



Missouri Sierran

One Earth  One Chance

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For the latest updates, visit us on the web:
<http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

NEW Missouri Wilderness for the 21st Century

By Caroline Pufalt

Think environmental issues for the 21st century and what likely comes to mind first may be global warming, greenhouse gas reduction, carbon footprints, renewable energy and other facets of climate change concern. It is proper that these daunting challenges command our attention.

However, we need to also remind ourselves of one of the earliest struggles that helped build the Sierra Club and, more importantly, preserved millions of acres of wild lands for us to enjoy and from which we reap vast ecological benefits. That effort, the establishment of federally designated Wilderness areas, contin-

ues today.

It's because of the hard work of Sierrans and other concerned citizens that our nation has preserved 106 million acres of protected forests, wetlands, deserts, beaches and high country. While that might sound like a lot, less than half that amount is in the lower 48 states and that total represents only about 2% of the country.

The Wilderness Act, passed in 1964, protects areas designated as "Wilderness" from roads, dams, or other permanent structures; from timber cutting and the operation of motorized vehicles and equipment; and, since 1984, from new mining claims and mineral leasing. With all the pressures for develop-



Lower Rock Creek

Photo by Scott Merritt (www.mowild.org)

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GLOBAL WARMING: ACT LOCALLY

Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign



By Henry Robertson

It started when Seattle Mayor Greg Nickles decided that if the federal government wouldn't sign up to the Kyoto Protocol, he would. He issued a challenge to other US mayors to pledge that their cities would meet the Kyoto goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: a modest scaling back to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

Tulsa recently became the 500th city to adopt the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Now, despite federal inaction, most of the US population is covered by the Kyoto goal. The challenge now is to translate mere words into action.

The Sierra Club took on the mayors' agreement and developed the Cool Cities Campaign to help Sierra Club members engage their own mayors. (Information, materials, and fact sheets can be found at www.coolcities.us.)

The Club's website lists nine Missouri cities as being signed on: Kansas City, Columbia, St. Louis, and the St. Louis suburbs of Clayton, Florissant, Kirkwood,

Maplewood, Sunset Hills and University City. You can register on the website to participate, either to enlist your mayor or, if your city is already on board, to help it carry out the agreement.

There are plenty of cities left to recruit; St. Louis County has more than 85 municipalities in addition to the six that have signed. The most important thing for the Chapter to do right now is to foster communication and coordination across the state so that the job gets done without reinventing the wheel too often.

Alan Journet and the Trail of Tears Group
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Dates You Need to Know

Sep 8-9 Chapter ConsCom/ExCom meeting:
Springfield, contact Jim Turner,
jlaster@socket.net

Oct 5-7 Missouri Chapter Campout
Mark Twain State Park

Nov 10-11 Chapter ConsCom/ExCom meeting:
Springfield, contact James Turner,
jlaster@socket.net

It Takes a Movement

by Jim Turner, Missouri Chapter Chair



The Sierra Club Board of Directors recently challenged us to gear up for more coordinated action by Club members, to address the politics and culture of global warming and other urgent problems. In

coming months we will be hearing more about how activists of the Chapters can make that happen. Without a step-up in actions by environmentalists, social inertia is likely to maintain many habits in how Americans consume and produce goods and services, and those habits will keep on hurting the environment just as they do now. In response, Missouri Chapter leaders are asking all our members to consider joining our on line legislative alert network. Through that network we can provide up to date information so that you will be able to make prompt and targeted calls, letters and emails to our Senators and Representatives in Washington, as well as to our Missouri Legislature during its session. We saw that such calls to Jefferson City this spring really helped. We know that calls can make a difference, even in Washington DC. During the past two weeks, various chapter leaders and I have met with Senator McCaskill's Legislative Counsel Nichole Distefano about the pending energy bill. We also have had follow-up communications with the Senator and Ms. Distefano. However, it's obvious that other constituencies, like auto manufacturers and coal companies, continue to exert pressure against bold action. The present bill certainly will not be enough protect Earth from global warming. We need to be prepared for ongoing action.

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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 **Caroline Pufalt** via E-mail at cpufalt@sbcglobal.net or phone (314) 721-7207, **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 *MISSOURI 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.

Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: **Caroline Pufalt** Editor; **Claus Wawrzinek**, production.

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Please step up to the challenge and if you have not already done so, sign up for our legislative alerts.

1. Please provide your email address for receiving occasional notices of developments that need your prompt comment to our legislators: You may do this by accessing the chapter's website and clicking on "Sign up for Legislative Alerts" at the upper right corner of <http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

2. If you do not have email and would like to provide your phone number for occasional phone contacts regarding legislation, please send us your number. And if you would like to get our "Green Report" mailed to you during the MO legislative session, also provide your mailing address. The Green Report is our occasional publication covering primarily MO state legislative issues.

Mail your contact information to:

Missouri Sierra Club
7164 Manchester Ave.
Maplewood, MO 63143

Chapter volunteers are presently working out of our homes in or near Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, Cape Girardeau, St. Louis, and Kirksville. Contacts to our legislators from a wide variety of ZIP codes in Missouri can multiply the effect of what we do. 📧

The Owl and the Oak

By Robert Emmett Morris
Review by Jim Turner

Robert Emmett (Bob) Morris is a national leader among Sierra Club volunteers. His latest contribution is his Climate Change novel "The Owl and the Oak". The novel conveys Morris's concern that as we try to steer America toward sustainability, we struggle against leaders of the oil and coal industries whose interests lie in maintaining present consumption trends.

Morris indicates that we need to be as personally "fired up" as were the protesters of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights marchers of the 1960s.



To that end, his novel presents strongly drawn characters who are distinctly recognizable as good and evil from an environmental point of view. It makes for the same intensity that readers have found (from a very different point of view) in Tom Clancy's novels.

I quote from the back cover:

"Aaron Woods, the graying single father of a troubled pre-teen adopted son, is determined to directly confront the [oil and coal] industries by organizing a boycott ... The new Executive Director of the Natural America Club, Tony Albritton, seizes on Aaron's idea to push himself and NAC to national prominence. Tony's energetic assistant, Wendy Sparks, develops a campaign

that quickly becomes the seed for a growing movement".

For Sierra Club members, this novel gives an interesting viewpoint on the respective roles of volunteers, professional staff, and activist leaders. But the plot involves far more than meetings. It is a well-paced narrative with plenty of action, and we learn more about the characters as we go. Morris has developed them boldly. His novelistic style seemed good and I was immersed in the story.

Some day in the future, we will know that environmentalism is prevailing, when we will see a writer of the stature of John Updike produce a tale of a typical thoughtful American who is deeply engaged by a shift to sustainability. But in the meantime, we have need for a novel like Morris's. "The Owl and the Oak" presents a view that we environmentalists need to dig deep and find 1960s- scaled dimensions of effort within ourselves, if we are to protect coming decades from the ravages of climate change. ☺

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

Credit card donations are donations to the Missouri Chapter and are therefore **not-tax deductible**.

For a **tax deductible gift, please make your contribution payable to **Sierra Club Foundation, Missouri Chapter**. 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.

Mail to: Missouri Chapter
7164 Manchester Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143

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

Contact Melissa Hope, Chapter Development Associate,
Melissa.Hope@sierraclub.org, (816) 806-6965.

Please do not publish my name as a donor.

Attend the Ozark Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Expo

Visit the Ozark Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Expo at the Les Bourgeois Winery in Rocheport, Missouri on September 22-23.

Learn ways to integrate renewable energy and sustainable living into your life at the Expo's workshops, exhibits, hands-on demonstrations, and speaker panels. Bring the family along to enjoy the weekend's live entertainment, wonderful food, children's activities, and more.

Attend workshops on topics like residential solar and wind, green building, alternative fuels, and simple ways to green your life. Hear first hand from experts on complex issues like nuclear energy and biofuels. Learn more about renewable energy policy change at the local, state, and national level.

The 2007 Ozark Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Expo builds upon the momentum of the July 2006 Expo in Hermann, Missouri. Visit www.OzarkRE.org to learn more.

Do you want to get involved?

Missouri Sierra Club is a co-sponsor of the Expo and will have a table at the event. Additional volunteers, workshop speakers, non-profit exhibitors, and commercial vendors are needed.

Contact Becky Denney, Missouri Sierra Club Conservation Chair to volunteer or for more information:

Dardenne@charter.net,
Phone: (314) 645-3394

Mark your calendars!
We'll see you September 22-23.

Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Expo

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday - Sept. 22nd, 2007
Sunday - Sept. 23rd, 2007
Les Bourgeois Winery, Rocheport Missouri
(just outside Columbia) www.missouriwinery.com

Sign up to be a vendor, teach a workshop, or volunteer ...

Details at:
OzarkRE.org

Contact: Erin Noble
(816) 727-4000
erin@ozarkre.org

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OzarkRE.org
Ozark Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Expo



Global Warming *continued from page 1*

are rallying support for action in Cape Girardeau as part of the Southeast Missouri Climate Protection Initiative. See their impressive website <http://cstl.semo.edu/SEMOCPI>.

It isn't strictly necessary to get the mayor's signature on the official agreement. Cape Girardeau's mayor has not endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement but has signed a Proclamation endorsing the group (SEMOCPI) and its goals. On the other hand, just because a mayor has signed doesn't mean anything's happening. Most of the cities are floundering. They lack direction and they lack a sense of urgency.

Kansas City is miles ahead of the pack. The city Council set up a process headed by a Steering Committee under which are four working groups hammered out the details of a climate action plan, consulting the various stakeholders in the community.

Kansas City's plan was given a huge boost in March 2007 when Sierra Club and Kansas City Power and Light (KCPL) reached an agreement that ended litigation surrounding opposition to KCPL's new coal-burning power plant. In addition to reduction in pollution levels for four power plants, the agreement included the offset of 100% of the global warming gas (CO₂) emitted by the new power plant (6,000,000 tons annually) through the addition of 400MW of wind, 300MW of efficiency, and additional measures yet to be determined. These offsets will largely be implemented by 2010 and fully implemented by 2012. The CEO of Great Plains Energy, KCPL's parent company based in Kansas City, also pledged to work to reduce KCPL's total CO₂ emissions 20% by 2020.

Things are very different at the other end of billboard-fenced I-70. St. Louis has no full-time environmental manager like Kansas City. For a while a climate task force met behind closed doors, but nothing came of its deliberations; you could say it died from lack of Sunshine. Now a special assistant to Mayor Francis Slay, working in her spare time with no budget and with only a part-time intern, is in charge. In a meeting with Missouri Chapter representatives, she asked us to assemble a new task force of community leaders to get the city moving.

The most enthusiastic mayor is Robert Lowery of Florissant. He eagerly accepted the prompting of our own Gloria Broderick and former staff person Jill Miller and held a recep-

tion for the Sierra Club at which he invited us to stock a revived Environmental Quality Commission with Club members. Peggy Moody is our point person on global warming.

Clayton also had an existing volunteer environmental committee; Janet Jump is our liaison. In Maplewood, where Mayor Mark Langston was the first in the St. Louis area to sign on, City Councilman Barry Greenberg is sponsoring a resolution to set up a citizen's advisory group. U City United, an independent citizens group in which EMG members like Leslie Lihou and Caroline Pufalt are involved, is prodding University City's government.

This is a volunteer effort. It is by no means a Sierra Club monopoly. In the St. Louis region, for example, the local chapter of the US Green Building Council is a strong supporter of the mayors' agreement, and the EMG Energy Committee is teaming up with the environmental committee of Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice.

We're all learning as we go along. A citizen's advisory group needs more than just energy-saving ideas; it needs a plan.

A recommended first step is to do a baseline Global Warming Gas (GHG) emissions inventory. The International Council

for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) was doing these long before Seattle's Nickles came up with the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. An inventory identifies the sources of a town's GHGs so that cuts can be targeted. ICLEI charges a fee according to the size of the town, however, and even a small fee deters some mayors. For small towns it may not even be all that useful.

Google the words "climate action plan" and you'll find dozens of written plans from cities of all sizes, from Chicago and LA to Fort Collins, Colorado and Keene, New Hampshire to the suburbs ringing Boston. You can soon come up with a list of measures that are universal or nearly so. Some can reduce GHG emissions while saving the city money immediately. Others require some capital outlay up front.

Lighting is usually the low-hanging fruit. LED (light-emitting diode) traffic lights, more efficient fluorescent tube lighting, and high-pressure sodium street lights all save electricity and money. Surprising savings can be made by changing exit signs from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) because these signs are on all the time.

City governments can cut emissions by
Global Warming *continued on page 5*

Start your own Cool Cities Campaign.

Information
and registration
available at
www.coolcities.us

Ideas for Your City's Climate Action Plan *Saving money and reduce Green House Gase Energy*

- LED traffic lights. NYC is saving \$6 million a year in energy and maintenance; Chicago estimates it would save \$4.4 million a year.
- Street lights. Somerville, MA says one high-pressure sodium lamp saves 265 watts per lamp.
- Encourage Energy Star products and compact fluorescent lights in city buildings and public housing. An Energy Star window can save \$80 in energy costs and 1400 pounds of CO₂ per year, according to Burlington, VT.
- Water pumping. Burlington, VT estimates high-efficiency pumps can save it \$66,800 per year. Also, methane from water treatment can be harnessed for power generation.
- Burlington, VT estimates that lighting and motor efficiency upgrades are saving it \$307,000 a year.
- Try to reduce emissions from two-stroke engines.
- Use Life-cycle energy cost analysis for buildings and appliances
- Chicago and its suburbs told energy companies they want 20% renewable energy (120 MW). Chicago is also building a 2.5 MW solar generation plant and a landfill gas plant on a brownfield site.

Transportation

- Anti-idling ordinances for school buses.
- Investment in public transit.
- Bike policies: bike paths and lanes, racks and locking rings.
- Pedestrian policies: Walk to School programs, walking school buses (a few parents walk the route to school, collecting and chaperoning the children).
- Free or discounted transit passes.
- Carpool park & ride lots and shuttles.
- Traffic signal coordination to reduce time spent idling at red lights.
- Trip reduction programs for employees
- Hybrid vehicles and right-sized fleets.

Green buildings

- Adopt LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system.
- Adopt green and energy efficient building codes including special programs for existing buildings.
- Programmable thermostats can save \$60 in energy costs and 1170 pounds of CO₂ emissions/yr, according to Burlington, VA.
- Chicago is building green demonstration homes, Energy Star homes and solar homes.
- White roofs on flat-topped buildings.
- Waste reduction: Recycling; Environmentally Preferred Purchasing focuses procurement on recycled products.

Education, outreach, incentives

- Encourage electric utilities to offer Demand Side Management programs (demand reduction and energy efficiency). NSTAR, the Boston utility, has commercial building retrofit programs.
- Green Sanctuary programs enlist churches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage congregants to do the same at home.
- Offer energy audits and help with financing for retrofits.

buying energy-efficient appliances and recycled products; giving their employees incentives to use public transit, bicycle and walk; doing more recycling; and including green building features in city facilities.

It can't end with city government, however. In Kansas City, municipal government accounts for only 4% of the city's GHG emissions. Public education and outreach are essential. Cities, and the U.S. itself, should follow the example of Australia and phase out incandescent light bulbs completely in favor of CFLs or even more efficient lights that are in development.

City councils can enact energy-efficient building codes for new construction and retrofits. Where possible, access to public transit should be improved and sprawling land development should be restrained. Flat roofs could be painted white to reflect heat, "green roofs covered with plants insulate buildings winter and summer, reduce the heat island effect and absorb water." City ordinances should prevent vehicles, especially school buses, from idling. These are just a few ideas that occur to me as I write.

There's opportunity here for every Sierra Club member to make a difference by getting involved in their own community. Climate scientists say that if we're going to stabilize the climate, global GHG emissions need to be cut by 60-80% by 2050. The Cool Cities campaign is just the beginning.

Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign:

<http://www.coolcities.us>.

Be part of the "2% Solution":

<http://www.sierraclub.org/twopercent>

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives: www.iclei.org/
For assistance and encouragement for starting your own local Cool Cities Campaign contact Henry Robertson, Missouri Sierra Club Energy Chair at (314) 647-5603 or hrbtsn@aol.com.

21st Annual Missouri Chapter Campout & Reunion

Our annual fall campout will be held **October 5-7, 2007** at beautiful Camp "Si" Colborn Group Camp in Mark Twain State Park. The park is almost surrounded by Mark Twain Lake, between Columbia and Hannibal. The Camp has rustic cabins and a large dining lodge. There will be plenty of outings, activities for the whole family (a great Sam Clemens museum), good food, a bonfire, and a chance to form new friendships and renew old ones.

The campout is put together by volunteers, and we could really use any help you could provide. If you would like to lead an outing, assist with children's activities, plan or supervise a meal, contribute items to our silent auction, or just want to assist with odd jobs such as camp preparation or clean-up, we would really appreciate it.

Please contact the Eastern Missouri Group Sierra Club office at (314) 644-0890 or emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net with questions or to volunteer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please send in reservations by Sept 15

To reserve your space, clip, complete and mail the reservation form below, along with a check payable to "Missouri Chapter Sierra Club", to:

Sierra Club Campout, 7164 Manchester Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63143

Maximum fee for a family: \$80. Fees include cabin camping and five meals (Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch). Camping fees will be refunded for cancellations received prior to September 23.

We will mail or email you an information packet containing a map in advance of the Campout date.

Your Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	
Email address:	

	How Many	\$	\$ Total	Name(s) of participant
child 0-3 yrs.		Free		
child 4-6 yrs.		\$8	\$	
child 7-12 yrs.		\$15	\$	
adult 13+ yrs.		\$30	\$	
adult partial weekend *		\$20	\$	
limited income		\$15	\$	
Saturday dinner only		\$10	\$	
total fee enclosed \$			\$	

* partial weekend defined as less than three meals.

National Forest Sales Update



By Caroline Pufalt

In a previous issue of this newsletter we reported on the Bush administration's 2007 proposal to sell parcels of National Forest land across the country to provide temporary funds for rural schools. Our position, and the position of many other citizen's groups and legislators, is that this a bad idea. But unfortunately this administration has a hard time rejecting bad ideas. Thus the proposal to auction off 300,000 acres of National Forest land is included in the president's 2008 proposed budget. Included are about 21,500 acres from Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest.

The basics of this misbegotten notion is that because rural schools, primarily in the northwest receive less money than they did in the 1980s from a portion of timber sales in neighboring National Forests, we should now sacrifice National Forest land across the country to provide a short term funding solution. Actually we had a longer term funding solution in a program called the Secure Rural School and Community Development Act of 2000. But that is up for renewal and the administration cannot or will not find the funds elsewhere to renew it.

The proposal to replace that program with a shortsighted one time sell off of public lands received such opposition last year that when reintroduced this year the scheme had to be modified to try to appease opposition. The revised proposal was changed to permit a portion of funds gained from the sales to remain

within the state in which the National Forest is located.

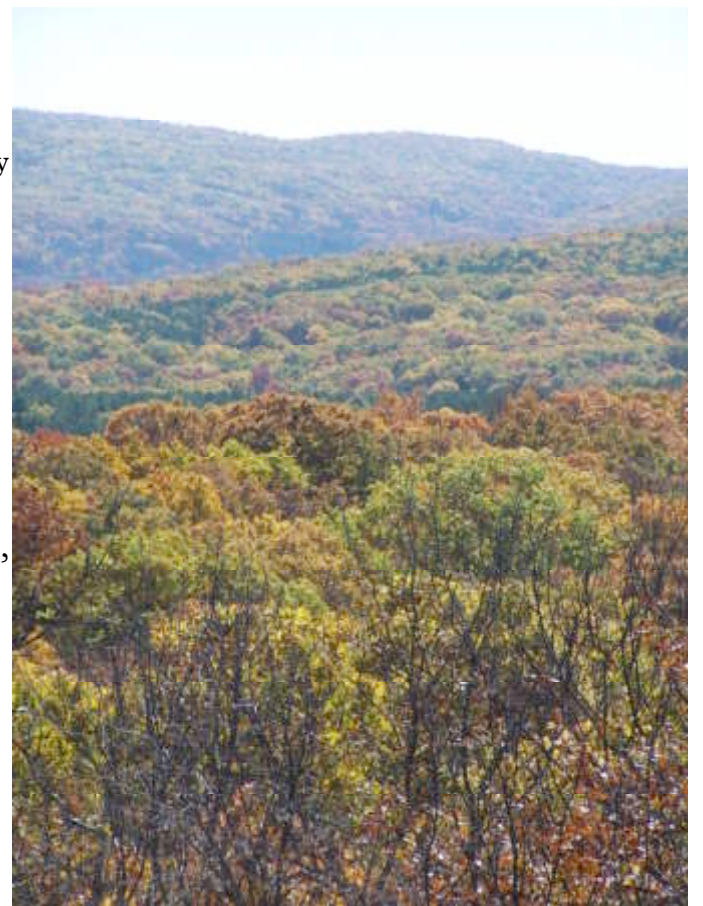
While this makes the proposal regionally more fair it does not change the reality of the proposal. It still provides no long term solution for school funding. And it would violate standard practices by selling public lands without following usual procedures which apply to public land sales, namely opportunity for citizen input, environmental assessment of parcels chosen and the opportunity for land exchange as a means to improve public holdings.

Despite the modest change noted above, the proposal is still unpopular. Most citizens value both our public lands and rural education. But they clearly see this short term fix as neither the answer to education funding or public lands stewardship.

Another nefarious angle to this National Forest lands sale idea is how it could figure in the federal budget. The administration could get credit in its budget for these lands sales as proposals to help "balance" its budget. This accounting option was created back in 1995 but Congress is considering an amendment to remove this sleight of hand.

At this writing Congress is considering extending and funding the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination act for another year. That would remove immediate pressure to support the land sales and set a precedent for more sustainable funding for education.

Also we are not aware of any Missouri Representative or Senator who has come out



Van East Mountain

Photo by Jim Scheff

fully in favor of this National Forest land sale proposal. But, it is always a good idea to let your legislators know your opposition. After all this is a bad idea that keeps coming back. ☹️

Contact your U.S. legislators to let them know you oppose the sale of National Forest lands.

www.senate.gov
www.house.gov

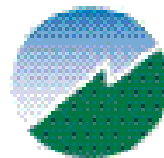
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Mark Twain National Forest Appeal Rejected

Some gains negotiated for Lower Rock Creek

By Caroline Pufalt

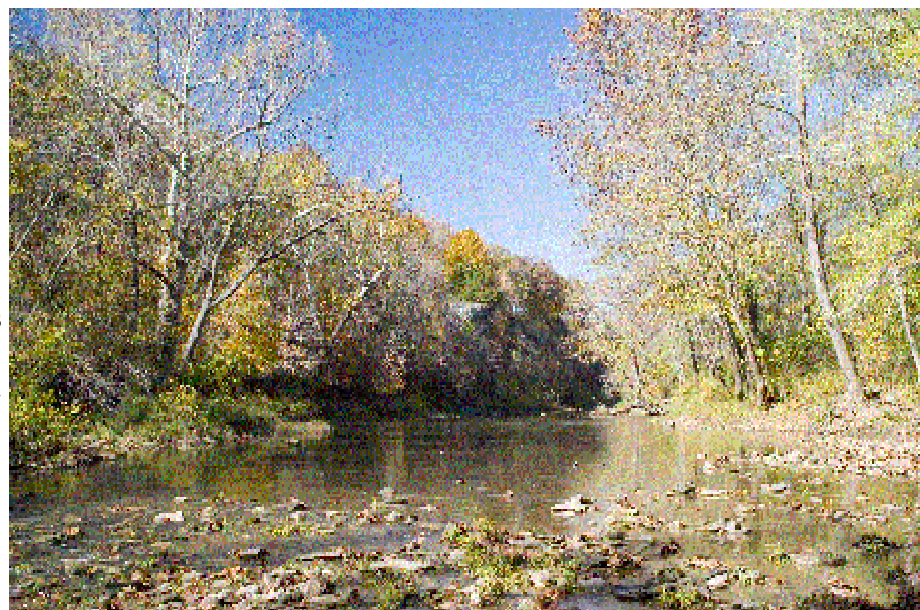
In prior issues of this newsletter we discussed our administrative appeal of the new Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) plan. The Missouri chapter, along with other citizen conservation organizations, filed an administrative appeal of the 2005 Mark Twain National Forest Management plan. See the Oct-Dec 2006 Missouri Sierran issue for an explanation of key issues in our appeal.

The Forest Service appeal process provides for the possibility of negotiation with the Regional Forester while at the same time the U.S. Forest Service Office of the Chief conducts a review of the appeal. In our case the Regional Forester is located in Minneapolis and the USFS Chief is in Washington, DC.

In early 2006 we embarked on negotiations with the Regional Forester along with our fel-

low appellants: Heartwood, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri Wilderness Coalition, the L.A.D Foundation, Missouri Forest Alliance, Ozark Riverkeepers and Goods from the Woods. Our negotiations soon took a detour due to a proposed project by the MTNF in the Lower Rock Creek area.

Lower Rock Creek is one of the "roadless areas" we were trying to gain additional protection for in our appeal. Lower Rock Creek is



Smith Creek

Photo by Carrie Yonley

MTNF...continued on page 8

Missouri Wilderness...continued from page 1

ment, drilling, and motorized recreation that have changed so much of the landscape in the past 43 years, what more would we have lost had we not fought and won the battle for Wilderness preservation?

We owe those who fought for Wilderness in Missouri a debt of gratitude for protecting the Mingo Wilderness as part of our Wildlife Refuge system, preserving the untamed Irish Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest that helps to protect the watershed of the Eleven Point River, and for saving the special habitats found in Hercules Glades Wilderness for future generations. Would the hike up Bell Mountain and the view atop, still be as grand if it had not been protected all these years as Wilderness?

We appreciate the wilderness we have in Missouri, but the need for protection of additional special areas continues today. The pressures against good land stewardship are as great, if not stronger today than they were in 1964 when the Wilderness Act was established.

A Vision for NEW Missouri Wilderness in 2007

In the 1970s citizens groups, including many MO Sierrans, identified 13 areas in the

Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) as candidates for federally designated Wilderness. Several of those areas are now so designated. Seven areas were not preserved as Wilderness, but they did receive special recognition in the 1985 MTNF Management Plan as Sensitive Areas. This afforded them modest but meaningful protection from routine logging and other activities.

However, that protection was lost in the recent revised management plan for the Mark

Twain National Forest (see accompanying article in this issue). Thus the Sierra Club and other concerned citizens and conservation groups are gearing up an effort to propose new Wilderness designation for the following five areas:

Big Spring (7,600 acres), North Fork (7,200 acres), Spring Creek (6,400 acres), Swan Creek

(9,200 acres) and Smith Creek (2,500 acres).

Lower Rock Creek (13,800 acres) and Van East Mountain (2,500 acres) are also candidates but require some boundary clarifications and may be presently considered for Wilderness Study areas.

Each of these areas currently meet the expectations for Wilderness in that they are wild in character, have minimal or no roads

and provide the opportunity for solitude. Each of these areas has a history of recognition as "special" and worthy of preservation.

Wilderness areas are landscapes in which ecological forces unfold without the heavy influence of humankind. That is exactly what makes it so valued for recreation, study, and renewal.

The 1964 Wilderness Act states that:

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the

A Vision for NEW Missouri Wilderness Areas

Big Spring (7,600 acres)
North Fork (7,200 acres)
Spring Creek (6,400 acres)
Swan Creek (9,200 acres)
Smith Creek (2,500 acres)

If you would like to help in the Missouri Sierra Club's effort to gain Wilderness protection for some of the finest areas of the Mark Twain National Forest, please contact Caroline Pufalt at cpufalt@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message indicating your interest and contact information at (800) 628-5333.

landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain ..." The Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964.

Get Involved: These grand principles are as relevant today as they ever were. 📧

one of the largest and least roaded wild areas in the MTNF. The Forest Service proposal included salvage timber sales and prescribed burns in the area. The prescribed burn plan involved building fire lines and the proposed use of dozers in constructing part of that line. The prescribed burn process raised concerns about the creation of roads, or at least what the agency would later consider roads in the Lower Rock Creek area. Unfortunately our experience with the Mark Twain National Forest in regard to roadless area criteria led us to realize we could not rely on the Forest Service for a reasonable and accurate interpretation of on the ground issues. This was also a key issue in our appeal.

Thanks to all the Missouri Sierrans who responded to our request for input to the Forest Service on the protection of Lower Rock Creek. We were able to achieve modification of the proposed Lower Rock Creek project to limit the salvage logging and minimize the use of dozers in creation of the fire line.

Unfortunately we were not successful in achieving any significant negotiated changes based on our appeal. A key issue was the agency's interpretation of roadless area guidelines and their misapplication in the Forest Plan. The agency ended negotiations late in Dec 2006. In Feb 2007 we received a copy of the U.S.F.S.Chief's review of our appeal and the Chief sided with the Mark Twain National Forest management on all issues. The full response can be viewed at http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/woap-pdec/twain_decision.pdf.

Negotiations like this are difficult. At times it was not easy to wade through the plan issues and keep our eye on our goals.

We thank our fellow appellants for their efforts. We and several of our fellow appellants are now looking at an effort to achieve Wilderness status for some of the areas of concern in the prior 1986 and current 2005 plan. See accompanying article regarding that topic.

Please contact Carolyn Pufalt if you are interested in helping with Missouri Sierra Club's forest issues: cpufalt@sbcglobal.net, (314) 721-7207. ☎

Include the Missouri Sierra Club in your will or trust

Bequests Are Vital

Bequests are a vital and continuing resource that strengthens the Sierra Club's ability to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. Gifts are planned in a variety of ways. Most are in the form of a general-use gift; this general support is the most helpful to us because it allows the Sierra Club to direct funds to our most crucial conservation priorities. However, should you have specific environmental or programmatic concerns, or if you wish to establish an endowment, we would be happy to assist you in planning a gift that meets your interests and the long-term goals of the Sierra Club, as well as goals of the Missouri Chapter.

Bequests for Missouri Conservation

Bequests to our Missouri conservation efforts will support the challenging work being done throughout the state to protect our air, water and natural heritage. We have 5 active local groups and over 10,000 current members in the Show Me State. Planned Gifts are particularly important to Missouri protection efforts as they can provide significant resources to allow continued conservation activities over an extended period of time. Bequests through the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; however, charitable (tax-deductible) bequests can be designated through The Sierra Club Foundation. A bequest may be designated to support the Missouri Chapter.

Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation

Bequests to the Sierra Club can fund national and regional lobbying activities. This support is particularly valuable because legislation is usually the final step in formally establishing national parks and wilderness areas, setting standards for clean water and air, promoting environmentally responsible trade, protecting our precious coastlines, and achieving other environmental goals. However, since lobbying is not a charitable activity, bequests to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible for estate tax purposes.

Charitable bequests should be made to The Sierra Club Foundation.

Under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001, the federal estate tax shelter has increased to \$2,000,000 for the years 2007 and 2008. This estate tax shelter will increase in future years, with full repeal in 2010. In subsequent years, the status of the federal estate tax is uncertain and will require future legislation. If your estate will not be subject to estate taxes, in most instances your bequest can be planned for the Sierra Club without adverse tax consequences. If you believe your estate may exceed this estate tax shelter, you may wish to plan your bequest for The Sierra Club Foundation so that your estate can claim a charitable deduction.

Further Information

If you have any questions about planning a bequest for Sierra Club in general, or for your Missouri Group or Chapter, or if you are interested in learning more about life income trusts and other deferred gifts, please contact

Lori Sullivan, Advancement Director of Gift Planning,
Sierra Club, 408 C Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
lori.sullivan@sierraclub.org; (866) 687-1010.

or

Melissa Hope, Development Associate,
Missouri Sierra Club,
melissa.hope@sierraclub.org; (816) 806-6965.

An eight-lane I-70? That's what they want now...



By Ron McLinden

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has nearly completed environmental studies required for re-building 200 miles of I-70 across Missouri as a six-lane facility. The anticipated cost is in the \$2.5 to \$3.0 billion range.

But even before that gets underway, MoDOT and its friends are promoting a plan to make I-70 an eight-lane highway, with four of those lanes dedicated to truck traffic.

MoDOT has also joined three other state DOT's in applying for federal money to study the concept of dedicated truck lanes on 789 miles of I-70 across Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. (The Missouri chapter of the Sierra Club sent comments to USDOT about that application.)

The concept sounds appealing - you and I would feel more at ease if we didn't have to share road space with the big 18-wheelers.

Senator Bill Stouffer of Naption (Saline County) is a principal proponent of the idea. Stouffer wants to make Missouri a national hub for distribution - even more so than we already are. "I want to pull more trucks through Missouri," he said at a recent meeting.

But that overlooks the cost of accommodating more traffic on local roads, especially in the urban areas. Furthermore, the proposed funding mechanism is a problem. Instead of building the truck lanes as toll lanes, Stouffer's proposal is to increase the state sales tax by one cent. Representative Neal St. Onge (St. Louis County) favors a combination of user fee increases and a half-cent sales tax.

Another major flaw is that neither proposal contains more than a pittance for transit and other non-highway modes. The St. Onge proposal includes \$8.3 million per year for public transit, but that's little more than what the Missouri General Assembly currently appropriates, and less (in inflation-adjusted dollars) than what was appropriated a few years ago. The Stouffer proposal provides nothing for non-highway modes of transportation.

At a "Transportation Funding Summit" on June 11, MoDOT Director Pete Rahn joined Stouffer and St. Onge in support of more money for highways.

Rahn talked about the approaching "perfect storm" in transportation funding - the federal Highway Trust Fund will be depleted in 2009, MoDOT will have to start paying off bonds it sold to finance the re-paving of some 2,200 miles of the state's major highways, and the cost of asphalt and steel and other highway materials continues to increase.

The June 11 summit, sponsored by the Missouri

Transportation and Development Council, attracted over a hundred highway supporters, but there were a handful of transit supporters in attendance as well. One asked what would be done about the fact that public transit in Missouri is "woefully under-funded." The three panelists acknowledged transit needs - including those of

OATS (Older Adults Transportation Services) and other rural transit providers - but didn't indicate a willingness to broaden their programs.

In a Sierra Club message to Rahn following the summit, we pointed out that a highway funding program that relies on the sales tax will compete with every other possible use of that money. Thus, it'll be subject to an "opportunity cost test." What other state needs will go unmet if we raise the sales tax for an eight-lane I-70?

We also reminded him that transportation plans that don't explicitly consider climate change are just not valid. The many measures that our own and other governments will enact to head off climate change, along with market reactions to those measures, will change everything - including decisions about how much transportation our economy needs and what modes we choose to meet those needs.

In their defense, Stouffer and St. Onge say they have offered their funding plans to "get the discussion started." That's good, provided

there's a true discussion. Of concern, however, is that legislators will talk about the problem for another few months, then proclaim

there's no consensus about how to raise the money - i.e., run away from a tax increase as the 2008 elections approach - and leave the matter to the highway contractors and engineering and trucking companies who would write a plan to their own liking, circulate petitions (as they did in 2004 for Amendment 3), and sell it to the voters with a misleading campaign.

Another summit will be held in Jefferson City on July 31, this one sponsored by the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight of the General Assembly. The event is free - no doubt paid for by private interests who stand to benefit. If you can attend - especially if you can represent a public interest organization other than the Sierra Club - please contact us for further information. The more people who attend - in addition to the usual representatives of the "highway lobby" - the better the chance that we'll see a balanced transportation funding package come out of the process.

2007 Transportation Funding Summit information:

If you plan to register for the July 31st 2007 Transportation Funding summit in Jefferson City, please contact Ginger Harris gingerharris@charter.net or Ron McLinden ronmclinden@yahoo.com. ☎

For more information please visit

<http://www.modot.org/expresslane/documents/07TranspFundingSumInvite.pdf>

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/comm/tran.htm>



2007 Missouri Legislative Report

CAFO's: Local control prevails - Farm Bureau defeated again by people power. Easy Connection Act passes



By Roy Hengerson, served as Chapter Lobbyist during the 2007 legislative session

In spite of facing some opponents with considerable clout in the Missouri State Legislature, no legislation which the Sierra Club actively opposed passed in 2007. In addition, a few positive measures good for our health and environment did succeed. However, as usual the fate of several key bills hung in the balance up to the waning hours and minutes of the 2007 Session on Friday, May 18. This report summarizes the fate of the various bills the Sierra Club supported, opposed, or followed closely.

As often happens in the last few days of the Session, bills that still had a chance to pass were used by legislators to add other provisions from stalled bills, creating large unwieldy bills which contained measures often opposed by the sponsor of the original bill. So, we had to stay on top of the fast paced legislative action, in both committees and on the floor of the House and Senate.

This process was particularly demonstrated by SB419 and SB428, both of which came over from the Senate to the House as simple bills which the Sierra Club did not oppose. Then, in House Committee, SB419 was turned into a huge bill with many natural resources sections including "audit privilege" (sometimes called the Polluter Protection Act), which the Club has been fighting against successfully defeating for many years. Likewise SB428 had many agricultural provisions added to it including factory farms/anti-local control measures originally in SB364, which stalled in the Senate due to the controversy over these measures.

Local Control Forces Hold Off Farm Bureau and Corporate Agriculture

The battle for local control (the ability of county and other local governments to adopt ordinances protecting their citizen's health and living environment from large factory farms) was one of the most intensely contested in the State Capitol this year. On one side were the Farm Bureau and its corporate agri-business allies. On the other were family farmers, Sierra Club, local government officials, and citizens concerned about the pollution and social problems brought on by large CAFOs

(confined animal feeding operations).

Earlier in the Session SB364 was moving steadily through the Senate. It had a very contentious hearing in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, Parks & Natural Resources Committee, but was voted out of the Committee anyway. On the way to the full Senate SB364 ran into trouble. The bill's language was modified, but that did not lessen the controversy. This language was then put on SB570, but when that bill came to the Senate floor, Majority Floor Leader Charles Shields (R-34) amended SB570 stripped out the SB364 language and substituted language setting up an interim joint committee to study the issues. SB364 and SB570 just remained on the Senate calendar the rest of the Session.

Action then shifted to the House, with several attempts to add the objectionable CAFO provisions to other bills. In the end the House never even voted on this issue. This was a clear setback for the big corporate agri-business forces. Senators Wes Shoemyer (D-18) and Joan Bray (D-24) and Representative Belinda Harris (D-110) were leaders in the CAFO battle.

Easy Connection Act Passed

Energy issues were also a focus of interest in the 2007 General Assembly. Missouri has not focused much state effort on reducing its energy consumption or developing renewable energy resources; however interest in this is increasing in the Missouri State Legislature. SB54 included renewable energy targets for utilities to meet in future years. The Sierra Club preferred the renewable energy standards (mandates) contained in SB154, but that bill never made it out of committee. SB54 passed the Senate and went over to the House.

Meanwhile support was growing for the Easy Connection Act (also known as net metering). This requires utilities to allow small generators of electric power from renewable sources such as wind and solar to connect to the grid with a minimum of bureaucratic hassle. They With this bill electric customers are only required to pay the utility for the net power they use from the grid. If they generate more power than they need or use, the meter runs backward as excess energy is sent to the grid. This encourages farmers and other individuals to install renewable energy systems to supply part of their energy needs.

HB869 and SB674 contained the Easy Connection provisions and both had favorable hearings. This language was added to SB54 by Representative Jason Holsman (D-45), who sponsored HB869, during House floor debate. The House strongly voted to pass SB54, with the Easy Connection language. Also added to SB54 on the House floor were a number of natural resources provisions which Sierra Club and other environmental groups felt they could accept. SB54 as amended then was truly agreed to and finally passed when the Senate accepted the House changes to the bill.

Senator Joan Bray (D-24), Representative Jason Holsman, and several other Senators and Representatives have been leaders on energy issues. The Sierra Club fully expects energy issues to become more prominent in future Missouri General Assemblies.

Sand and Gravel Mining Bill Comes Up Short

Working with the sponsor of the sand and gravel mining bill (HB628) Representative Tom Loehner (R-112), a group of environmental, fishing, and landowner organizations improved the language of HB628 from what was introduced. However, the Sierra Club still had concerns that the revised bill would not adequately protect streams and stream corridors from the negative impacts caused by mining operations. When HB628 failed to come up for House floor debate, its provisions were added to several other bills further along in the process. However, none of these bills passed.

The issues surrounding sand and gravel mining remain unresolved. There is interest in solving stream erosion issues by taking a watershed based approach. Representative Loehner is putting together a discussion group to do this for the Maries River in his district. This may lead to revised state legislation in the 2008 General Assembly. 📧

If you would like further information about environmental state legislation, please contact Roy Hengerson at hengerson@yahoo.com or (573) 644-2828. Roy served as the Missouri Chapter Lobbyist for the 2007 legislative session.

Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee Report

The weekend of May 5 2007 the Missouri Chapter Conservation and Executive committees met in Cape Girardeau for our bimonthly meeting. Cape Girardeau is the "home" of the Trail of Tears Group of the Missouri Chapter Sierra Club.

Although we call this our chapter Excom/Conscom meeting, it is also a chance for us to get together, socialize, share good food and maybe get in a short evening hike. This weekend was no exception. We met in the evening at Alan and Kathy Journet's house. Their home is a lovely site including a fish pond and nearly all the bird feeders one can imagine. Those of us from out of town appreciated the great home cooking and good conversation we shared with local Sierrans.

Our Conservation Committee meeting on Saturday covered several topics. For example, we discussed our recent achievements regarding Kansas City Power and Light and how to keep the momentum going on energy issues. See last issue of Missouri Sierran for more details on the KCPL settlement. We agreed to co-sponsor the Ozark Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Exposition which will be held in Sept. See ad in this issue for details. Several Missouri Sierrans are participating in local "Cool Cities" initiatives and want to expand the program.

Conservation committee members from across the state attended this meeting, as did some Sierrans from the local area. We also had one friendly German Sheppard who attended,

but he seemed most interested in the breaks.

During the Executive committee part of our weekend we considered more administrative issues, such as budget, newsletter process, and upcoming elections.

We are seeking Sierra Club members who are interested in serving on the Missouri Sierra Club Executive Committee. Excom members are elected by the membership and serve two year terms. Meetings are held around the state and are "hosted" by the local group. Our next meeting will be the weekend of July 21-22 in Kansas City area. After that we will be in St Louis September 8-9. Please join us when we meet in your area.

If you are interesting in being considered for the Chapter Executive committee or would like to suggest another candidate, please contact Byron Combs at (816) 587 9363 for more information concerning the responsibilities of Missouri Sierra Club Executive Board mem-



Chapter Executive Committee (From left to right: Leslie Lihou, Caroline Pufalt, Ginger Harris, Becky Denney, Jim Turner, Henry Robertson, Cheryl Hammond, Bob Zeller)

bers. You can also find a brief list of expectations in the Chair's call for nominations elsewhere in this newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Consider Joining the Missouri Chapter ExCom in January 2008

The Missouri Chapter is seeking persons to run for the 2008 Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom manages the Chapter finances and budget; takes care of Chapter business having to do with office, staff, and correspondence; endorses political candidates after recommendations from the Chapter Political Committee; ensures that the Chapter committees have leadership; and sets direction for the Sierra Club in Missouri. The ExCom meets once every two months in cities across Missouri. ExCom members strongly support the Sierra Club mission to "Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet."

Of the current members elected at large, Byron Combs, Ginger Harris, and Leslie Lihou continue in office. That leaves five members to be elected this year for two year terms. Also one person will be elected to fill one remaining year of a seat that was vacated by resignation.

Contact:

Byron Combs, Chair Nominations Committee (816) 587 9363, byroncom@sbcglobal.net Please let Byron know of your interest in serving on the 2008 ExCom by July 31 or suggest another Sierra Club activist you feel would be an asset to the ExCom.

Missouri Chapter ExCom Election Calendar

- July 31** - Last date for Nominating Committee to accept submissions of ExCom candidates.
- August 14** - Nominating Committee informs standing Chapter ExCom of candidate list.
- August 28** - Petition candidate deadline for submitting their candidacy to ExCom.
- October 15** - Missouri Chapter members receive ExCom election ballots in the mail (Missouri Sierran).
- December 31** - Ballots due (closing date of ExCom election).
- January 7, 2008** - Counting of ballots and reporting of results.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your financial contribution means alot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

**Mail your contribution to
Missouri Sierra Club
7164 Manchester Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143
(Columbia address will be forwarded)**

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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. Car-pooling 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 Wayne Miller (314) 628-9084. For additional outings submitted after our publication deadline and for changes, please check the Eastern Missouri Group website at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>.

Jul 6 (Fri) Washington State Park. 8-9 miles at moderately brisk pace. Difficulty: moderate. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Jul 11 (Wed) Rockwood Reservation. 6-7 miles. Difficulty: Easy/moderate. We will hike the Rock Quarry Trail, the Trail among the Trees, and the Lime Kiln Trail at a moderate pace. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Jul 13 (Fri) Another great view hike at Castlewood State Park. About 7-8 miles. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jul 14 (Sat) Inner-tubing on the Meramec. Enjoy the best of many worlds! On a hot summer day take a cool hike and tubing float. We will start at a picnic table in La Jolla Park (Meramec Caverns), blow the tubes up and plop our hot bods on the tubes in the cool water. We'll paddle (with the power and control of special tubing paddles), walk on gravel bars and wade upstream as we explore the Meramec river from Meramec Caverns. We will leisurely float back down the meandering river through an excellent tubing run and under the 200 ft high bluffs over Meramec caverns. Several options are available depending on the river level. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

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.

Jul 14 (Sat) Afternoon and evening float trip on the Meramec River. We'll put on in the afternoon and have dinner on a gravel bar. We have a full moon for paddling but bring a flashlight for tying down boats afterward. Sorry, no rental boats will be available. Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Jul 20 (Fri) Bike over the bridges of Madison County, Illinois, that is. About 15-20 miles total. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jul 22 (Sun) Inner-tubing on the Meramec. See July 14 outing above for more details.

Jul 25 (Wed) Castlewood State Park. 6-7 miles. Difficulty: Easy/moderate, moderate pace. Margot Kindley, (636)458-4063 or margot107@prodigy.net

Aug 3 (Fri) Late summer flowers should be blooming at Shaw Nature Reserve on our 6-7 mile hike thru the prairie etc. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Aug 4 (Sat) Inner-tubing on the Meramec. See July 14 outing above for more details.

Aug 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Festival of the Little Hills. Join us for a few hours and a great time making real lemonade with other Sierrans at a charming fair in the historic area of St. Charles near the riverfront. New members are always welcome. Jim Young, (314) 664-9392, or the Sierra Club Office, (314) 644-0890.

Aug 19 (Sun) Inner-tubing on the Meramec. See July 14 outing above for more details.

Aug 25 (Sat) Operation Clean Stream. Our annual trip to help keep our paddling rivers clean. We will paddle a section of the Meramec River near St. Louis and fill our boats with trash from the river. Bring a lunch and have a great time with us. Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072.

Sep 1-3 (Sat-Mon) St. Louis County fair and Air Show. The lemonade crew returns for the last fund raiser of the summer. We would love to have each of you join us for a few hours making and selling lemonade in Chesterfield. New members are most welcome as this is a great way to meet fellow Sierrans and contribute in a practical way to meeting the club's environmental goals. Jim Young, (314) 664-9392, or the Sierra Club Office, (314) 644-0890.

Sep 1-3 (Sat-Mon) 3 day canoe/kayak trip on the Mississippi River. Enjoy wide open spaces on a big river and camp on beautiful sand beaches. Some experience required. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247. ley (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Osage Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/osage>

Jul 14 (Sat) Clifty Creek Natural Area Hike and Swim. Walk and swim up a very scenic spring-fed creek in the Ozarks. Bring a lunch and your creek walking shoes. Contact Randal Clark, (573) 875-0514.

Aug 4 (Sat) Clean Up Day. We will clean up a local park, stream, or conservation area. Contact Greg Leonard, (573) 443-8263, or greg.leonard@missouri.sierraclub.org

Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

Aug-Jan Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park, Kansas City, MO. Get on our list if you are interested in being contacted to help lop the invasive honeysuckle at Hidden Valley in our ongoing efforts. Doris Sherrick 816-779-6708 dsher@casstel.net

Jul 7 (Sat) Day Hiking at Weston Bend State Park, Weston, MO. Join us as we take in some of the scenery along the Missouri River bluffs. \$5 donation requested. David Anderson (816) 678-4359 david.anderson@missouri.sierraclub.org

Jul 28 (Sat) Day Hiking at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, Blue Springs, MO

Sep 8 (Sat) Day Trip to Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Strong City, KS. We'll enjoy the beauty of the Flint Hills with an easy, 6 mile backcountry hike, and explore the historic barn and ranch house. We'll finish up with a casual dinner at Hays House in nearby Council Grove before heading back to KC. \$5 donation requested. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 randri@kc.rr.com

Sep 15 (Sat) Pontoon boat ride at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Join us for a leisurely excursion around this peaceful 970-acre lake in Blue Springs. Sign up by the week before to get reservation. Boat rental deposit/fees & \$5 donation requested. Patty Brown 816-737-2804 pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net

Sep 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Swan Creek Roadless Area Car Camp and Day Hike, Garrison, MO. Seven roadless areas remain in Missouri. Under the current administration, these roadless areas have lost their protection and are now open to development and logging. We're working to protect these areas for the enjoyment of future generations. Join us and see why Swan Creek is worth fighting for. David Anderson 816-678-4359 ctheis1@kc.rr.com Co-leader Dayle Johnson, daylejohnson@yahoo.com