

OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth One Chance

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Food Safety and Local Control

by Ginger Harris



As Sierrans we have heard the plea “eat locally,” because eating locally grown food (a) makes all regions more self-sufficient and economically diverse, (b) helps preserve biodiversity, (c) preserves pastoral landscapes and lifestyles within access of more people, (d) reduces energy consumption associated with transportation and refrigeration, and (e) reduces demand for more highway capacity and pavement (thus reduces limestone mining, cement kilns, and stormwater runoff).

Eating locally can also help protect our

health. Scientists are discovering health problems based on the amounts and types of antibiotics, hormones, herbicides, pesticides, and foreign matter (e.g. genes from unrelated plants or species) our food is grown with. (See “Health risks of GE food: Dangers from ...transplanted DNA,” by Hugh S. Lehman, Ph.D. at www.sierraclub.org/biotech/whatsnew/whatsnew_2006-04-12.asp; also www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=SMI20061119&articleId=3912 about Monsanto whistle-blower.) If we buy directly from farmers, we can visit the farm, observe conditions (are animals free-range or confined?), and ask about seed-type, herbicide and pesticide use.

However, eating locally from organic, free-range farms will not necessarily protect us, because farmers who are trying to sustain a healthy family-farm lifestyle or meet the

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Say “NO!” to Nuclear Power and to Coal

by Mark Haim

In December 2005 Ameren CEO Gary Rainwater announced that the utility was actively considering building a new nuclear plant in Callaway County. Twenty years ago, this would have stirred major controversy. Unfortunately, to date the potential of a new nuke in our midst has drawn only a minimal reaction from Missourians, including the environmental community.

Nuclear power was originally sold to the American people as a source of limitless, clean energy that would be so abundant, it would be “too cheap to meter.” By the time I became a young adult in the early 1970s Richard Nixon was telling us that the United States would have 1,000 large nuclear plants installed by the year 2000. By then, however, many of us had learned not to trust what people like Nixon were telling us.

By the mid-1970s the once bright hope sold to a generation of baby boomers and our parents came crashing down as the realities of

Sierra Club’s **Nuclear Power Policy** has remained essentially unchanged for 30 years.

- In practice, nuclear power is neither safe nor affordable.
- Mining uranium risks worker’s lives and leaves behind toxic remains;
- current power plant technology is highly risky and vulnerable to terrorism;
- the waste transportation, security and storage problems remain unsolved;
- the industry is heavily subsidized everywhere it operates;
- and reliance upon the nuclear fuel cycle leaves the world permanently vulnerable to nuclear weapons proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

nuclear safety, routine radiation releases, worker contamination, potential meltdowns, mill tailings and the unresolved—perhaps irre-

continued on page 14.....Say “NO!”

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Jan 28 Chapter ExCom meeting: Columbia
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Feb 25 Deadline for Apr-Jun Ozark Sierran

Kansas City Votes Light Rail...Sort of



by Ron McLinden

On November 7 Kansas Citizens voted for light rail—at least, they voted for the notion of light rail. Voters approved a 25-year extension of a 3/8 cent city sales tax for transit (beginning April 1, 2009) to build a 27-mile light rail line concocted (back-of-the-envelope style) by perennial light rail initiative petitioner Clay Chastain.

Passage (53%–47%) has thrown the regional transit scene into mild disarray. Transit advocates had intended to ask voters to renew the 3/8 cent tax (passed in 2003 for five years as an interim measure to supplement an existing 1/2 cent city sales tax for transit) in the form of county-wide sales taxes to fund transit expansion throughout the region.

City officials, the Area Transportation Authority, Mid-America Regional Council, and the Regional Transit Alliance are interpreting the vote as evidence of public support for light rail—perhaps in response to the taste of \$3 gasoline that we've all had—rather than an explicit endorsement of Chastain's exact proposal. They are currently laying the groundwork for the studies that will have to be done to prepare a specific light rail plan that is both financially and technically feasible, and that will satisfy Federal Transit Administration requirements for federal funding.

PS: Legislators should take note that voter sentiment for the kind of highways-only transportation funding plan that's expected to be introduced in the Missouri General Assembly might not be well received. ☹️

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line—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

Items for publication: Contact **Claus Wawrzinek** via E-mail at claus@missouri.sierraclub.org or phone (816) 517-5244, **PRIOR TO SENDING**, for information on how to submit articles.

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

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

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead dead-

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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An Inconvenient Truth

Go see this movie. This movie version of Al Gore's traveling global warming/ climate change presentation is fascinating and moving. With a gigantic computer screen behind and an onstage Gore, a chart

cal tunnels through the glaciers that lubricate the surface of the bedrock, destabilize the ice masses, and cause them to slide more easily into the sea. An animated polar bear swimming in the Arctic and unable to find ice to rest

In the October–December 2006 edition of the *Ozark Sierran* we did not credit Cheryl Hammond for the writing of the movie review “An Inconvenient Truth.” This was due to her running for Executive Committee position in the same newsletter.



cient cars in other countries are doing quite well while U.S. manufacturers making low

A Road Runs Through It



Book Review and Forest Plan Update

by Caroline Pufalt

It's somewhere in the southeast part of Yellowstone National Park. It's a special place, worth the visit, but don't expect to drive there. It's the most remote spot in the U.S. outside of Alaska, and yet it is only 20 miles from the nearest road. That's as far as one can get in the lower 48 to that proverbial blank spot on the map. Which reminds me of one of my favorite Edward Abbey quotes: "What good is freedom without a blank spot on the map?"

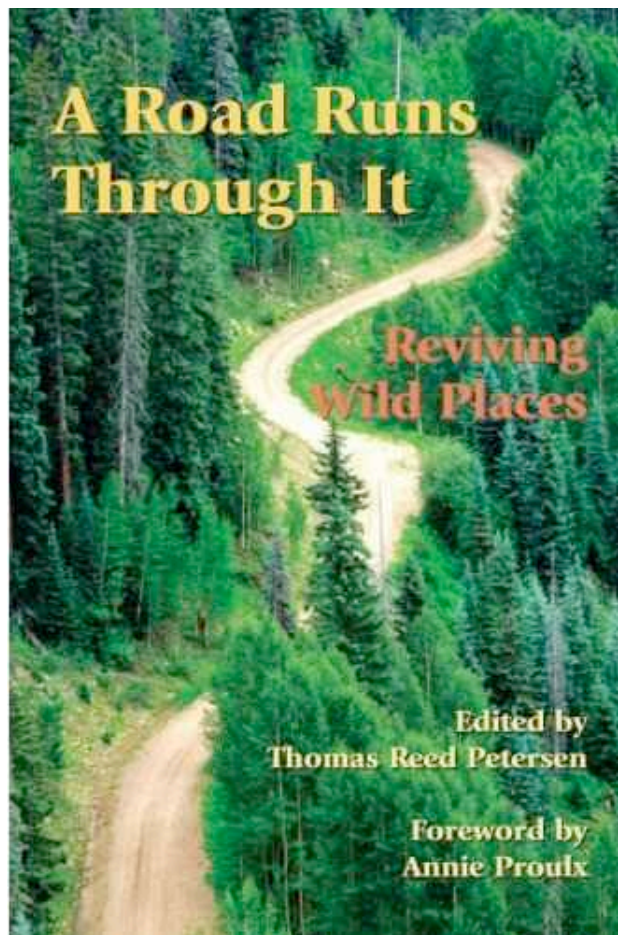
Those blank spots are getting rarer. You can read comments on the proliferation of roads by Edward Abbey and others in the book entitled *A Road Runs Through It*, edited by Thomas R Peterson. The book has a copyright 2006 by Wildlands CPS. It's a collection of articles, musings and rants on wild areas, wilderness, parks, forests, beaches—all influenced by roads.

We all appreciate roads (with public transportation) and use them daily. But as much as we love our metropolitan area roads, we have an instinctive understanding that roads, from the paved interstates to dirt logging roads, are problematic in wild areas. Our instincts in this case are correct.

Roads damage wildlife habitat in many ways. The obvious is direct road kill associated with more developed roads. Other adverse effects are fragmented habitats that separate potential breeding populations or diminish suitable remote areas for raising young. Roads are associated with greater fire risk, poaching, and the introduction of nonnative plant species. Roads diminish interior habitat and provide greater access for native animals, such as raccoons, jays, cowbirds which thrive on "edge habitat" thus putting pressure on less common species such as oven birds and thrushes.

The contributors to *A Road Runs Through It* provide insights into the natural history of a particular area and to the social conflict involved in development and access, resulting in the usually offending road. Yet their accounts and approaches are varied.

I was surprised to find a piece by Rosalie Edge who wrote concerning the proliferation of roads in our National Parks and our National Forests. She complains that visitors are too eager for fast transport and that roads actually add to fire risk. And, she wrote, in National Forests roads will eventually lead to



logging in areas which should be left alone for the wildlife and hearty recreationists. Ms Edge wrote her thoughts in 1936! She was concerned that "build a road" was the first response of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other agencies when looking for work. And those visitors who were in such a hurry, wanted to be able to travel at 40 miles an hour through the public lands. How much things change and stay the same.

Sierra Club appeals new MTNF plan

Missouri's Ozark Chapter Sierra Club and other conservation interested groups ...have appealed the new forest plan for the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF). A major part of the appeal rests on the Forest Service's misapplication of the federally recognized designation for a "roadless area."

Overall, the Plan is thought to contain "serious legal, biological, economic and ethical flaws." See the October - December 2006 *Ozark Sierran* newsletter for more information on the MTNF plan.
www.missouri.sierraclub.org

A more contemporary writer, Peter Matthiesson, covers the history of a battle over a proposed road in what is now the Smith River Recreation Area in the Siskiyou. That effort, lasting 1967-1990, was eventually successful due to citizen pressure and a variety of

administrative and economic influences over time. The Sierra Club played a part in that effort. Victory included closing a potential corridor along which the road was planned. Opposition to the road was in part due to the fact that it would have provided greater access for logging. Defeating the road was a victory, but only in part as under the guise of "healthy forests" the corridor was open at least temporarily for logging in 1997.

The proliferation of traffic on small formerly rarely used logging roads and then off-road travel from Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) can wreak particular havoc on ecosystems. One poignant example is provide by Susan Cerulean in an article about the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida. There ORV use threatens rare amphibians, which inhabit ephemeral ponds that dot the forest. The most damaging traffic is illegal off road use. Unfortunately as any honest person will say, it is extremely difficult to limit ORV use to designated roads or trails. Once introduced to an area it will often take more resources than the Forest Service has or is willing to commit to keep down illegal use. But in the Apalachicola the very ephemeral ponds that are dry part of the year provide an inviting "playground" for irresponsible ORV users. So far the Forest Service has not responded with an adequate plan for protection. The agency as usual is relying on designated trails and sacrifice areas.

There are 29 contributors to the "road essays" in *A Road Runs Through It*, including Annie Proulx who wrote the introduction. She reminds us to take the knowledge we have about the importance of roadless areas and advocate for our local areas and try to hold our representatives accountable for legislation and enforcement.

Here in Missouri the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups and interested citizens have appealed the new forest plan for the Mark Twain National Forest. A major part of the appeal rests on the Forest Service's misapplication of a potential federally recognized designation for a "roadless area." Our appeal is an effort to achieve more roadless area protections for parts of the National Forest that we think qualify for such.

Unfortunately the appeal process is a slow one and at the time of this writing we have no resolution. Our appeal was complicated by a proposed timber sale and prescribed burn on one area, Lower Rock Creek, which is also at issue in our appeal. The good news is that we have had some meaningful dialogue with the Forest Service on the details of that project. Maybe someday we in Missouri could contribute a chapter to a future book on protecting roadless areas. 🙏

Southwest Missouri Citizens Battle Ethanol Plant

by Cynthia Andre

Rumors begin spreading though Webster County in August of this year. A company from Mt. Vernon, Missouri, it was said, was planning to build an ethanol plant in the county. By September 2006 the rumor had been confirmed, and many of the county's residents were beginning to raise serious questions about the effects of the plant on their area.

It was no surprise to anyone following the ethanol industry that there were plans to build another plant. Ever since the government began to grant sizable subsidies to this industry to reduce the use of foreign oil (and incidentally secure the farm vote and benefit large agribusiness campaign donors), many plants have been built and many more are in the planning stage.

But observers of the industry and county residents alike wondered why a plant would be built so far from the areas of the state where corn—the plant *du jour* for making ethanol—is grown and from the markets for the ethanol.

Although there is a large dairy industry in southwest Missouri that might use the waste from the plant for feed (825 tons/day), the company, Gulfstream Bioflex Energy (GBE), denied that was part of their reasons for building a plant in Webster County. Whether the company is also considering building a Confined Animal Feeding Operation in the county to use the waste, as some plants have done, is unknown.

Instead, the company told a county study committee, they were interested in the Webster County site for the “lay of the land,” access to rail and a four-lane highway and proximity to a natural gas pipeline. The fact that the county had no planning and zoning (defeated by voters in 2005), “had never come to mind,” a company spokesman said.

Webster County is a largely rural county just east of Springfield with a population of only 35,000. It is one of the few counties in Missouri where the majority of the residents work outside the county. While the promise of a new industry bringing in 35–45 new jobs

and a projected annual payroll of 2.1 million might turn the heads of counties with more resources than Webster, the local citizens did their homework and have been battling the company ever since.

Concerns of the residents have ranged from noise, odor and light pollution to increased traffic and risk of explosions and fire. The most serious concerns, however, center on air and water pollution. The plant will be permitted to emit 100–250 tons of pollutants into the air each year and the residents are aware that many plants in other areas have been found to be in violation of air quality standards and legal action has been required to bring the plants into compliance.

Groundwater pollution is also a major concern for residents in Webster and surrounding counties. The proposed plant will be discharging large quantities water with unknown content on a daily basis and residents are aware that some plants in other areas have polluted nearby streams.

Note on Biofuels from Sierra Club Energy policy

Numerous criteria must be considered for each type of biofuel, including the source of the raw materials, the associated land, air and water impacts of large-scale extraction and use, the ecosystem pressures of using exotic or invasive plant species, the effects of non-sustainable cultivation including chemical fertilizers and pest control, and the elements of the fuel manufacturing process, including the energy inputs.

There are drawbacks to many biofuel categories, including the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers made from fossil fuels, soil depletion, potential risks from genetically modified crops, encouragement of poor forestry and land use practices, low net energy balance, subsidies that outweigh rational

energy choices, and competition with the use of agricultural land to grow food.

As with agriculture in general, for biofuels the Sierra Club supports the use of reduced or no chemical inputs, crop rotation to enhance yield, good soil conservation practices, operating processing plants with renewable energy where possible, and local distribution of fuel supplies. Refining some biofuels, especially corn-based ethanol, requires large quantities of fossil fuels, primarily natural gas, diesel and coal. Sustainably produced biomass is a preferred energy resource in biofuel production in order to create a closed-loop fuel cycle.

(To see the entire policy on Biofuels go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.pdf>)

The area is riddled with sinkholes, losing streams and solution channels that act as direct conduits to the underlying aquifer system that provides water for all of southern Missouri and parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Adding to the problem, Webster County sits on a high plateau—the second highest area of the state, according to a spokesman for the Citizens for Groundwater Protection, a local group of residents who are seeking to prevent the construction of the plant. Five major creeks and rivers originate in the county, including the already impaired James River,

which winds through the heavily populated areas around Springfield and eventually empties into Table Rock Lake. “Whatever occurs here,” he observed, “will affect everyone downstream.”

The Citizens group has, however, chosen the issue of the volume of water used by the plant as the basis for their legal battle with GBE. The company proposes to sink four wells, which will be capable of drawing 880–2000 gallons of water per minute. Questions of volume involve both the possible effects on the 91 residential wells that surround GBE's proposed well sites as well as on the underlying aquifer system itself.

At the lower end of the range given by GBE, the company would be using as much water as all other major wells in the county combined. At the upper end, they would be using over twice that of all other major users combined.

Put another way, the volume of water used by GBE would equal that used by 21,000 of

the county's residents. Since Webster County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, this raises concerns about the county's ability to meet the future needs of its citizens.

The legal battle between the Citizens and GBE began in October 2006 with a temporary restraining order to stop GBE from digging a test well. Attorneys for the company thwarted this attempt by filing a motion to change judges, which is

apparently granted in such cases on a one-time basis only. By the time the new judge was appointed by the state and a court date set, GBE had completed its test.

The group then requested that the County Commission restrict all future wells to less than 1000 feet without approval by the Commission. This request was denied, according to a member of the Citizens group, as attorneys for the Commission advised that in a Class III county without planning and zoning, the Commission could not make that kind of decision.

And so the legal battle continues. Because

there are no restrictions in Missouri statutes on the volume of water drawn by wells, the Citizens' case against GBE hinges on the interpretation of "reasonable use," which was established by case law. Along these lines, an expert witness for the Citizens group will testify that water is already being drawn from the aquifer faster than it is being recharged and that the test well was not an adequate test.

Meanwhile, a larger controversy continues about ethanol itself. Some scientists maintain that there is no net gain of energy in the production of ethanol from corn because of the energy used in growing, transporting and conversion of the corn. Others are concerned about the effects of increased corn production, which is water and chemical intensive, on the soil and the environment. Still others worry about the effect on the price and availability of corn for consumption.

Consistent with the Sierra Club's new energy policy, the Union for Concerned Scientists writes:

Though the current form of ethanol made from corn offers limited environmental benefits and limited potential for large-scale displacement of petroleum, it will be a key to the transition to cellulosic ethanol in the future.

Cellulosic ethanol is more energy-efficient than corn ethanol and uses more abundant and diverse feedstocks that, unlike corn, are not used for food production. Unfortunately, cellulosic ethanol is not

yet ready for commercial deployment.

In the near term, the largest potential for oil savings comes from improvements in the fuel economy of new vehicles, and greater fuel efficiency will help lower the costs of an ethanol future.

To prevent the depletion of soil and other resources, the Club's new energy policy also stresses the need for any source of cellulosic ethanol to be sustainable. The Club's policy also concurs with the Union that energy conservation should be the top priority:

To view the Club's new energy policy in its entirety go to: www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.doc.

Political Chair's Column

by Claus Wawrzinek, Chapter Political Chair

2006 Election Outcome

At the federal level the November 2006 election was seen as a victory for the environment. Leadership in the House and Senate changed hands with the Democrats gaining control of both chambers by a narrow margin. Many of the new legislators have vowed to make environmental protection a priority. Statements have been made that the 110th Congress will focus on Global Warming, energy and other environmental issues.

The results of the election in Missouri, however, left the makeup of the Missouri leg-

islature essentially unchanged. If the history of this legislative body gives us a clue about the future, environmentalists will be working hard to prevent the passage of potentially environmentally damaging legislation. In the past few years, legislation for environmental protection has, for the most part, been nonexistent. In fact, many legislative efforts have focused on weakening our clean water and clean air regulations.

Therefore, once again, we will all need to keep informed about the bills that are introduced that, if enacted, would threaten the quality of our air and water. Fortunately, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club has a lobbyist in Jefferson City to help keep us informed about such bills and any action we need to take.

2007 Missouri Legislative Priorities

We will, once again, be working for a renewable energy portfolio; fighting any bills that would lower Missouri's environmental standards to "no greater than federal standards;" watching for the reintroduction of the bill that would allow businesses to "self-audit" their environmental actions and eliminate the public's right to know when a business has violated environmental protection laws; checking for sand and gravel bills that would contribute to degradation in Missouri's streams; and working for bills that would require the Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to protect the quality of our air, water and land as they conduct their business.



photo/James Dopman

NPS Celebrates 90 years!

The National Park Service (NPS) was created in 1916 under President Wilson with the support of the Sierra Club. Today, the NPS helps to manage over 84 million acres of federal lands (that's roughly the total size of Arizona!). Help us continue to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

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The “New” New Sierra Club Energy Policy



by Henry Robertson, Chapter Energy Chair

The Sierra Club Board of Directors has adopted a “final” Energy Policy.

Actually, this is likely to remain a work in progress, but for now Club entities must conform their actions and statements to this Policy.

The ultimate goals are to reduce greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions by 70–90 percent by mid-century and reduce fossil fuel use to negligible proportions by 2100. This sounds more manageable when put in terms of what the U.S. must do to reach this goal—reduce ghg emissions by two percent per year.

The conservation ethic

“Guided by the conservation ethic, the Sierra Club has crafted this comprehensive Energy Resources Policy.” But “there must be a fundamental shift in awareness, attitudes and values” to spread that ethic. This is really our biggest challenge, for I see precious few signs of a spirit of conservation in Americans’ use of energy.

Recently I was on a conference call with a national Sierra Club staffer who briefed us on the results of a focus group study on

attitudes to energy. The study found that Americans are technological optimists who want a full menu of energy options, including efficiency and renewables but also coal, oil and nuclear. More people are making the connection between cars and global warming but not between coal and global warming. Worse, they’re buying the coal industry’s “clean coal” message. As the Policy notes, “There is no such thing as ‘clean coal.’”

The study also found that environmentalists are seen as unattractive messengers—scolding, elitist and blocking technological

progress. It’s best that we just give people the facts they need to make the right energy choices on their own.

The Policy commits the Club to using less energy and calls on members “to take action in their homes, workplaces, and communities and to minimize the energy impacts of their travel and transportation choices.”

Efficiency

The heart of the Policy is a ranking of energy resources according to their desirability.

Missouri’s Sierra Club’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign

1. Promote clean energy options in Missouri.
2. Prevent the construction of any new coal-burning power plant in Missouri.
3. Reduce emissions from existing coal-burning power plants.
4. Promote a balanced energy portfolio for all utilities in Missouri.

Missouri Sierra Club’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign (CA&EC) is helping Missouri choose a clean energy future and do its part to curb global warming. Our first priority must be to stop new coal-burning power plants from being built while we encourage clean, safe and reliable energy options to meet our future energy needs.

The unfortunate reality is that once a new coal-burning power plant is built it will be our energy option for the next 40–50 years. The excess capacity will effectively shut out the development of cheaper and cleaner energy alternatives. And, since there is currently no way to retrofit coal-burning power plants to capture carbon dioxide (CO₂), each plant will add more global warming gasses to our atmosphere when we know we must act now to reduce CO₂ emis-

sions.

Sierra Club is energizing citizens across the state to demand clean energy solutions while interacting with Missouri’s energy industry and the Public Service Commission to encourage the development of clean energy alternatives. Where necessary we are engaged in litigation with those utilities insisting on adding more coal to meet future electric demand.

Support Missouri’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Missouri Sierra Club
1007 N. College, Ste 3
Columbia, MO 65201

Make your contribution payable to The Sierra Club Foundation, with Missouri’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign written in the memo.

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 Club’s goals in Missouri.

ty. The Policy deals only in passing with important issues like taxes and incentives, land use, agriculture and population; these are left to other policies to consider in detail.

The most favored resource is energy efficiency. Some of the options here are:

- Efficient vehicles. The Club calls for raising the fuel efficiency of cars and light trucks to 40 miles per gallon, then to 55. (We may be able to do much better than that. A Luxembourg-based company called MDI is developing a car that runs mostly on compressed air and gets 600 mpg. You can check it out online at theaircar.com.)

- More efficient transportation modes—especially rail.

- Building efficient communities. Bringing home, work, shopping and school closer together reduces the need to drive and makes walking, bicycling and public transit more practical.

- Tougher building and appliance efficiency standards.

Ranking the technologies

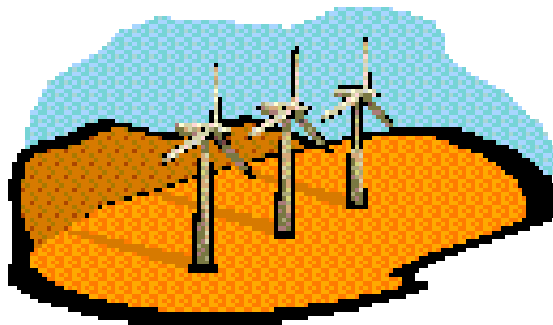
The Policy breaks fuels and technologies into four categories—preferred, generally acceptable, transitional and those the Club opposes. It also shows us how we can accomplish the goals.

Preferred resources

“Sierra Club entities may support or

remain neutral on projects employing these resources... Decisions to oppose a specific facility listed as a preferred resource must be justified with a detailed description of the significant environmental harm.” In this category are:

- Wind. Siting can be a problem due to visual and other impacts. The Club has a Wind Siting Advisory.
- Solar, including on-site photovoltaics, water heating and central station solar.
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP), which



uses waste heat from industrial processes for electricity generation, heating and cooling.

- Low-temperature geothermal.

Generally acceptable resources

These have larger potential environmental costs. Decisions to oppose projects in this category must be “based on the location or other project specific inadequacies.”

- New small hydroelectric projects; these

What the Sierra Club is doing

Missouri Sierra Club is promoting clean, safe and reliable energy development in Missouri by

- 1) lobbying at the state house for clean energy and efficiency legislation,
- 2) working with the Public Service Commission to update utility regulations,
- 3) educating citizens about clean and affordable energy options,
- 4) when necessary, engaging in public-interest litigation.

may include the use of dams but generally not new ones.

- Ocean energy (wave and tidal).
- High-temperature geothermal, which taps hot water or rock deep underground.
- Biodiesel. Waste animal fat and vegetable oil could supply 2 percent of U.S. diesel consumption.
- Cellulosic ethanol. This technology, not yet fully developed, uses whole plants like native switchgrass or agricultural residue, not just corn kernels. As with all biofuels, the feedstocks must be sustainably managed.

Transitional resources

These are preferable only to more damaging resources. We should eliminate them in the long run but tolerate them now as elements in “comprehensive energy supply proposals” that are acceptable overall.

- Existing oil fields

- Existing natural gas fields
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG)
- Ethanol from starch and sugar. It would take another article to list the problems with corn-based ethanol.

Resources opposed by the Sierra Club

“Sierra Club entities may support public policy proposals that include these resources only if they find that the overall balance of the proposal strongly favors efficiency, renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction, and that the environmental impacts are insubstantial.”

- Combustion coal power plants. Research is continuing on the controversial notion of carbon capture and storage, capturing CO₂ and storing it underground or under the ocean. The Policy allows that this research “should receive priority.”
- Unconventional oil such as coal-to-liquids, oil shale, bitumen and tar sands. Converting these to usable oil products is polluting, takes fossil fuel and consumes huge quantities of water.
- New oil and gas production.
- Nuclear power. While voices in the environmental movement are championing nuclear as a solution to global warming, it remains costly and fraught with problems, not the least of which is disposing of the waste.
- New large hydro is not much of a possibility in the U.S. but is gaining traction in Canada and developing countries.

- Forest biomass. “Sierra Club entities may support small-scale forest biomass-to-energy projects on non-federal lands where they are carefully monitored and designed as part of a sustainable system similar to that required for Forest Stewardship Council certification.”

- Municipal solid waste incineration. There are too many toxins in this feedstock.

On the whole, this is an enlightened policy that I, for one, can support. All Chapter activists need to be familiar with it; as I’ve noted, national Sierra Club is cracking the whip to



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Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, (573) 999-7388.

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get groups and chapters to comply. This shouldn’t be hard, though members may differ, for example, over how tolerant they are of the visual impacts of wind towers—beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The final Policy shows that the Club listened to the comments it got from Ozark Chapter and many other Club members and entities on earlier drafts. The result is a better document. Now let’s see if we can bring the rest of America around to our conservation ethic. 🙌

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Preserve the Future

FOCUS

Penny Holtzmann's passion for native plants enriches us all

Visitors to the Eastern Missouri Group's office in Maplewood may be startled to encounter a flourishing wildflower garden tucked between two buildings on Manchester Avenue, just a few steps from the Sierra Club office. Penny Holtzmann and her team of faithful Sierra Club gardeners have been tending this patch of natural Missouri since 2003. Set with a winding walk, this garden spot features asters, coneflowers, Indian grass, and other plants representing Missouri prairies and stretches from Manchester Avenue to the back parking lot.



Penny Holtzmann.

Photo by Gary Vögt.

From vacant lot to beauty spot, this garden has won the admiration of those who live and work along Manchester Avenue. In 2003, Penny, a part-time Sierra Club administrative employee, and office mate Jill Miller, Global Warming and Energy Coordinator, took note of the opportunity for a better use of this formerly vacant lot. Penny approached the city of Maplewood who owned the property and the garden was born. As the garden progressed, misunderstandings with the city mowing contractor and the building owner next door caused the young plants to get cut down more than once until city services and neighbors came to understand what this was about.

Penny's efforts are just the latest in a lifetime of efforts to promote and study native plants in Missouri. She became interested in native plants from early days taking her young children to hike in state parks. Her sister, Marty Vogt, joined her in this interest in native plants. Marty later returned to school to study plant biology and is now the editor of the Illinois Native Plant Society Journal. In 1982, Penny joined the Sierra Club and became active in trail maintenance, volunteering on the trails every month for four years. In 1990, Penny began ten years of leading glade restoration outings. She also is an enthusiastic



Grey-headed coneflower and Indian grass with asters in the background.

Photo by Kathy Bildner.

canoeist, owns her own canoe, and has counted 150 canoe trips.

You can also depend on Penny for helping with lemonade sales and newsletter mailings.

Not a biologist by occupation, Penny worked in medical records for the Veteran's Administration in St. Louis until her retirement. Recently, Penny has worked part-time in the Sierra Club office in St. Louis.

This is the first in a series of profiles of active Sierra Club members in Missouri. 📧

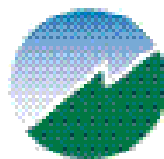
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Ozark Chapter Cosponsors the 17th Annual Heartwood Forest Council, Memorial Day Weekend, 2007 in the Missouri Ozarks!

2007 Heartwood Forest Council

by Jim Scheff

Members of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club are invited to attend the 17th annual Heartwood Forest Council, to be held the weekend of Memorial Day, 2007 in the Missouri Ozarks at Camp Taum Sauk, on the Black River near Lesterville. The theme of this year's Forest Council is *Localism: Answering Globalism*.

What is the Heartwood Forest Council?

The Heartwood Forest Council is the premier annual gathering to bring together forest activists and other concerned citizens from across the Eastern, Central, and Southern United States. This will be the first time the event has taken place in Missouri. We will focus on threats to our regional ecology and human and community health, in an atmosphere of collaboration designed to form stronger personal and professional ties. While addressing and celebrating the work that we do, the Forest Council offers participants an opportunity to identify lasting solutions and proven action steps that will move us as a community towards a shared vision of a



healthy, just, and sustainable society.

The program will begin the afternoon of Friday, May 25 and continue through mid-day, Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day), and be interspersed with ample social time, leisure, lively, local music, dancing and great food. The Forest Council will be family friendly, and kids of all ages are encouraged to come.

This year's program: *Localism: Answering Globalism*

Localism is the idea that our communities, our families, and our selves, should be rooted where we live. Our relationship with the land where we live is to be reciprocal, where we care for and nurture a landbase that in turn offers us food, water, and livelihood.

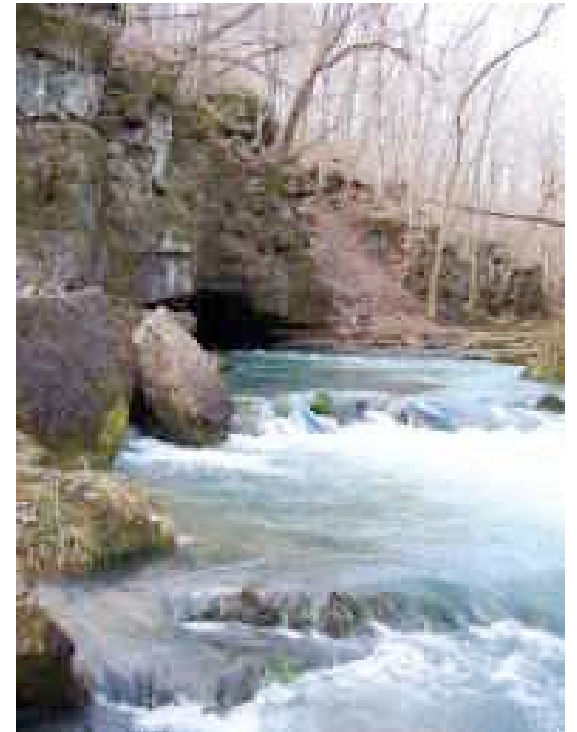
Globalism, on the other hand, seeks to force us into an economy that would have us destroy the land under our feet as we struggle to stay afloat in a global "race to the bottom."

This year's Forest Council will explore how we can nurture sustainable local and regional networks that offer a viable alternative to the dominant economy and land ethic. The program will consist of three days of workshops, discussions, keynote speakers, and field trips. Key program elements will include:

- **Watersheds:** Karst geology, rivers, and CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations)
- **Lead issues:** Lead mining and smelting, from the Ozarks to La Oroya, Peru, the struggle in Herculaneum, and the ongoing hazards of lead in St. Louis and elsewhere
- **Forests:** Public lands management, Roadless and other special areas, prescribed burning on national forests, sustainable forestry and low impact logging, land certification, and land management strategies and opportunities including the use of non-timber forest products
- **Creating viable communities and taking responsibility for our own future:** Localized economies, local food production and distribution, alternative energy,



HEARTWOOD



traditional uses of plants and their preservation, religion and environmental protection, and corporate control of food and seed supply

Participating Organizations

Those participating in organizing the Forest Council so far include: Heartwood, Missouri Forest Alliance, Newton County Wildlife Association, Sierra Club (Ozark Chapter), Missouri Coalition for the Environment, FORGE, Certified Naturally Grown, Ozark Riverkeepers Network, Ozark Mountain Center for Environmental Education, Bean Mountain Farms, Goods from the Woods, and Pan's Garden, as well as a number of individuals with a long history and ties to a wide array of organizations and networks in our region. If you would like to help us organize the event, please let us know.

To cosponsor, make checks payable to "Heartwood," and send to: Heartwood Forest Council, PO Box 1011, Alton, IL 62002-1011. Please make sure to include your name and contact information, and that your donation is intended for the Forest Council.

If you have any questions regarding the Forest Council, please contact Jim Scheff, Missouri Forest Alliance at shagbark12@sbc-global.net or (314) 991-4190. ☎

Food Safety and Local Control. continued from page 1 demand for free-range, organically grown, and non-genetically-modified foods are not being protected by public policy. For example, water run-off from a neighboring Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) can contaminate vegetables. (See sidebar “SPINACH.”) Organically grown grain can be contaminated by Genetically Engineered (GE) grain grown nearby and by herbicides used on neighboring fields. The Union of Concerned Scientists’ 2004 survey found traditional seeds of three major U.S. crops (corn, soybeans and canola) were already “pervasively contaminated with low levels of DNA sequences from GE varieties.” Even the Biotech Industry Organization (BIO) now acknowledges widespread contamination of a number of U.S. food crops by Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), dispelling the myth that GMO can coexist with conventional and organic food crops. No procedure will prevent pollen flow across fields. The U.S. government is now discussing how much GMO cross-contamination is acceptable to still certify as non-GMO. (See “A Growing Concern” at www.ucsus.org/)

SPINACH

In August–September 2006, *E. coli* 0157:H7 contamination of fresh spinach packaged by Natural Selection Foods in California made over 200 people ill; some died.

In a 12–page Q & A dated October 20, 2006 the FDA mentioned possible sources, including “agricultural water (*e.g.*, for irrigation or crop protection sprays), ...animals, ...the use of manure, and ...use of adjacent land.” A September 21 *New York Times* op-ed was more explicit: “this particularly virulent strain [of *E. Coli* is] not found in the intestinal tracts of cattle raised on their natural diet of grass, hay and other fibrous forage. ...0157:H7 thrives in ...the unnaturally acidic stomachs of ...cattle fed on grain, the typical ration found on most industrial farms,” *i.e.* CAFOs. In fact, in grain-fed cattle upstream of the spinach farms the FDA found samples of 0157:H7 that genetically matched the same strain of 0157:H7 that sickened 204 people. In 2003 the *Journal of Dairy Science* reported that 80 percent of dairy cows carry 0157 and that its presence can be reduced 1,000-fold by switching to hay for as few as five days. U.S. taxpayers are subsidizing 75 percent of the cost of making CAFO wastewater lagoons water-tight, thus treating the symptom, not eliminating the cause.

Several county health departments in Missouri have adopted air- and water-quality

CARL POPE TO USDA

On January 10, 2006 Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope wrote to Secretary of Agriculture Johanns about the USDA Inspector General’s audit finding that “APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) issued permits for, but had little to no knowledge of where, genetically engineered ‘pharm’ crops were planted.” (“Pharm” crops are made by splicing human, animal and other unrelated genes into plants to produce biopharmaceuticals or industrial compounds.) Pope urged Johanns to adopt these policies:

- No use of food plants for “pharm” crops.
- No outdoor field trials of “pharm” crops.
- Include in permit applications plans for extreme weather conditions (tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, etc.).
- Include in the application the full genetic sequence of the inserted gene and any partial inserts or induced mutations, and

names of biopharmaceutical chemicals; don’t shield this as “confidential business information.”

- Make test kit capable of detecting contamination available free to USDA and at reasonable price to the public.
- Make the application process open to public scrutiny.
- Specify test locations accurately, with GPS latitude and longitude coordinates.
- Require companies and institutions to carry adequate insurance against liability caused by gene outflow into farms or wilderness.
- Never label genetically engineered pharm products as “GRAS” (generally recognized as safe) unless extensive testing is done; such testing is not being done currently.
- Label all GMOs as such, and require post-marketing surveillance.

regulations to control the size and impacts of CAFOs, and require bonds to counteract sewage lagoon failures which could lead to 0157 outbreaks. Missouri’s corporate meat industry responded by influencing the Missouri Agriculture Department’s policies and by getting bills introduced in the General Assembly that would deny to county health departments the authority to control air and water quality if it impacts CAFOs. In 2005 such a bill died before the legislative session ended, and was not re-introduced in 2006. To build political support for such a bill in 2007, the Missouri Agriculture Department and CAFO industry are now recruiting County Commissioners to their cause. At a November meeting of the Missouri Association of Counties, its Agricultural Impact Task Force recommended a Uniform Standard to be codified into state law to forbid county CAFO ordinances stricter than the state standard. It would not even “grandfather” existing county ordinances that regulate CAFO impacts.

Before the General Assembly convenes in January 2007, please urge your County Commissioner or County Executive not to remove authority from County Health officials for air and water pollution and health impacts of CAFOs. If a model county ordinance is desired for agricultural standards, it should establish minimum standards, not maximums.

food_and_environment. Also, see Foundation on Economic Trends’ “Statement of Support for Genomics Research and Marker Assisted Selection Technology.”)

How and why is public policy inadequate?

1. The U.S. government refuses labeling of genetically modified food. In 1992 the FDA proposed to treat GE plants no differently from traditionally bred plants (thus no separate GMO labeling) and has followed this no-label policy since. Pages 53–54 of the November/December 2006 issue of *Sierra* magazine describes food labels of government and private associations.
2. The USDA doesn’t keep track of where GE seeds are planted, not even pharmaceutically engineered seeds that are not approved for human or animal consumption. (See sidebar “CARL POPE TO USDA.”)
3. The EPA, FDA and CDC do not test the safety of GMOs even though they’ve been proven to transfer toxins and allergens from one type of organism to another; to subject us to increased levels of pesticides; and to adversely affect ecological relationships. A 1999 article for Environmental Law Institute describes the scuttling of FDA’s 1994 draft GMO notification rule, and FDA’s subsequent continuation of its 1992 GMO deregulation policy of no pre-notification and no safety testing. The

Bush administration continues that policy. Also see USPIRG's April 12, 2005 report "Raising Risk: Field Testing of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S." at www.gefoodalert.org/library/admin/uploadedfiles/Raising_Risk_Field_Testing_of_Genetically_Engi.pdf.

4. Politicians at federal and state levels are trying to deregulate GMOs and other unhealthy types of food production. With no hearings in eight years since first introduced, the House of Representatives passed a bill in March 2006 that would wipe out over 200 state laws on food safety without adopting additional federal standards, and would make it costly for states to enact food safety protections, says Consumers Union. Meanwhile, Missouri's Governor Blunt pushed for making state regulation of GMOs "no stricter than" federal regulation, and removing authority from local governments to regulate GMOs. (See sidebar "GMO AND PHARM RICE," and www.environmentalcommons.org/gmo-tracker.html.) Missouri's General Assembly made similar attempts to remove authority from county health departments to regulate health impacts of CAFOs. (See sidebar "SPINACH.") Not to mention that this summer the USDA proposed to cut its wholly inadequate mad cow testing by another 90 percent.
5. Despite the evidence, global seed and chemical companies such as Monsanto have persuaded policy makers that GMOs will benefit poor people and won't harm the environment, and that opponents are technophobic Luddites. (See www.ijoe.com/pfds/IJOEH_1104_Patel.pdf, plus story about Monsanto whistle-blower cited above.) Most transgenic crops introduced into the fields add only two traits, resistance to pests and compatibility with herbicides, hardly the sweeping agricultural revolution touted by life science companies when the GMO era began, says the Foundation on Economic Trends (FET).

Hope amidst gloom: Marker Assisted Selection (MAS)

FET describes how MAS has made gene splicing and transgenic plants (GMOs) not only obsolete but also a serious impediment to scientific progress. Instead of splicing molecules to transfer genes among unrelated species, scientists are starting to use genetic mapping to quickly locate desired traits in related plants at the gamete or seedling stage,

GMO AND PHARM RICE

In 2004 Ventria Bio-Science (aka Applied Phytologics) moved to Missouri from California, where it had violated safety standards in planting rice genetically engineered for pharmaceutical purposes, and where it was denied state and federal permits to increase its acreage of "pharm" rice. California's rice growers and the Japanese Rice Retailers Association feared "pharm" rice would contaminate non-GMO food rice.

Ventria decided to move to Missouri because our state offered both a lax regulatory environment and the best financial subsidies: \$30 million in state Economic Development funds to build new facilities at Northwest Missouri State University at Maryville, plus \$5 million in private donations to finance Ventria's operating deficits. Ventria applied to the USDA for permits to grow over 200 acres of "pharm" rice in Missouri's rice-growing Bootheel area in 2005.

However, Missouri's regular rice farmers got wind of this and objected, fearing loss of export markets. Anheuser-Busch uses rice instead of corn for a number of its beer labels, and its policy is not to use GMOs in its products, so A-B ultimately joined the fight against Ventria growing "pharm" rice in the Bootheel. The fight was won—partially and temporarily—when Ventria agreed not to plant "pharm" rice within 120 miles of Missouri's rice-growing region. Instead, Ventria planted four acres in northern Missouri and many more acres in North Carolina.

then cross breed them using traditional techniques. With MAS, breeding of new varieties remains within a species, thus greatly reducing environmental and health risks of GMOs.

FET warns that continued introduction of GM crops endangers MAS technology by contaminating plant varieties, leaving less pure biodiversity. MAS relies on preserving heirloom varieties and landraces and protecting wild relatives of food crops to ensure that a diverse pool of valuable traits is available to crop breeders. Cleaning up GMO contamination could prove as troublesome and expensive as cleaning up computer software viruses.


In another analogy to computers, FET says plant breeders now talk about sharing genomic information just as Linux and other "open source" computer software proponents successfully share computer code. Thus, sustain-

Governor Blunt's proposal to remove county authority to regulate the planting of GMOs in 2006 was part of the plan to aid Ventria. A January 28, 2006 *Post-Dispatch* article titled "Blunt Calls for Science in Regulating Biotech" described his desire to create certainty for businesses and "to identify ways the state can support and grow the [biotech] industry." But the article failed to describe how science would be used to ensure that state rules were adequate if federal rules were found inadequate. It cited Ventria as a corporation Blunt's proposal would subsidize. Blunt's proposal did not pass the General Assembly in 2006, and Ventria has left the state. However, Missouri's biotech industry will undoubtedly get this bill re-introduced.

Failure to label, track and confine GMOs caused another panic among Missouri and Arkansas rice growers this summer when Riceland Cooperative found unapproved rice from Bayer CropScience had contaminated its exports, causing foreign countries to restrict U.S. rice imports and causing the industry to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for increased tests for contamination. Panic among farmer-exporters had happened before, with corn. Now U.S. rice farmers were facing this drama. The USDA sat on the information for three weeks, then said it wasn't concerned. Meanwhile, prices U.S. rice farmers could get for their crops fell 14 percent.

For additional information go to: www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=7035

able agriculture enthusiasts question the secret patent protection biotech companies now rely on to maintain their control over the world's seed stocks.

For a good background on GMO issues, see Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee's Report of April 2000 (revised March 2001), "Genetic Engineering at a Historic Crossroads." 

Say "NO!".....continued from page 1

solvable—nuclear waste quandary began to sink in to public awareness. Soon, instead of cheering crowds at ribbon cuttings, there were mass demonstrations, legal interventions, public debates, and grassroots safe energy organizations springing up all across the nation.

While the public rejected nukes based on waste, health and safety concerns, the utilities stopped ordering them because they were just too expensive. The last nuclear plant completed was ordered in 1973.

Today there are 103 aging nukes in the U.S. and we face a clear choice. We can gradually phase them out, moving forward to safer, more sustainable options, or we can buy the industry line that nuclear power is safer and more economical than ever, preferable to coal and a major part of the answer to global climate change.

Nuclear Revival? Nuclear Realities

While the Bush administration and the nuclear vendors are pushing new nukes full throttle, and sweetening the deal for the utilities with billions in new tax-funded subsidies, the reality is that:

- 1) Nuclear power's problems have not gone away. No country has yet to establish a safe solution to the nuclear waste dilemma. Radiation is still being released—routinely and accidentally—from the plants and from each step in the fuel cycle. Catastrophic accidents are still possible.
- 2) The straw man argument pitting nukes against coal is bogus. The real choice is between the safe, sustainable path to an energy future based upon efficiency and renewables like wind and solar power, or the centralized, polluting path based upon coal, nukes and other destructive technologies, like shale and tar sands.

3) The claim that nuclear power is "climate friendly" is false. While the plants don't release CO₂, the overall process of producing electricity from uranium releases substantial quantities of greenhouse gases. The amount of CO₂ will only rise if we revive the nuclear industry and therefore need to begin using lower grade uranium ore which takes far more fossil fuel to extract and process. We actually can cut CO₂ emissions seven times more cost effectively through investments in efficiency and nearly twice as cheaply through investments in wind.

4) Nuclear power plants, waste facilities and transportation present a unique set of additional risks that include providing terrorist targets, proliferation risks, sabotage and diversion risks, etc.

Divide and Conquer?

We in the environmental community can't let ourselves be fooled by the utilities' scare tactics. It's just plain wrong to accept the notion that if we don't support them building new nukes, they will build new coal plants instead. We shouldn't let ourselves be trapped into thinking that we need to choose between two dirty, dangerous technologies.

The potential for cutting energy consumption is vast. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, just by investing in efficient lighting, we could shut down 120 large plants the size of Callaway I, saving massive environmental impacts and \$30 billion a year in fuel and operating costs.

A Pacific Northwest National Laboratory study determined that, in the U.S., wind power alone, sited in environmentally acceptable locations, could supply more than three times current electric consumption. A June 2005 study by Cristina L. Archer and Mark Z.

Jacobson published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* found that globally, if we harvested just 20 percent of the available wind power, we could produce energy equal to all the world's current usage in all forms, or more than seven times current electrical consumption.

Space precludes a more comprehensive analysis, but the bottom line is that there is plenty of clean, sustainable energy in many forms to meet our needs. We just need to invest in it.



Safe Energy Wake-Up Ride outside Ameren's corporate HQ in St. Louis.

Photo by Brad Harris.

Act Now!

What Sierra Club is doing

Missouri Sierra Club, represented by Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, has formally challenged AmerenUE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in a process called "intervention."

An IRP is long-range plan electric utilities must periodically provide to the Public Service Commission (PSC). It is a forecast of long-term load growth combined with a plan for meeting that growth that outlines the use of various electric generation options.

It is clear that AmerenUE prefers coal and nuclear to safer, cleaner and cheaper options. Sierra Club opposes nuclear and would like AmerenUE to utilize a balanced energy portfolio with efficiency to reduce demand and clean renewable energy to meet any subsequent growth in demand before considering any other options.

What YOU can do

AmerenUE's long-term Integrated Resource Plan is not yet final. Now is the critical time to make your voice heard. Contact AmerenUE directly, write elected officials and PSC commissioners, and write letters to your local newspaper that make clear that a new nuke is unacceptable and coal should not be considered until efficiency programs are maximized and safe, clean, renewable energy options are implemented. Do this Right now—before they have signed any contracts, invested any money or their corporate prestige—this is our window of opportunity.

More info:

Sierra Club on Nuclear Power:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/nuclear-power.asp>
<http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.pdf> (see pg. 16)

Missourians for Safe Energy:

www.mosafeenergy.org
www.mosafeenergy.org/papers (links to letters columns in all Missouri daily papers)
www.mosafeenergy.org/officials (links for contacting elected Missouri and Federal officials)

General Nuclear Power Info:

www.nirs.org
www.citizen.org/cmep/

Mark Haim is Director of Mid-Missouri Peaceworks and a co-founder of Missourians for Safe Energy. He can be contacted at mail@mosafeenergy.org or at (573) 875-0539.



Outings Continued

A winter sleeping bag (15° rating or lower), a sturdy tent and warm clothing are musts. Falling temperatures will not deter us but slippery roads will. Contact Bob Wilshire (e-mail preferred) rjwilshire@kc.rr.com or (913) 384-6645

Feb. 4 (Sun) Dayhike, Trolley Track Trail, KCMO
Join us at 3 p.m. at the Brookside Market (63rd and Brookside) for a winter day hike along the Trolley Track Trail. \$5 donation requested. Ellen Brenneman (816) 213-2415 ebrenn1@yahoo.com

Feb. 10 (Sat) Maintenance Perry Lake Trail, Perry, KS. Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Steve Hassler (913) 707-3296 steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Feb. 24 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class, Independence, MO. Learn backpacking basics. We'll cover equipment, places to go and more. \$5 donation requested. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar. 3 (Sat) Maintenance Perry Lake Trail, Perry, KS. Have fun with us keeping the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Steve Hassler (913) 707-3296 steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Mar. 8 (Thu) Johnson County "Green" Office Building Tour, Johnson County, KS. The new Johnson County Office Building at 119th & Ridgefield has won awards for its environmentally friendly construction and operation. They give tours on Thursday evenings and we'll go check it out. Anne McDonald (913) 384-6645, pamcdonald@kc.rr.com

Mar. 16–18 (Fri–Sun) St. Patty's Day in the Irish Wilderness, Wilderness, MO. Join us on this multi-day backpacking trip near the Eleven Point River. \$10 donation requested. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar. 25 (Sun) Overland Park Arboretum, Overland Park, KS. We'll visit walking trails, woodland gardens, environmental education center and children's discovery garden. A great family activity. Steve Hassler, (913) 707-3296, steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Mar. 31–Apr. 1 (Sat–Sun) Beginner's Backpack, Clinton Lake, KS This short 4.5 mile loop passes through wooded hills and fields with good views of the lake. \$10 donation requested. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823

Trail of Tears Group

None submitted.

White River Group

None submitted.



SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

Eastern Missouri Group

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

Eastern Missouri Group outings cost one dollar and are open to the public. Leaders are unpaid volunteers who need your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Please call the leader well in advance for details, approval, or if you plan to cancel. Outings start officially at the trailhead or river access. Travel responsibility rests on each participant. Carpooling is encouraged but leaders cannot be responsible for its organization. The Sierra Club does not provide insurance for transportation. Participants sign a liability release form and reimburse drivers for expenses. Be adequately equipped and prepared. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips. Please leave the area cleaner than you find it. For general information about outings call Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 725-1560. For additional outings submitted after our publication deadline and for changes, please check the Eastern Missouri Group website at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>.

Jan. 1 (Mon) New Years Day Hike. Hike to celebrate life. This a five-mile hike through some of the best parts of Meramec State Park. Come celebrate a new year, nature and life. Please no calls after Dec. 25. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or Bob Gestel (314) 296-8975.

Jan. 5 (Fri) Hike the eight-mile loop at Weldon Springs on the Lewis and Clark trail. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 6-7 (Sat-Sun) Annual Winter Backpack Trip. Where we go will depend on driving conditions. Some experience in winter camping is required. You must bring a tent, sleeping bag, and extra warm clothes no matter what the weather report. In the past we have had temperatures of 70 degrees and 12 degrees. We have started out with a light rain that turned to snow at night. Be prepared for anything. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, rgestel@earthlink.net or Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net.

Jan. 13 (Sat) Highway cleanup. Drumming pileated woodpeckers and perched red-tailed hawks enjoy a clean view. Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.



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

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

Jan 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Cedar burning/glade restoration. Escape the drudges of winter confinement and help our parks! Glades are unique ecosystems with an abundance of botanical diversity; over 400 native plants species can be found on undisturbed glades. In order to restore the Washington State Park glades, the encroaching eastern red cedar trees are being cut down. Cedars shade out pre-existing native grasses and wildflowers. The Sierrans will gather the wood in piles and make bonfires. Come one day or both. Spend Saturday night in a cabin in the park. Contact Nathan for more info. (314) 973-4280, nzenser@sial.com.

Jan. 18 (Thu) Tour the Resource Management Company's facility in Earth City, MO. See what happens to your household's commingled recyclables. Single-Stream really rocks! Afternoon talk and tour. Space limited. Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.

Jan. 19 (Fri) Hike the seven-mile Lost Valley trail at Weldon Springs. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 21 (Sun) Day hike in Weldon Springs area. Moderately paced hike of about six miles. Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072.

Jan. 26 (Fri) Hike the eleven-mile loop at Hawn State Park. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan. 27-28 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. We will start at Weldon Springs and work our way south clipping, raking, and removing wind falls. Common sense and a shovel for dinner Saturday evening. Contact leader for time and meeting place. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 2 (Fri) Will the ground hog see his shadow and will we see our shadow on our 7-8 mile hike? Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb. 9 (Fri) Mystery hike location. Call for the solution. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb. 10-11 (Sat-Sun) A two day backpack trip in the Pioneer Forest. From Himont we will hike the Laxton Hollow Trail to the Ozark Trail, head South

and camp at Harper Spring. After spending the night at Harper Spring, we will hike on down to Sugar Camp Hollow where our cars will be parked. Car shuttle required. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 17 (Sat) Hike to Hawn State Park. Explore some of the best back country in Hawn State Park. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 24-25 (Sat-Sun) Cedar burning/glade restoration. Escape the drudges of winter confinement and help our parks! Glades are unique ecosystems with an abundance of botanical diversity; over 400 native plants species can be found on undisturbed glades. In order to restore the Washington State Park glades, the encroaching eastern red cedar trees are being cut down. Cedars shade out pre-existing native grasses and wildflowers. The Sierrans will gather the wood in piles and make bon-fires. Come one day or both. Spend Sat. night in a cabin in the park. Contact Nathan for more info. (314) 973-4280, nzenser@sial.com

Feb. 24-25 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. We will start where we left off in January working our way south along the Blair Creek section and return to camp via the beautiful Laxton Hollow Trail. Common commissary for dinner Saturday night. We will meet Saturday morning and carpool down to Himont with a stop at Hardees in Park Hills. Contact leader for time and meeting place. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Osage Group

None submitted.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

Jan 6 (Sat) Day hiking at Fleming Park, Jackson County, MO. Enjoy the crisp winter air as we hike and explore some off trail ravines and woodlands. Bring your lunch, and we'll provide the hot chocolate. \$5 donation requested. Contact: Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563 paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Jan. 13-14 (Sat-Sun) Introduction to Winter Backpacking, Jerry Burns Farm, Adrian, MO. Experience the mystique of a cold winter's night from within the ring of our campfire's warmth, then sleep away until morning tucked inside your sleeping bag.