, working smart, and engaging youth. Since there was such a plentiful variety of sessions, people were only able to hear a few of the sessions. While there was some variation in presentation quality, most enjoyed the sessions they attended.

In the Exposition Hall of the Summit, nearly 200 vendors and other entities displayed their products, their services, and their mission and activities. There was a wonderful variety of booths. In wandering through the exhibits, one was likely to

meet other Sierrans they knew and engage in stimulating conversations. There were also many opportunities throughout the Summit to meet new people and learn of their environmental and other interests. And being activist Sierrans, many of us availed ourselves of the opportunities to transact Club business and plan future programs, meetings, and activities.

About half of the Summit attendees were "delegates" from Sierra Club groups, chapters, and national committees. These delegates were required to attend about 10 hours of deliberative time at the Summit, during which the future direction and priorities of the Club were discussed, debated, and voted upon. This was intended to build on the deliberative work of groups, chapters, and other Club entities done prior to the Summit. The discussions focused on three main areas: conservation approaches, grassroots capacities that influence decisions, and grassroots capacities that influence decision-makers. All this input now goes to the Club's Conservation Governance Committee (CGC) and then the Board of Directors for their further discussion and refinement and will eventually lead to the Club adopting overall priorities and programs for the next five years. The deliberative sessions were somewhat tedious, however just getting over 700 people together in a large room and having them come up with a useful product was quite a feat. Delegates who did not like one or another aspect of the process were given opportunities to express their views; this helped facilitate moving through the deliberative agenda. Stay tuned for the results of this ambitious effort in participatory democracy in the Sierra Club.

The reviews of the Summit are still being done, as are the tallying of the costs. There is no doubt the Summit was a significant event and had many positive aspects and outcomes. Whether we can afford another such event soon remains to be seen. ☺

Investing in Missouri's Future Chapter Funding Update

by Melissa Blakley, Chapter Development Associate

\$7,000 more to go!

Thanks to YOU, the Ozark Chapter—with its 12,000 members—is considered the most effective environmental organization in Missouri. We work together to protect the environment by empowering citizens and communities to be bold in claiming their shared natural heritage.

One hundred percent of your gift to the Ozark Chapter stays in Missouri. Your contribution helps Missouri's staff and volunteer leaders engage more volunteers in direct advocacy and public education, develop strategic coalitions, implement campaigns to hold elected officials accountable, and pay for litigation when agencies or corporations fail to implement or enforce environmental safeguards and regulations.

Your support makes a difference!

"Thank you," to those of you who have already sent in your donation. If you haven't yet made your annual donation to the Ozark (Missouri) Chapter, please do so NOW. We are counting on you! Send a generous donation TODAY to Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Suite 3, Columbia, MO 65201. *

* Please make your check payable to "Ozark Chapter Sierra Club". Contributions and gifts to the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club are **not tax deductible**; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. This type of gift provides maximum flexibility for the Club. If you prefer to make a **tax deductible** gift, please make your contribution payable to **Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter**. Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

On-line donations: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>. Only **non-tax deductible** donations are available on-line.

For questions contact Melissa Blakley, Chapter Development Associate, Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, (573) 999-7388.

2005 INVEST IN MISSOURI'S FUTURE			
May 15, 2005	2005 GOAL	2005 received*	2004
\$ Donations	\$25,000	\$18,021	\$20,385
Number of donors	530	238	424
New donors	106	116	

We are counting on you!

The 2005 Ozark Chapter Annual Appeal — INVESTING IN MISSOURI'S FUTURE — has received more than \$18,000 in member donations toward its goal of \$25,000. However, we have only received about half the number of donations we are counting on (238/530).



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Contributions to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

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On-line donations: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>. Only **non-tax deductible** donations are available on-line.

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Please do not publish my name as a donor.



One Fingernail at a Time and When the Stars Line Up

by Tom Kruzen, Ozark Chapter Mining Chair

“Sometimes,” I told a fellow lead-fighter, “You win on your issue one fingernail at a time.” She was commiserating that progress in fighting the lead industry seems to move in millimeters. I told her I knew that the wheels of government move, indeed, slowly. In July, I had filed a Sunshine Law request of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) over the possible re-occupation of the homes in Herculaneum that were purchased by the Doe Run Company in the last two years. These homes were highly contaminated with heavy metals and were deemed unfit to live in.

Doe Run CEO Jeffrey Zelms had met with MDNR Director Doyle Childers requesting that Doe Run be allowed to re-occupy those homes, even though they still remained contaminated. I requested all documents and communication between MDNR and Doe Run on this issue. I sent a hard copy and an electronic copy to MDNR on July 28, 2005. The Sunshine Law states that the agency involved must respond to such a request within three working days. I waited three weeks for my response which told me that my request might not be answered until the last week in September! Of course I was disappointed that it was taking so long—even disgusted. Either Childers and Zelms had written volumes on this matter or there was deliberate obfuscation occurring on the part of the state.

What I did not count on was that once in a blue moon magic works for you; the zodiac lines up and the universe gives you some freebies. It turns out that just this week, **Doe Run withdrew their request** to re-occupy the Herky homes. Was this because my Sunshine request was breathing down their necks, or was it because they had come to their senses? The answer to that may never come out, but I’ll accept the outcome. No home re-occupation and no new folk at risk. Score one for the white hats!

The answer may also lie in several other things that had recently happened in Leadland. Two weeks ago a St. Louis University Study Team performed the first independent study of contamination in Doe Run’s smelter town in the Andes—La

Oroya, Peru. Doe Run employees and supporters assaulted the study team headed by St. Louis University professor Fernando Serrano. Eggs, stones and death threats were their greeting on the first day. After a short huddle and self-examination, the study team decided to stay, despite the fact that Doe Run propaganda was portraying the team members as “vampires!” The study was complete beyond expectations when La Oroyans came out of the woodwork to participate in the study, saying they were ashamed of the way the study team was treated. This venture promises to expose horrendous lead and other heavy metal contamination in this Andean town of 30,000, much of it continuing because Doe Run has managed to avoid its responsibility in cleaning up. The Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery’s “Joining Hands Against Hunger,” the Catholic Diocese of Huancayo Province, St. Louis University, Oxfam America, and the Sierra Club have all worked together to help the people in La Oroya—people who, just like the folks in Herculaneum, live next to a heavy metal smelter. This was the second block of good news in the land of Goodness.

I did explain to my activist friend that, in the world of activism, **sometimes bad news is good news**. Bad that La Oroya is poisoned, good that the truth will be coming out in this study. Doe Run’s intimidation failed to keep people from participating.

Another bit of bad news came out this week for the lead industry. It appears that 36 wells in the Old Leadbelt near Potosi are contaminated with lead beyond the 15 parts per billion that the EPA allows in drinking water. Some levels were as high as 92 ppb. Cherri Baysinger from the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services said that, generally, lead in water poses a less serious health risk than chipping lead paint which can more easily enter the bloodstream. (Baysinger follows a tradition in the MHDSS to downplay the effects of lead. Lead in either form is not recommended for human consumption.) David Mosby, who works in the Missouri Department of Natural Resource’s hazardous waste program, said the wells may never be able to produce lead-free water. Along with the ongoing clean-up of contaminated roadsides and

yards in the Old and New Leadbelts, this is bad news for the lead companies like Doe Run and good news for the champions of health and clean environments. It supports our premise that lead production is a dirty business and all too often contaminates people and the places in which they live.

Finally, **Bad news:** Doe Run’s air monitors in Herculaneum failed to show compliance at the current standard of 1.5 micrograms of lead per cubic meter. (1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Good news: The National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for lead was established over two decades ago when the blood lead standard was 25 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood. The air standard was based on the old blood lead standard. In 1990 the federal blood lead standard was reduced to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$. And a spate of new research indicates that lead level as low as 2.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ can cause damage in the body.

Earlier this year the Washington University Law Clinic, under Maxine Lipeles, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and Jack and Leslie Warden of Herculaneum sued the EPA in Federal Court to challenge the current NAAQS standard for lead. The current standard was set in 1986 and, according to law; the EPA was to review this standard every five years. The EPA has yet to review the air standard in almost two decades—even in the light of new knowledge about the effects of lead. Two days ago, Federal Judge Richard Webber, found for the plaintiffs and against the EPA. This *significant* decision forces the EPA to do its job of reviewing standards for lead by May 8, 2008. Should a **new, stricter standard** be agreed upon, **every lead production facility in the nation**, including Doe Run, would have to fall into compliance. This could prove to be **bad news** for Doe Run, which obviously has trouble meeting the current standard. This story is not over.

Fingernail by fingernail of hard work and with a little help from the Universe, the lead industry will have to come to terms with the dangerous poison they have cavalierly spread all over Missouri and the nation. So I looked at my friend and said: “At least for this week, the score is:

Good guys: 4
Bad guys: 0”



MKT Bridge at Booneville.....continued from page 1

Trails System Act as adopted by Congress in 1983 have preserved 4,431 miles of rail corridors in 33 states that would otherwise have been abandoned. Opponents of railbanking have unsuccessfully challenged the constitutionality of the railbanking provisions of the National Trails System Act in the United States Supreme Court, including a case involving the Katy Trail, at 225 miles the longest rail-trail in the nation (see: <http://www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/policy/railbanking.asp>).

In the 1987 contract between the MKT Railroad and the state, the MKT was paid \$200,000 for the right-of way from Sedalia to Machens. This did not include outright ownership of the railroad bridge at Booneville but it did include the right to use the bridge for a trail at any time of the state’s choosing conditioned upon the state giving the railroad certain liability waivers. Thus, the state has a conditional use right or property right to the bridge (similar to the mineral rights in a tract of land). In order to invoke the protection of railbanking, the state agreed to maintain the integrity of the railroad right-of-way so it could be used for a railroad again if the need were to arise sometime in the future. While users of the hiking and biking trail currently cross the Missouri River on a special pedestrian walkway on the new highway bridge at Booneville, the state still retained the legal right to use the old railroad bridge if it assumes liability.

In April 2005, MDNR Director Childers, with the backing of Governor Matt Blunt, announced that MDNR intended to transfer the state’s right to the bridge to the current owner, the Union Pacific Railroad (which bought the entire MKT in 1988), thereby allowing the railroad to remove the bridge in order to use it on the Osage. According to Attorney General Jay Nixon, Childers and Blunt are essentially proposing to give away the state’s property right for nothing in return, an action that is illegal and unconstitutional. “This is a giveaway by the state to a private business that stands to receive at least \$10 million in benefit from the proposal,” Nixon was quoted as saying at a news conference in Columbia when he announced his May 26 suit against MDNR in the Cooper County Court. “This is an unusual step for me to sue a state agency, but I have a constitutional duty to protect the assets of the state and the interests of the citizens of Missouri.”

Behind this drama lies an issue of great concern to trail supporters, the issue that led to the resignation of 28-year MDNR veteran Ron Kucera on May 6 after Childers indicated his intention to surrender the state’s interest: removal of the bridge may sever a portion of the railbanked corridor from the interstate rail system. If the state relinquishes its interest in the bridge and the Union Pacific removes it, the state may have failed in its obligation to maintain the right of way intact for future rail use and the Rails-to-Trails Act may no longer protect the Katy Trail State Park from the claims of adjoining landowners, who could block public access to portions of the trail.

Obviously this matter would have to be litigated if adjoining landowners challenge the legality of the trail, as they likely would, and there seems to be a difference of opinion about the issues involved. Governor Blunt and MDNR Director Childers, presumably on advice of attorneys in the governor’s office, believe that the corridor remains intact, regardless of the bridge’s removal, and that MDNR has not jeopardized the integrity of the right-of-way; any railroad wanting to use the corridor in the future would have to repair or possibly replace the bridge, so its removal at this time does not change the status of the corridor. Ron Kucera, who as MDNR deputy director was involved in the original negotiation for the railbanked corridor, officials of the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the attorney general apparently think the integrity of the trail would be threatened. And ironically, it is the attorney general who would have to defend the trail if it were challenged by landowners.

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club has officially gone on record in opposition to the removal of the Booneville Lift Bridge, in that this severance would place the Katy Trail at risk.

Also involved are calculations of cost, including liability. At one time, Union Pacific was willing to give the bridge to the state or the city of Booneville, if either had been willing to assume liability and responsibility for maintenance. Last December before he resigned, then-MDNR Director Stephen Mahfood announced the state’s intention to exercise its right to

use the bridge for the trail, and the park division began seeking cost estimates. The estimates varied widely from \$2 million and up, owing to the condition of the bridge, requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the necessity of the central lift span to remain in a raised position, thus requiring ramps or elevators so people could cross. In addition, with dramatic increases in the world price of steel, the Union Pacific contracted with a Missouri firm to dismantle the bridge for use over the Osage River, and it apparently claimed to require \$20 million in compensation from the state if it were not allowed to proceed. Others think there is no legal basis for such a claim.

There has been a great deal of press coverage of the issue, but most of the news has been about whether the bridge should be used for the trail and, if so, what it might cost the state, or whether the bridge should be preserved as an historic artifact (its 400-foot central lift span was the longest in the country when the bridge was opened in 1932) or an economic development asset for the city of Booneville. There have also been articles about campaign contributions by Union Pacific and officials of the firm that is dismantling the bridge. But most press coverage of the controversy has missed the big issue: does the removal of the bridge create a severance that could mean the loss of the protection of the Rails-to-Trails Act and thus threaten the entire Katy Trail State Park?

In the meantime, there is renewed activity among bridge supporters in Booneville, who point out that the city receives some \$4 million annually from the new casino near the bridge, some of which could presumably be used to renovate the structure. Bridge enthusiasts including Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman, who headed the statewide campaign for the Katy Trail, are seeking independent estimates of feasibility and costs for a multi-phase project that might begin with protection of the bridge and access partway out from the north end, all the way to passage across the central lift span. MDNR Director Childers has said he has no objection if other parties can raise the money.

If the attorney general’s suit against MDNR buys time for Booneville to come up with a plan acceptable to the Union Pacific and MDNR, there might yet be hope for the bridge and the railbanked trail of which it is an integral part. 🐾

High Gas Prices and the Road to Stewardship

by Ron McLinden

It may be painful to see gasoline at \$2.50 or \$3.00 per gallon, but even greater pain lies ahead if we ignore the signals.

Adjusted for inflation, today's gas prices are still below the 1979 level, but this time they're not likely to go down so much. In fact, as he signed the new energy bill, the President acknowledged that the bill wouldn't do much to bring down gas prices.

No doubt there are several factors in the current high price of gasoline. Among them is growing global demand for oil, notably in China and India. That growth contributes directly to those low prices at your local big-box retailer.

Growing demand is starting to bump up against the ability of the world's oil fields to produce: it simply might not be possible to increase the rate of production much further. Credible oil industry analysts talk about "peak oil" — the point at which total worldwide oil production will reach its highest point ever, then start to decline. Some analysts predict a peak as early as this year while others put it sometime in the next ten years.

Even if oil production does continue to increase for a time, prices will trend upward since most of the world's "easy" oil has already been found. Future oil fields will cost more to open, and we'll hear more about "net energy" — the amount of energy embodied in oil, minus the energy it takes to pump it out of the

ground and get it to the consumer.

Looming over everything is the prospect of global warming. The potential threats inherent in global warming are enormous. Little wonder that we might prefer to deny the danger, and tragic that our government does.

The risk of our doing nothing is great. Not the least of these risks is the disdain we engender from the 140 or more nations who have already committed to reducing their greenhouse emissions.

Our response to global warming — as well as high gas prices — must be to improve energy efficiency in every single aspect of our economy. That's a "no-regrets" response, a "win-win" strategy. Improving efficiency not only creates jobs here at home, but it also reduces our dependence on foreign oil and its attendant balance of trade and national security implications.

There are lots of steps individuals can take in our daily lives. Drive less. Share the ride. Use transit or walk or bike. Choose nearby destinations over more distant ones. Make your next vehicle an energy efficient one. Choose to live closer to where you work next time you move. In fact, make all of your major life decisions with the likelihood of more costly energy in mind.

In the broader community outside our households, we should insist that decisions affecting how our cities and towns

grow be made with an eye to holding down future energy and other "operating costs" inherent in those decisions.

The bottom line is that we must become a lot more efficient in our use of energy. Painful though it may seem, today's higher gas prices are a strong "market signal" that we need to move our economy toward living within our means, relying more on our energy "income" and less on our inheritance of fossil fuels.

In the process of becoming more energy efficient we can also become more "resource effective." Simply put, that means squeezing the greatest possible human benefit out of each unit of energy and other resource that we consume. Only by doing so can we assure an economy that serves the individual and collective needs that we refer to as "quality of life." And only by doing so can we assure that our children and grandchildren can have a chance at the same.

Energy efficiency. Resource effectiveness. Considered in a broader perspective, higher gas prices are an important signpost along the road, pointing us toward a more sustainable future through an approach common to so many of the great religions of the world: stewardship. ☞

The above is adapted from an op-ed column originally published in the August 21 edition of *The Springfield News-Leader*.

Taking the Lead.....continued from page 1

laws, eliminate anti-trust provisions for utilities, and other powers that will help the energy industry steamroller their projects over a reluctant public. On balance, it appears that Washington is moving more backward than forward.

On the bright side of the energy picture, there is a groundswell of activity by state and city governments to tackle energy and global warming problems directly without waiting for the federal government to do it. The recent "US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement" has attracted much attention and picked up surprising momentum. To date, 174 mayors in 37 states have signed the agreement, pledging to reduce global warming carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in their cities to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012. About 20 states have passed new legislation requiring electric utilities to include a minimum percentage of renewable energy sources in their mix of electric

energy supplied, typically 15 to 20 percent by 2015 to 2020—the so-called "renewable portfolio standard" (RPS). Some states also are enacting or tightening laws encouraging or requiring efficiency measures in buildings, cars, and other energy uses. Environmental groups around the U.S., including the Sierra Club, are active in formulating or encouraging local governments in this direction and engaging in independent actions. The Sierra Club has launched a "Cities for Climate Protection" program to support and extend the Mayor's program. If America is going to solve energy and global warming problems, it appears the lead will come from the grass roots.

Some city and county governments already appear interested in combating global warming and a few already are taking actions such as purchasing renewable electric energy and hybrid vehicles for their governmental use. The Mayors Climate Protection Agreement may spur further action. Those mayors and other local governments will need support and suggestions

for additional projects. Typical examples might include making municipal buildings more energy efficient, "greening" city fleets of autos and buses, improving the energy efficiency of street lighting and traffic signals, and constructing solar arrays on city buildings and schools.

We need members who are willing to encourage their local governments and work with them to develop concrete programs. We will cooperate with the Club's national program and possibly augment the menu of possible actions and supporting materials they are preparing such as examples and case studies of what local governments have done in other states. Many of you may have expertise, experience or ideas for additional projects and we could use your help developing and implementing such ideas. We especially need people to work at their local level with cities and counties. If you are willing to participate please contact the Ozark Chapter Office, (573) 815-9250. ☞



America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country's dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

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What's that in the Water?

by Ken Midkiff, Chapter Conservation Chair

Another dreary meeting in a large conference room at Jefferson City's Capitol Plaza Hotel. All chairs were occupied. All attention was directed to six commissioners appointed by Governors Holden and Blunt.

Months of work on the Water Quality Standards culminated in a meeting of the Missouri Clean Water Commission on Wednesday, September 7. The issue was whether or not streams would be designated for "Whole Body Contact." While this sounds mundane and esoteric, the federal Clean Water Act directed that ALL waterbodies in the United States be capable of supporting aquatic life (fishable) and supportive of recreation in and on the water (swimmable) by 1983.

1983 was a long time ago—22 years to be exact. For those 22 years, Missouri avoided complying with the Clean Water Act. The state would have likely done so for an additional 22 years were it not for a lawsuit brought by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The suit contained a number of points, but all of these points were based on one thing: The U.S. EPA had failed to cause Missouri to comply with the Clean Water Act.



Bear Creek was to be removed/exempted from the "Whole Body Contact" list, even though it is used for swimming, flows through the city limits of Columbia, the city's Greenbelt hiking/biking trail parallels it and it runs through a low-income community of color. Thanks to Sierra Club alerts asking residents who used this streams for swimming to write letters to the Clean Water Commission, it is now protected for Whole Body Contact.

photo by Ken Midkiff

There was one caveat in the "swimmable, fishable" standard. That caveat is that standards for these designated uses are to be achieved "where attainable." This was added almost as an afterthought by the U.S. Congress, but Sewage Treatment Districts and MDNR's Water Protection Program promptly grabbed onto this caveat and drove a honey wagon through the loophole. (These folks had no problem with the "fishable" standard, because that involves temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other compounds that are either not released or that Sewage Treatment Plants don't impact).

The standard for "whole body contact" is based on bacteria levels. These must be such that contacting the water is not harmful to human health. Akin to most Water Quality Standards, there are Numeric Standards and the numbers for bacteria are based on *E. Coli*. The protective minimal standard is 126 Colony Forming Units per 100 milliliter – written as 126CFU/100ml. Anything above that level can cause infections, diarrhea and vomiting, and really high levels (such as those in the floodwaters of New Orleans) are fatal.

But, Sewage Treatment Districts wanted to keep doing what they had been doing: discharging germ-laden wastewater into our state's streams, rivers, and lakes. To do this, they had to do a "Use Attainability Analysis" (UAA) that demonstrated that no one ever had, was not now, and would likely not in the future engage in activities that resulted in whole body contact.

There was, however, one stick in this spoke: The UAA had to

be sent out for public comment. Most of the analyses were conducted by alleged* environmental consulting firms, and, while most of them did a fairly good job of assessing the creeks for physical features (depth, stream banks, surrounding lands, etc.), they did a fairly lousy job of interviewing people who used the creek for something other than germ-laden discharges.

Since the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) was not particularly interested in obtaining citizen comments that might dispute the UAA's, that task fell by default upon the Sierra Club to get the word out that re-designation was being considered. MDNR did appoint review committees to make decisions about which streams to keep or to remove from the designation of Whole Body Contact. But, not until it was pointed out that it was required by federal law that the UAA's be subjected to public comment did MDNR consent to accept such.

At the September 7 meeting of the Missouri Clean Water Commission, the efforts of the Sierra Club came to fruition. The Clean Water Commission added back 31 streams that the UAA's had shown were not subject to whole body contact. Those 31 streams — all "receiving waterbodies" of Sewage Treatment Plants — were added due to CITIZEN COMMENTS. The Clean Water Commission listened and acted.

The federal Clean Water Act directed that ALL waterbodies in the United States be capable of supporting aquatic life (fishable) and supportive of recreation in and on the water (swimmable) by 1983.

What Did the Sierra Club Do?

Well, we didn't file the lawsuit. But once the Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement were in place, we set to work to ensure that Missouri's rules met the federal requirements. Angel Kruzen, myself, and many, many others wrote press releases, placed OpEds in several newspapers, alerted Stream Teams, alerted citizens who live downstream, assisted with Letters to Editors of regional newspapers and gave presentations to persons and groups concerned that Sewage Treatment Plants would continue to foul the streams in which whole body contact occurred.

Angel and I have also participated in MDNR Water Quality Working Groups (we're on one now that addresses Wet Weather Discharges and Combined Sewer Overflows), participated in Water Quality Forums, and addressed the Clean Water Commission on at least two occasions. We submitted voluminous comments on the new Water Quality Standards, submitted general comments on the UAA process and on specific UAA's. Thanks to the efforts of the Sierra Club, concerned citizens throughout this state submitted comments on the UAA that dealt with "their" creek.

Our Continuing Concerns

The Clean Water Commission, while it did listen to these concerned citizens, adopted Water Quality Standards that complied at least partially with the concerns of the EPA as stated in a letter of September 2000, and that were memorialized in the Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement of more recent vintage.

One area, for example, that we can support is the absolute prohibition of new discharges into the Ozark National Scenic Riverways "or any drainages thereto." This simple statement means that there can

be no mine de-watering (with toxic heavy metals and other contaminants) into the Jacks Fork, Current or Eleven Point rivers. We insisted that the only way to prevent pollution was through outright prohibition.

Not so with Outstanding State Resource Waters. In some ways, there was a weakening of protective standards. The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club believes, for example, that in-stream sand-and-gravel mining causes significant harm to Ozark streams (there is no such mining outside of the Ozarks) and that such operations should be prohibited in Outstanding State Resource Waters. Right now, there is a harmful operation on Spring Creek, which feeds into the North Fork of the White, and which is causing considerable harm. Yet the Land Reclamation Program of MDNR issued a permit to this operation, and the operator is violating even the minimal conditions of this permit. We will continue to document violations of this and other sand-and-gravel operations. It is our intent to present such evidence and information to the Land Reclamation Commission.

Other Issues of Concern

- ♦ Several streams were designated for "Secondary Contact Recreation," which involves water sports — canoeing,

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Paddy Creek (Texas County) was afforded NO protection in the past, even though its watershed is totally contained within the federally-designated Paddy Creek Wilderness Area and it flows through a picnic area and campground. Ken Midkiff gave a presentation to the Clean Water Commission several months ago, with slides showing swimming in Paddy Creek. The stream is now fully protected for Whole Body Contact.

photo by Ken Midkiff

"You Have Made a Difference!"

At least that's what the National Park Superintendent Noel Poe told us at the Annual Jacks Fork River Cleanup this Year. All of the rangers have told him that there is a notable difference in the amount of trash that they have seen. This was the third year that the Water Sentinel program sponsored the cleanup. The first year we removed 20 car tires and three tractor tires and tons of trash. This year we only had two tires which we had to dig out and instead of counting the trash by the ton we were able to count it by the bag!!

The cleanup is held the First weekend in June every year. At the end of the day we all gather for a meal, music and prizes as our way of saying thank you for caring about the River. Everyone comes away tired but with a good feeling of accomplishment for a job well done! Come join us in the Ozarks next year on June 3, 2006!





Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign

Protecting the Integrity of Missouri's Water Resources

Missouri water bodies provide enjoyment for people via fishing, wading, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and diving; habitat for wildlife; protection against flooding; and drinking water for much of the population.

However, due to a wide variety of causes, including development pressures, agricultural practices, industrial discharges, storm water runoff, old and failing sewage treatment systems, the cumulative effects of multiple sewage plants, combined sewer overflows, mercury pollution, sand and gravel mining, wetlands draining and filling, and other human activities, many of Missouri's waters do not

meet water quality standards. Further, due to budget constraints, water protection and clean-up programs have been reduced in scope or eliminated. Missouri's failure to enforce even minimal permit conditions have led to a severe degradation of this state's waters.

The goal of the Ozark Chapter's Clean Water Campaign is to demonstrate to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that the citizens of this state want clean water, to educate and involve the public in protecting Missouri's water quality and to create demand for strong water quality programs at the local, state, and national levels.

The Sierra Club brings considerable expertise and experience to the water quality issue: Ken Midkiff, now an Ozark Chapter volunteer and the chairman of the Conservation Committee,



was former director of the national Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign; Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director, serves on the states Working Group on Sand and Gravel Mining; Terry Spence and Rolf Christen, also Chapter volunteers, have been long engaged in issues pertaining to CAFO's; two national staff members working with Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Program are present in Missouri and working cooperatively with the Chapter on water quality issues — Scott Dye and Angel Kruzen; and Sierra Club volunteers throughout the state have become proponents of water bodies and watersheds in their areas or in areas in which canoeing, kayaking, fishing and other water-related activities are popular.

In addition, the Chapter works with other groups throughout Missouri to raise a strong voice for Clean Water — among them: Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri Farmers Union, Missouri Audubon Society, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Trout Unlimited, BASS, American Fly Fishing Federation, American Society of Fisheries, American Canoe Association, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Stream Teams and watershed protection organizations (TNTC).

If Clean Water is important to you please support the Sierra Club's work in Missouri. Send your contribution to Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Suite 3, Columbia, MO 65201. *

* Please make your check payable to "Ozark Chapter Sierra Club". Contributions and gifts to the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. This type of gift provides maximum flexibility for the Club.

If you prefer to make a tax deductible gift, please make your contribution payable to "Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter." Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

On-line donations: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>. Only non-tax deductible donations are available on-line. For questions contact Melissa Blakley, Development Associate, Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, (573) 999-7388.

Protecting Water Quality Requires Involvement in the Rule Making Process

by Carla Klein, Chapter Program Director

Protecting water quality in Missouri often comes down to what laws are on the books and how those laws are interpreted when rules and regulations are written by the regulatory agencies. One critical aspect of environmental protection is being involved in the rule-making process. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) holds what are called "stakeholder" meetings when they are proposing new Missouri environmental regulations. Stakeholder meetings are very technical, long and time consuming, but having effective and enforceable laws to protect the health and safety of Missouri communities and protect our natural heritage is essential. These stakeholder meetings are supposed to include everyone impacted by the decisions. However, they are attended mainly by industry representatives paid to represent their company's interests.

The Sierra Club is often asked to attend stakeholder meetings and represent the interests of our 12,000 Missouri members and other citizens of Missouri who care about protecting our natural resources. These stakeholder meetings are held in Jefferson City during the 9 to 5 workday, so citizen input is very limited. The Sierra Club office has the advantage of being centrally located in Columbia. Staff or volunteers can attend many of the stakeholder meetings and help insure that the interests of Missouri's citizens are not pushed aside by industry.

Our staff and dedicated volunteers also work to inform our members and others of the critical rule changes being proposed. We keep individuals and other organizations informed of the progress, and alert them to opportunities to have input in the process. Such was the case this week at the Clean Water Commission hearing (see related article on the hearings). Sierra Club members alerted our friends in the National Scenic Riverways and urged them to travel to Jefferson City to voice their concern for proposed rule changes that would weaken water quality protections in Missouri.

Sierra Club members and staff attend stakeholder meetings and hearings, participate in work groups and monitor the rule making process to ensure that the public's interest is represented.

Carla Klein, Sierra Club Chapter Director, is a member of the state's Solid Waste Rule Revision Workgroup. This group is working to rewrite the siting provisions for new landfills in the state in response to an industry lawsuit challenging the Department of Natural Resource's denial of landfill permits.

All landfills will eventually leak. After years of accumulating various hazardous household wastes and other toxins, the leachate (toxic chemical soup) that leaks out can contaminate ground water and drinking water sources if sited poorly. Landfill engineering firms are trying to assert that there is no problem too big for them to engineer around — caves, sinkholes, and losing streams should not prevent a landfill from being built. Sierra Club staff and volunteer leaders will participate in the process and argue vehemently to ensure that landfill siting restrictions are not weakened to allow landfills in sensitive karst regions of the state. Carla is working with experts such as Tom Aley of the Ozarks Underground Laboratory, concerned citizens groups in the Ozarks and government officials in Greene County in Southwest Missouri to make sure that concerns for protecting the health of citizens and the fragile Ozarks region are heard. ☞

What's in the Water?.....continued from page 6

kayaking, wading, and fishing — where contact with the water is "incidental." It is our belief that the federal Clean Water Act does not address INTENT. It doesn't matter if you intend or not to take a dip; what matters is what happens.

Sierra Club will continue to be the watchdog over state and federal water protection agencies. Our motto is "Pollution Prevention, Not Polluter Protection."

- There are significant bodies of water in St. Louis City and County that, by action of the Commission, were removed or exempted from the designation of Whole Body Contact. Our primary concerns are the Mississippi River below Lock and Dam 127 (the Chain of Rocks Canal) and the River Des Peres.
- The State of Missouri continues to apply Water Quality Standards only to those streams that are "classified." Unbelievably, Brush Creek, which flows through The Plaza in Kansas City, is unclassified and therefore has NO "beneficial and designated" use assigned. It is unprotected.
- There is a two-mile limit imposed on germ-laden discharges

to waters designated as Whole Body Contact. For instance, it is okay to discharge germ-laden sewage into Brush Creek as long as that is done more than two miles from the confluence with the Blue River. While two miles may be protective of Whole Body Contact, this should not be a hard and fast rule. If there is, for example, a large volume of germ-laden wastewater into a small stream, two miles is not nearly far enough.

- Another area in which the Clean Water Commission refused to make changes was in the area of "losing streams." These are so designated when surface water in the stream drains into underground conduits and becomes groundwater (i.e., the stream loses water). We had asserted that ALL streams in areas of karst topography be considered as "losing" and the water should have bacterial standards applied that make this water safe for drinking from private residential wells.

There are several other items of concern. We will continue to advocate for these, to the EPA, to MDNR and to the Clean Water Commission, and we will continue to be the watchdog over state and federal water protection agencies.

Our motto is "Pollution Prevention, Not Polluter Protection." ☞

*"Alleged" because in most cases, Environmental Consulting Firms are engaged in efforts to assist their clients in avoiding environmental laws and regulations.

Postpone Springfield Power Decisions

by Linda Chipperfield, Ozark Chapter ExCom

Springfieldians and City Utilities (CU) are searching for a solution to their growing energy needs and a decision isn't likely to happen any time soon. After rushing their study to make possible a February 2006 bond issue, the Power Supply Community Task Force recommended a combination of sources that necessitates further research.

Their recommendation to build a coal-fired power plant and implement an energy conservation program opened a whole new series of questions. Is building a local plant more feasible than buying off the grid? Who would we buy from and how much would it cost? How does an effective conservation program work? And what will the voters approve?

What is known is this: a new 300 MW coal-burning plant could cost as much as \$704 million in 2010. The price will go up if the Missouri Department of Natural Resources requires that CU build the cleanest possible plant as the Sierra Club has challenged in their permit appeal. And the price will go up again when control regulations on CO₂ go into effect as is widely predicted.

CU plans to spend the next four months evaluating Request

For Proposals (RFPs) from potential power suppliers with the help of energy consultant Black and Veatch. They will also hire a company to do a study on how to start an aggressive energy conservation program to reduce customer energy bills and lower the demand for power.

What they do next will depend on the results of the studies. The majority of the Task Force and many on the CU board support the construction of a new plant. But that will require a public vote — and a February bond issue looks highly unlikely at this point.

Southwest Missouri Citizens for Clean Energy, a coalition of groups including the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, and the American Lung Association, welcomes the delay. They have advocated an energy solution that includes conservation, demand-side management, renewables, and small gas-fired peaking units if necessary as the most logical and conservative plan.

A public vote may not be required if a combination of sources like this is implemented. Direction by Springfield City Council could be what determines our energy future. Once the RFPs and study results are received in January 2006, Council meetings will be a "must see" event. Stay tuned. ☎

Support Sierra Club's Clean Energy Campaign.

The Sierra Club has an opportunity NOW to make a difference in Missouri's long-term energy future.

If more coal-burning power plants are allowed to be built, the state will be locked into expensive dirty technology for the next 30-50 years. Even without considering coal's external health and environmental costs, wind and efficiency are cleaner and cheaper long-term investments for energy in the state.

The long-term impact of committing to more coal-burning power plants in Missouri (Springfield, Kansas City area (Weston), St. Joseph, east of Kansas City) is significant in that these decisions will affect:

the future cost of electricity to heat and cool our homes.
the health of our children, our friends and our neighbors.
the livability of our communities.
Missouri's long-term economic future.
and the opportunity to address global warming in a meaningful way.

To financially support the Ozark Chapter's **Clean Energy Campaign** send your contribution to Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Suite 3, Columbia, MO 65201. *

* Please make your contribution payable to **Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter Clean Energy Campaign**. Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

Energy Notes

by Wallace McMullen

New Coal Rush

DOE has provided information that a multitude of new coal burning power plants are proposed in the Midwest. 49 new power plants are proposed in the 13 Midwest states, representing a total investment of over \$40 billion if all are built. The output of all the proposals would be approximately 30,000 MW/hour.

Environmentalists fear that this "New Coal Rush" may eliminate the market for clean wind power with a flood of cheap, dirty electricity from the coal developers if many of these plants are built. Even North Dakota, frequently characterized as the "Saudi Arabia of Wind," has new coal burning power plants proposed.

Proponents of coal-fired electricity argue that it is cheap and abundant. They tend to ignore the major contribution that coal burning power plants make to global warming. Missouri's coal-fired power plants emitted over 80 million tons of CO₂, a greenhouse gas, last year.

More information on the "New Coal Rush" can be found on the Internet at http://fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/publications/General_Interest/New_Coal_Plants_072505.pdf.

Tall Tower Wind Study

Missouri DNR's Energy Center has been working on a study of wind energy in Missouri at the heights appropriate for utility scale development of wind energy. Sufficient funding commitments to start the project were obtained from US Department of Energy, and two utilities, Ameren and Aquila. The data collection and mathematical analysis will be performed by the University of Missouri-Columbia.

A conceptual agreement on the project was reached in March, 2005. In August, 2005, a Memo of Agreement between the University and the Department of Natural Resources was signed. This contract will produce data and analysis from six sites at heights of 50 and 100 meters (328 feet).

Two more utilities have agreed to fund tall tower wind studies as a result of recent rate cases. Kansas City Power and Light and Empire district have each agreed to fund studying two additional sites, bringing the total sites to ten. These additional sites will add results from western and northern Missouri to the project.

This study will provide firm data on wind power, which may encourage the use of wind for large-scale generation of electricity in Missouri in the future. ☎

Pharming.....continued from page 1

organisms are mostly used to make human proteins that have medicinal value. The first successful drugs produced by genetically engineered organisms were insulin and growth hormone made by altered yeast or bacteria. But bacteria can't make some drugs, so we milk mammals for them — literally. Cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits and pigs have already been altered to produce useful proteins and drugs in their milk, eggs or blood. Some drugs produced by these animals are being tested for use in treating blood clots, anemia, hemophilia, emphysema and cystic fibrosis.

But it's not just drugs being produced through genetic engineering. What about producing a substance five times stronger than steel and twice as strong as Kevlar that could be used for stronger bulletproof vests, stitches and clothes? Such a substance exists now. It's the dragline silk of spiders. But we would need it in quantity to manufacture items. And it's hard to run a spider farm; for one thing, they tend to eat each other. The solution? Now you can milk a transgenic goat and remove the silk proteins from its milk that can be spun into a thread with spider-silk properties.

The promise

The existence of cost effective factories that produce affordable industrial and human health products that can improve and save lives.

The problems

One set of problems arises from the methods by which genetically modified organisms are created. One way of introducing genetic material into another organism is by a "gun" approach that may place the genetic material in many places. The organism then may not survive because of the genetic changes, or it may express the new genetics incorrectly. And the unexpected genetic combinations may not express themselves until later generations or only through contamination of non-genetically modified organisms. To increase the chances of placing the genetic material in the right place, often with animals, a retrovirus is used to insert the genetic material from another species into a fertilized egg. A dangerous possibility of using this method is in creating and spreading new viruses when the retrovirus comes into contact with naturally occurring viruses that may be present in the organism. There is also concern with the high number of animal lives lost since only about one percent of injected eggs will result in a live birth containing the transgene, and not all will express it "correctly." This may result in further harm and suffering to the animals involved.

Another major concern is the possibility of experimental genetically modified (GM) organisms getting into the food supply and being a health risk. This is a major concern with GM food plants as these are being grown in open fields with little regulation and inadequate confinement. And with experimental field-testing, the information about the location and the drug or chemical being produced is proprietary — and usually not made public. There exists the possibility of contamination of not only

food crops, but also native plants. The possible environmental consequences of having open "drug factories" aren't known. And if contamination of our food supply occurs, we probably won't know it for some time — if ever. There is no regulatory agency that has the ability to test for such contamination of our food.

The Missouri connection

On November 18, 2004, Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville announced it had reached an agreement with Ventria Bioscience to be its anchor company in its vision to create a center of excellence for plant-made pharmaceuticals. It was announced that Ventria Bioscience would be relocating its headquarters, research facilities, processing facilities and field production — 70 percent of its GM rice grown — to Missouri.

Ventria Bioscience is a biopharmaceutical company that has developed a proprietary method of genetic engineering called ExpressTec that uses plants like rice and barley as factories to produce human proteins and peptides that are extracted and made into medical foods or pharmaceuticals. Two proteins that Ventria is producing through transgenic plants are lactoferrin and lysozyme. Both of these proteins are produced in human milk, tears, saliva and nasogastric and bronchial secretions. Along with several different functions, some common functions for both of these proteins include anti-viral and anti-fungal properties. Ventria states that potential products could be used for dietary management of acute diarrhea and treatment of topi-

continued on page 11...Pharming

The Insignificant Perspective

by Albert A. Midoux

I will try to present to you, the consuming public, a perspective seldom acknowledged, “The State of the Union.” I am a retired food safety inspector for the United States Department of Agriculture. I have served in the military in the Korean Police Action. I have voted in every major political campaign that I can recall. I have, however, been an insignificant contributor financially to any political endeavor. Therein lies the insignificance of my perspective.

I reside in McDonald County, Missouri, located in the southwest corner of the state. My wife and I own 100 acres of pasture land and timber. We no longer have livestock and the wildlife remaining here is copperheads and ticks. Deer that have seemed resilient to any adversity are still here — for now. There are serious problems festering between the lines of this paragraph.

I see two problems which are the basis for a great many — the roots, one should assume, of disaster on the horizon. One is the growing apathy of our citizens and the ever increasing greed of our legislators and bureaucrats, from the county level to the national level. In the state of Missouri, we are losing our water to industrial plunder. What they do not use to add weight to consumer products they render unfit for use by polluting it. With no limits on water usage, waste is rampant and water tables are dropping rapidly. Our wells and our streams are contaminated. Our lakes, created on these streams, have become huge septic tanks for an unregulated and out of control animal manufacturing industry generally called CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations).

Property is devalued and health is at risk from air so putrid at times that people have left their homes until the odors of liquefied and untreated chicken or hog manure have subsided enough that they can return to their homes. When dead hens and rotting eggs are included in the mixture it could be some time before the next cookout. One laying hen complex, located nearby, houses approximately one million hens and produces nearly 275,000 gallons of this vile mixture per week. Millions of flies and crawly things are produced also.

These huge animal factories have no fear of Missouri or federal law relating to feeding of food animals. Medications are widely used to control a multitude of diseases brought on by close confinement and filthy living conditions. Growth hormones are used extensively, including arsenic of lead and other heavy metals. The latest pharmaceutical technology will find its way into the arsenal of both survival and growth enhancement. This makes sense, for without the medication they would die, and dying definitely hinders growth. Such practice has been successful in creating drug resistant strains of bacteria in our food and water supplies.

Our air is toxic with disease causing bacteria such as histoplasmosis. Most, if not all, streams in this area are hypereutrophic, including seven lakes in the state of Oklahoma. For recreational waters, this means that such waters could be dangerous to your longevity. This is not just a local problem. The Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, with an area the size of New Jersey, is considered a dead zone that cannot support aquatic life. A similar situation exists in the Gulf of Mexico and involves 7,000 square miles of once productive waters.

Such examples of the degradation of our natural resources through the land application of unregulated and untreated animal waste by the millions of tons on our nation's watersheds should be a wake-up call.

Corporate agriculture's most profitable alias, “family farms,” has blessed them with immunity from laws which would apply to other types of industry. Laws which would protect the environment and our food supply are bent or totally ignored in favor of industry and/or the economy. This alias is used to acquire state and federal loans, grants

and subsidies. As usual the cost is passed on to yours truly.

This is all made possible with the cooperation of bureaucrats who are attached to the nipples of industry and are as hard to dislodge as ticks on the rump of a rhino. Several bills have been introduced in the Missouri House that would shield CAFOs from well-deserved criticism. House Bill HB 1333 would have “created environmental self audit privilege” to CAFOs; another, HB 923, would have related to “defamation of agricultural producers, with penalty provisions. For the last four years, bills have been introduced that would install an immunity shield to all animal factories, free from scrutiny, free from criticism, and free to continue to violate environmental law, including laws governing the “humane treatment of animals.” Humane treatment is not an obvious priority of CAFO operations.

There is no doubt in my mind that such legislation was initiated by the industry and carried out by faithful political pawns. This legislation is immoral, unethical, and illegal but no doubt very profitable to those bureaucrats in the service of industry should these bills or similar ones become law — laws which are solely designed to give free reign to their industrial benefactors and silence both public and media protest of their transgressions. Isn't this a blatant attack on our first amendment by those entrusted to safeguard the constitution of the United States? And isn't this called treason? I understand that 17 states

Sierra Club and CAFOs

Albert Midoux refers in his article to the plans of MOARK — the egg-laying company — to vastly expand its operations (currently containing over one million laying hens) and has made application for a State Operating Permit to do so. A group has formed in Newton and McDonald counties to oppose this expansion, citing concerns about water quality and quantity and odor. Scott Dye of the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels conducted a search of MOARK's environmental record at the offices of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) — and discovered a “rap sheet” longer than Scott's arm (this list may be viewed on the Ozark Chapter Web Page — <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>). This list of violations had been compiled by the MDNR, but no follow-up actions — fines or penalties — had ever been taken.

In addition, Scott learned — and revealed to the media — that MOARK had been operating for years without any State Operating Permit, which MDNR knew. Recently, MOARK was accused of animal abuse when a local citizen video-taped live chickens being placed into a dumpster.

Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Director, has participated in one meeting of these citizens in which they confronted MDNR Director Doyle Childers. The Conservation Committee passed a resolution essentially backing the citizen group's positions. The leadership of the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club has provided information and assistance to the local opposition group.

In addition to exposing MOARK's record of Clean Water Act violations which appeared in all local newspapers, the Sierra Club's Ken Midkiff wrote an OpEd piece on the MOARK situation which appeared in the *Joplin GLOBE*.

Finally, the Sierra Club (the only environmental group with a full-time lobbyist at the Missouri Legislature), with the help of our coalition partners, narrowly defeated legislation favoring corporate agriculture's Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) during the 2005 legislative session.

See additional highlights to the Ozark Chapter's Clean Water Campaign on pages six and seven.

already have such laws.

During the time that I served in the military, I believed that forces outside our national boundaries were the greatest threat to our way of life and our constitution. History will show that forces within our nation can be equally dangerous to the freedom of its people and the nation itself. When we speak of chemical and biological terrorism, we assume that such attacks would come from abroad. We should recognize that we face, in a more subtle way, chemical and biological warfare on a daily basis on our own turf.

We have heavy metals and pathogens in our food supplies; salmonella has become a common ingredient in our meat counters; and housewives are warned to cook meat and poultry products very well done to reduce the danger of food poisoning — cremation! It's perhaps the path to potable potty.

Pathogens are primarily the result of the spillage of intestinal and stomach contents in the evisceration phase of slaughter. This is the result of ridiculous processing speeds and mechanical evisceration. Allowing spilled fecal material and digestive tract contents to be washed from exposed flesh is not compatible to food safety. This is done with the blessings of a very economically friendly USDA meat and poultry inspection service.

Our forest reserves are being depleted and our wetlands are vanishing, jeopardizing our aquifers already under siege. A gallon of bottled water for drinking and cooking now cost about the same as a gallon of gasoline, depending on the brand name on the container of water. The world population now stands at 6,000,000,000 and climbing steadily while our natural resources are declining rapidly and valuable crop producing farmland is being covered with asphalt and concrete. Parking lots, shopping malls, and freeways, and, of course, urban sprawl don't contribute much to food production. Our Department of Agriculture tells us that hybrid and genetically altered grains, such as corn, which can now produce it's own pesticide to kill the ‘corn borer,’ will compensate for the loss of choice crop land.

Gene altered crops produce large yields when used with highly efficient herbicides. Do we as consumers have a choice in the development of Frankenstein foods? No. Were the altered foods labeled as such? No. Were dairy cattle treated with hormones to make them run faster or give more milk? No. Was the milk labeled as “milk from treated cows? No, no, no. It would have been unfair to those with the un-natural milk. Do you suppose one could become infected with trichinosis (a parasitic nematode worm) which can infect swine, by eating an under cooked tomato? I refer to tomatoes genetically altered with pig genes or perhaps chicken pox from a potato with a chicken gene inserted.

We are eating genetically altered food products daily — unlabeled, unannounced, and, for the long term, un-researched. Please forgive those of us who lack faith in our regulatory agencies touting a voluntary mentality on everything from labeling to the inspection and safety of our food supplies. Self-regulation and self audit are not in the best interest of the consumer or the environment. This is industrial butt hugging at it's political best.

While reading the selective opinions derived from selected scientific experts on the benefits and safety of genetically altered foods, I am deeply concerned of monetarily altered “opinions.” For our officials to suggest that the refusal to “eat this stuff” could or should be illegal is the most asinine suggestion I have heard in a while. Frankenstein foods will not prevent famine in third world countries, and could create even more famine with the genetic disruption of the natural order of flora and fauna.

The perspective of the average citizen is indeed insignificant to our elected officials in all but a few cases. To those officials with foresight to recognize and the courage to confront, the exploitation of our remaining natural resources and the trust of our nations consumers, we applaud your efforts and sincerely thank you. 🙏

Your official ballot for the Ozark Chapter Executive Committee Election is on page 11. The ExCom sets Chapter policy and oversees the business of the Ozark Chapter. It is made up of nine members elected from the membership at large (you), plus one additional member appointed by each of the four Sierra Club groups in Missouri. ExCom members are elected to staggered two-year terms. Of the current ExCom members, Cheryl Hammond, Ginger Harris, Roy Hengerson, and Claus Wawrzinek continue in office. That leaves five

members to be elected this year. You may vote for up to five of the candidates named on the ballot, or you may write in the name(s) of other qualified member(s). If yours is a joint membership, two members may vote. Write your 8-digit membership number in the return address space of your envelope to validate your ballot. The number will be verified before the ballot is opened, and separated from the rest of the ballot before counting to assure that your vote is secret.

Executive Committee Ballot Profiles

Michael Bollinger (St. Louis) I'm Michael Bollinger, a St. Louis County resident. I'm a long time member of National and more recently have become an active participant of the Ozark Chapter and the Eastern Missouri Group.



I created, then briefly maintained, a rudimentary web page for the EMG until truly qualified individuals took over. I regularly volunteer for EMG's Lemonade Brigade. Since 2002, I've been EMG's Conservation Chair, hosting routine meetings, compiling comment letters, responding to inquiries and presenting the Club's perspective at public meetings. I received EMG's 2003 Leader of the Year Award. I serve on and routinely attend Chapter Conservation Committee meetings.

I have a BS in Environmental Chemistry and an MPH and have been employed in the environmental field for over 25 years.

I work for a major utility and thus would abstain from all votes regarding my employer and the electric power industry.

If elected, I will actively participate and believe I would be a positive addition to the ExCom, based on my technical & regulatory expertise and my organizational & communication skills. Thanks for considering me.

Tom Kruzen (Mountain View) Born: Western New York, 1946.

Born Again: when the Buffalo and Cuyahoga Rivers caught fire in the 60's and Lake Erie was declared "dead."



Current occupation: Doe Run's nemesis, after they tried to expand their lead mining operations into his current home, Missouri's Scenic Rivers watersheds.

More recently, Tom has worked with people in Herculaneum, Missouri and La Oroya, Peru on environmental justice and health issues related to Doe Run's smelters.

Tom's a former field coordinator for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and graduate of the Midwest Academy School (community organizing). He is

co-proprietor of Pan's Garden Native Plant Nursery.

Tom would work hard to ensure that the Ozark Chapter becomes more secure financially and would work to increase membership, thereby turning up the volume on our public servants. The Ozark Chapter has a great team of volunteers and staff, who very often, are the *only* voices on environmental issues in Missouri.

The relentless pursuit of clean water, clean air and human health remain pivotal in his philosophy and life.

Linda Chipperfield (Springfield) It has been an honor to serve on the Ozark Chapter ExCom for the last two years. The White River area has several critical environmental issues that need attention and I have been able to gain valuable insights and aid from the expertise represented on the Committee. Our efforts to encourage



the use of alternative energy sources and efficiency measures instead of building more dirty coal-burning power plants have been particularly effective. Coming up in 2006 and 2007 we will be faced with increased challenges concerning clean air, stream protection, mining and farming in this area. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue working on these issues and representing Southwest Missouri on the ExCom.

Henry Robertson (St. Louis) I'm running for Excom with my eyes open. I've been on the Chapter Conservation Committee for over a year now, and I'm presently on the Excom as delegate from the Eastern Missouri Group (EMG). Becoming an at-



large member will open space for a new face from EMG. Energy and sprawl get most of my attention, but being on Excom helps me keep up with the full range of issues facing the Chapter. I recently started an Energy Committee in St. Louis. I attend public meetings on behalf of the Club and write comment letters to government agencies on things like air pollution permits, the Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River lock and dam proposal, etc.

I've just started a job with Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, a non-profit law firm founded to protect the environment, as an attorney working part-time.

I've been devoting six weekends a year to Chapter meetings and, strangely enough, I enjoy it. I also do the work in between meetings. I will continue my efforts for the Club if you'll give me the opportunity.

Ken Midkiff (Columbia) I have served the Sierra Club at all levels, first as a volunteer in the Osage Group, then as Ozark Chapter Public Lands Committee Chair, before taking the staff position as lobbyist and director for the Ozark Chapter. For the



past three years, I have served as the director of the Clean Water Campaign of the national Sierra Club. I am resigning my staff position as of December 31, 2003, making me eligible to become a member of the Chapter Executive Committee at the beginning of 2004. I am currently a columnist for the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and author of the forthcoming book *The Meat You Eat* to be published by St. Martin's Press in June of 2004. My high priority issues include public lands (state, federal) and water protection; the rural quality of life including animal husbandry and sustainable agriculture; air quality across the state; restoring our state's rivers; and promoting the grassroots strengths of the Sierra Club.

James Turner (Kirksville) Would fewer levees on the Mississippi have caused better wetlands and barrier islands of the Delta, to resist the storm surge that overloaded Lake Ponchartraine? Did global warming produce a stronger hurricane? Progressive



moderates will now listen more to concerns about the environment. Ozark Chapter is working within coalitions, and that's good. Maintaining coalitions requires a tone of tact, calm, and approachability, even as we steadfastly project our values.

A member since 1995, I've attended some Osage Group meetings. Recently I worked with Chapter Director Carla Klein and local Sierrans to increase the number of counties with health ordinances that can effectively regulate CAFO's. In June I was appointed to the chapter's

Conservation Committee.

At Truman State University I teach business law, and also a course on ecology and land use, and I'm a member of a committee overseeing our new Environmental Studies Minor. For three years I've advised "Sierra at Truman," a student group working within the Sierra Student Coalition culture. Recently I've set up an Ozark Chapter listserv for faculty and staff of Missouri's colleges and universities.

Outings Continued

on adjoining private property. \$5 donation requested. Bob Wilshire, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com or Anne McDonald pamcdonald@kc.rr.com

Oct 8 (Sat) Fall Tree Identification Hike, Kansas City, MO. We will walk through beautiful Loose Park and identify the trees with a local arborist. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org

Oct 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Bicycle B&B on Katy Trail, MO. Experience the magic of the fall colors, as we ride the Katy trail. App. 25 miles each day, spending the night at a local B&B. Sign up early as we will limit registration to 12 participants. \$10 donation requested. Paul Gross (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Oct 15-16 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpack, Upper Current River. Come explore one of the most remote areas in the Upper Current River Country. Even though we will backpack just a short distance, the opportunity for exploring the area will be great. \$10 donation requested Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileenm@missouri.sierraclub.org

Oct 22 or 23 (Sat or Sun) and October 29 or 30 (Sat or Sun) Canoe Outing, Kaw River, KS. Canoeists and kayakers are invited to paddle day trips on the Kaw above Lawrence. The weather and river levels will determine whether the float actually occurs. Call within 2 weeks of the float date. \$5 donation requested. Jim Fox, (816) 525-3989 or Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Oct 22 (Sat) Astronomy Outing, Louisburg, KS. Join us at Powell Observatory in Louisburg, Kansas for a program entitled "It Came from Outer Space." Afterward, if the skies are clear, we will observe through public telescopes and binoculars. Please bring a

\$3 donation for the observatory. Ellen Brenneman, (816) 274-8062, ebrenn1@yahoo.com

Oct 22 (Sat) Day hike, James A. Reed Wildlife Area, MO. Take in Fall colors and maybe migrating water fowl on a day hike southeast of Kansas City. \$5 donation requested. Anne McDonald, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com

Oct 23 (Sun) Day hike, Kansas City, MO. We'll enjoy cooler weather and colorful leaves on this 2 hour hike at Hidden Valley Natural Area. \$5 donation requested. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Oct 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Car Camping, Dora, MO. If you're not too scared, spend Halloween weekend with us at Devil's Backbone Wilderness Area. 8.5 mile day hike on Saturday. \$10 donation requested. Kathy Patton, (816) 461-6091, kathy.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Nov 4-6 (Fri-Sun) Bell Mountain Wilderness, 3 day Backpack. Enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain. From our vantage point, we'll be able to survey our next day's bushwhack to Lindsey Mountain. We'll pick up a new trail at Lindsey Mountain on Sunday, and hike out. \$10 donation requested Paul Gross (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Nov 12 (Sat) Trail Maintenance, Perry Lake, KS. Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Steve Hassler, (913) 599-6028, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Nov 18-20 (Fri-Sun) Backpacking, Paddy Creek Wilderness near Licking, MO. Want two nights of sleeping in the woods over a weekend? Join us backpacking by moonlight to our first campsite

Friday night. \$10 donation requested. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, bohrman@247expresscourier.com

Nov 26 (Sat) Bird watching, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, MO. An excellent opportunity to see numerous species of waterfowl and eagles. \$5 donation requested. Dave Patton (816) 461-6091 dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Dec 3 (Sat) Day hike, Indian Creek, KS. A leaf off day hike through the woods along Indian Creek in southern Johnson County Kansas. \$5 donation requested. Anne McDonald, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com

Dec 9-11 (Fri-Sun) Backpacking, Hercules Glades Wilderness near Forsyth, MO. Backpacking by moonlight. Join us in backpacking by moon light to our first camp site Friday night. \$10 donation requested. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, bohrman@247expresscourier.com

Trail of Tears Group

None submitted.

White River Group

None submitted.

Ozark Chapter ExCom Ballot instructions

To vote:

- 1) Vote for **up to five** (5) people (you may write in additional names)
- 2) If yours is a joint membership, two (2) members may vote
- 3) Insert ballot into an envelope and address to:
Keet Kopecky
9211 Olmstead
Kansas City MO 64138
- 4) Write **your membership number** (the 8 digit number on top of the computer address label of your *Sierra* magazine) in the return address space of the envelope.
- 5) Affix a 37¢ stamp and mail to us so it arrives
by **December 31, 2005.**

I vote for ...

(see personal profiles at left)

1st member	2nd member	
()	()	Michael Bollinger
()	()	Linda Chipperfield
()	()	Ken Midkiff
()	()	Tom Kruzen
()	()	Henry Robertson
()	()	James Turner
()	()

Pharming.....continued from page 8

cal infections. Prior to coming to Missouri, Ventria Biosciences had received approval in March 2004 to grow transgenic rice in its home state of California, but there was great opposition to growing the altered rice in the state. Ventria decided to move to Missouri saying that our state offers more favorable economics and better access to agricultural biotech experts. Part of the favorable economics is that the university and the state are each contributing \$10 million toward building a production and teaching complex.

This past spring, Ventria announced it was going to grow 200 acres of transgenic rice to produce the two human proteins in southeastern Missouri. Over 175 farmers signed a petition opposing Ventria's plans in southeast Missouri where most of our state's \$100 million rice crop is grown. The farmers noted they didn't believe the claims that the pharmaceutical rice could be contained on its growing plot. They stated that blackbirds and ducks would be carrying the rice seed away from the GM rice fields. Rain and floods are also seen as means by which the transgenic rice seed could be scattered.

Anheuser-Busch, our nation's largest buyer of rice, announced it would no longer purchase rice grown in Missouri if Ventria was allowed to grow the genetically modified rice in southeastern Missouri. Riceland Foods, Inc., a farmer-owned cooperative and the world's largest rice miller and marketer, also opposed the planting, asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to deny Ventria's request to grow the rice in Cape Girardeau, Scott and Mississippi counties in Missouri. Riceland Foods representatives noted there is no level of acceptance among consumers in the U.S. or abroad for GM rice. The sensitivity of other countries to genetically modified food is important as more than half of Missouri's rice is sold overseas to the European Union and Caribbean countries. Additional opposition came from the USA Rice Federation and the U.S. Rice Producers Association. Also, U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson sent a letter to Governor Matt Blunt stating "...I must oppose the production of GM (genetically modified) rice in Southeast Missouri in crop year 2005."

In April, Anheuser-Busch dropped its opposition to Ventria's planting GM rice in Missouri under an agreement that Ventria would not grow GM rice within 120 miles of commercial rice crops. However, since it was late into the growing season by the time Ventria could go forward, it ended up planting 70 acres of GM rice in North Carolina this summer.

The current and future situation —

and you

Currently Ventria has four test plots of rice growing in northwest Missouri, near Watson. Rural economics is one of the main reasons farmers are trying the transgenic rice. Ventria will pay farmers more than double what they make on their most profitable crop. It will also pay Northwest Missouri State University \$500 an acre for crops grown on university property. Besides Missouri and North Carolina, Ventria is looking for a Southern Hemisphere location in which to grow GM rice year around.

Once Ventria decides where it will plant GM rice in Missouri on a commercial scale, it will have to apply for a permit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a process that usually takes two to three months. *Want to take action?* Speak up and tell the U.S. Department of Agriculture what you think of genetically modified rice being grown in Missouri. ☎

May the Discussions Begin

Ozark Chapter has set up a new listserv for faculty and staff of colleges and universities in Missouri. It is

OZARK-HIGHER-ED-FACULTY@LISTS.SIERRA-CLUB.ORG. Sierra Club members on campuses, as well as other academic friends of Sierra Club, can provide an extra dimension of learned discussion about issues of concern to Sierra Club. This listserv will seek to facilitate such discussions on emerging issues.

Here is a summary of the Listserv's statement of purpose: to provide a forum for discussion of conservation issues (in both sciences and policy); to provide an opportunity to collegially develop input on topical issues that the Ozark Chapter is involved in; and, to exchange ideas about how to assist students in local and statewide action to care for our environment, especially in association with Sierra Club activities. Interested persons may apply to join this list by directing their web browsers to:

<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/ozark-higher-ed-faculty.html>

click on "Join ... the List", and then entering the requested information and menu choices. Environmentalist colleagues of Sierra Club club members will also be welcome on this listserv; I will ask a fellow member of our Conservation Committee to confirm them as participants.

We look forward to some good discussion!



SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

Eastern Missouri Group

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

Sept 3–5 (Sat–Mon) – Three day canoe/kayak trip on the Mississippi River above St. Louis. Some experience necessary. Place to be determined later. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247

Oct 1–2 (Sat–Sun) Enjoy the scenic Meramec River for an early fall, overnight canoe outing. Bird's Nest to Huzzah. Enjoy a 16 mile stretch of the Meramec with few other boaters. Contact Jim Rhodes, (314) 821-7758, or jarhodes@sbcglobal.net.

Oct 7 (Fri) Might be Persimmons, Paw-paws, definitely beautiful fall colors on our 6–8 mile hike at Pere Marquette State Park, Illinois. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Oct 7–9 (Fri–Sun) Chapter Reunion. Visit our web site at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>. Call the Sierra Club office, (314) 644-0890.

Oct 14 (Fri) Hike or bike in Southern Illinois. See the Shawnee National Forest. Optional: camp for the weekend with the Northwest Cook County Sierra Club and help clean up Garden of the Gods on Saturday. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Oct 14–16 (Fri–Sun) Service outing at Garden of the Gods Wilderness in southern Illinois. Spend a weekend during peak fall colors with Sierrans from around the state on this outing organized by the Northwest Cook County Group. We will be picking up trash and performing some light trail maintenance. The Forest Service will provide a private campground opened especially for us. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided. Cost is \$15. As a result of past outings, the forest is cleaner and the Forest Service is paying greater attention to the trash situation throughout the forest: emptying barrels and ticketing litterbugs, etc. Terry Allen (618) 398-1087.

Oct 15–16 (Sat–Sun) Big Creek fall exploratory backpack trip. Join us for this special trip into one of the most remote wild lands in the Ozarks. We will camp on Big Creek and start our exploration of Big Creek. Bring wading shoes and a sense of adventure. Suitable for beginners. Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Oct 15–16 (Sat–Sun) Two day canoe/kayak trip on the Current river. Overnight camp on a gravel bar. Will we see fall colors? Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Oct 19 (Wed) Day hike at Babler State Park. I haven't been there for a while. How about you? We will hike about three miles on various trails and see what's happening in the way of fall foliage. Katie Wodell (636) 240-0675 before 9 p.m.

Oct 21 (Fri) Stay close to home and hike at Weldon Springs with beautiful views of the Missouri River. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Oct 22 (Sat) Buford Mountain end-to-end, 7 miles. We'll be gaining elevation right away, then we'll be rewarded with a nice and easy walk to the great scenery of the Belleview Valley from the Bald Knob glade. Then we continue, passing through an old orchard, now timbered, and descend the mountain. Call only after Oct 15. Wayne Miller, (314) 628-9084, or millwy@aol.com.

Oct 28 (Fri) The fall colors from our lunch spot at Hawn State Park are always fantastic. Join us for a 6-10 mile hike. Suzanne

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.

Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Oct 28 (Fri) Enjoy a fascinating 3–4 mile night hike at Shaw Nature Reserve. Dress appropriately. Helen McCallie, (636) 451-3512, or 1-(636) 742-4380 (h).

Oct 28–30 (Fri–Sun) Fourth Annual Introductory Car Camping and EMG Fall Celebration at Hawn State Park. Great for beginner campers and families. Bring your own gear and food. Call if you need advice or suggestions. You are also welcome to come for a short, laid back day hike if you don't want to camp. Small camping fee to be determined. Enjoy day hikes and fall color. Bring sense of humor and musical instruments for sing along. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Oct 30 (Sun) Critters of Halloween. Some suck the guts out of other living creatures, some slither, some are slimy, some eat big juicy bugs and all of them are misunderstood. Learn about interesting and gruesome facts about the Critters of Halloween. We will see if we can find evidence of these fascinating and misunderstood animals as we hike 4 miles at Washington State Park. Christina Ritter, (636)-296-1799, luvwildlife@lycos.com.

Nov 2 (Wed) Fall foliage day hike at Cuivre River State Park. It should be beautiful this time of year. About 5 miles. Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675 before 9 p.m.

Nov 4 (Fri) Views of the Belleview Valley from the glades on our 10-mile Buford Mountain hike. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Nov 5 (Sat) Caves of Meramec State Park. If you ever wanted to explore a cave without a guided tour, without getting lost or muddy up to your eyeballs, this is your chance. We will explore Sheep Cave, Camp Cave, and Indian Cave in the park. Each one represents a different and unique cave structure with interesting formations. We will hear a talk by one of the park naturalists before exploring the caves. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Nov. 5–6 (Sat–Sun) Pioneer Forest Trail Days. Enjoy a fall weekend in the Roger Pryor Back Country. We hope to improve on the success of the April 16-17 event with attendance prizes, a raffle, and live music Saturday night. We will work somewhere on the Brushy creek trail, possibly on the section overlooking Current River shown on the cover of SierraScape Volume 21. This trip will be limited to 30 people. Hopefully some of you can get down to Himont Friday night. We would like to get a crew in the field by 9 am Saturday. Call us for directions and car-pooling info. Otherwise meet at the commuter parking lot on Saturday at Gravois and 270 at 7:30 am and we will car pool down to Himont Site with a pit stop at Hardees in Park Hills. Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Nov 12 (Sat) Highway cleanup. As we pick up trash we can keep our eyes open for frost flowers and Canada goose droppings. What a combination! Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.

Nov 17 (Thu) Members Slide Show. Assemble 5 minutes of your best slides and narration to show at our November General Meeting. We've seen some great vacation pictures in the last few years. Call ASAP! Limit 8 presenters. Ann Eggebrecht (312) 725-1560.

Nov 18 (Fri) Hike the 6-mile loop at Meramec State Park. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Nov 19 (Sat) Hamilton Creek Hollow at Meramec State Park. We will explore the geological history, cultural history, and natural history of this valley, with some caves and beavers thrown in just for fun. About 5 miles. Wayne Miller (314) 628-9084 or millwy@aol.com

Nov 19–20 (Sat–Sun) Overnight canoe trip on the Missouri River. No crowds this time of year. Great vistas! Windy. For experienced paddlers. Must have own boat. George Behrens, weeknights only after 6pm, (314) 821-0247.

Nov 20 (Sun) Caves of Meramec State Park. If you ever wanted to explore a cave without a guided tour, without getting lost, or muddy up to your eyeballs, this is your chance. We will explore Sheep Cave, Camp Cave and Indian Cave in the park. Each one represents a different and unique cave structure with interesting formations. We will hear a talk by one of the park naturalists before exploring the caves. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Nov 20 (Sun) Day hike at St. Francis Park. We will hike the Swimming Deer trail for a great view of the Big River and continue on to the South Loop and possibly the North Loop depending on the strength of the group. Bring lunch, water, and rain gear. Bob Gestel 636-296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net or Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net.

Nov 23 (Wed) Day hike. Get a little exercise before that big Thanksgiving dinner. About 5 miles at Shaw Nature Reserve. Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675 before 9 p.m.

Dec 2 (Fri) Up and down, over the hills on our 6-8 mile hike at St. Francis State Park. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Dec 3 (Sat) Find lots of "creepy-crawlers" as we 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. Call Leslie Lihou at (314) 726-2140, or Jim Rhodes (314) 821-7758.

Dec 9 (Fri) Join us for an 8-mile hike at Washington State Park. All clear since the storm damage. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Dec 10 (Sat) Endangered species outing. Call for details. Diane Albright, (314) 729-7629.

Dec 10 (Sat) Holiday party and potluck dinner. Bring your beverage and a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall, (636) 529-0477, Marilyn Harlan, (314) 966-8797, or Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 725-1560.

Dec 14 (Wed) Visit a relic from the past in North St. Louis County known as "The Grand Staircase." This is one of several sites in St. Louis where the ladies and gentlemen of St. Louis and the rest of the county went to play, around the turn of the last century. It is also the site of an old fort and a stop on the Lewis and Clark expedition. About 3 miles. Katie Wodell, (636) 240-0675 before 9 p.m.

Dec 16 (Fri) Rockwoods Reservation is a great place to hike. Lots of options. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Dec 23 (Fri) How about a zoo and Forest Park hike before Christmas. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan 7–8, 2006 (Sat–Sun) On our annual winter backpack this year we will hike to the "Wall" on Wildcat Mountain where there is a magnificent view of the Taum Sauk Creek valley. This trip is for experienced cold weather hikers only. Although in past years we have had temperatures of 70 degrees, we have also had temperatures of 12 degrees on previous trips. Bob Gestel 636-296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net or Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Osage Group

None submitted.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

Oct 1–2 (Sat–Sun) Backpacking 101 Lab at Settles Ford Conservation Area. Easy beginner backpack trip. Hike Settles Ford Conservation Area near Butler Missouri and camp overnight