



# Missouri Sierran

One Earth



One Chance

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<http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

## The Price of “Clean Coal”

By Henry Robertson, MO Chapter Energy Chair



It's hard to write about energy without landing you in an alphabet soup, but I'll try to keep the acronyms to a minimum. When it comes to “clean

coal,” there are two that keep cropping up: IGCC and CCS.

IGCC stands for Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle. In an IGCC power plant coal is not burned but chemically converted into a synthetic gas (syn-gas) that generates electricity in a gas turbine. The waste heat is then used to create steam in a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG—oops) and the steam powers turbines for a second round of generation; hence “combined cycle.” IGCC uses the energy in coal with an efficiency of 36–39% compared to 33% in a pulverized coal (PC; sorry) plant. There are a few cutting-edge ultrasupercritical PC plants in Europe, and the coal and utility industries say they can work this technology up to 50% efficiency. IGCC is better than PC for most pollutants except volatile organic compounds (VOCs; I give up), which contribute to ozone and smog; I've seen conflicting statements about which technology is better at curbing mercury pollution.

*Price of Coal . . . continued on page 3*

## Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining Accelerates

By Jan Niehaus

**To Help Stop this Destruction:**

- Comment on rule changes by Oct 23
- Write to support Clean Water Protection Act

Coal issues are commanding a lot of our attention lately, from escalating concern about greenhouse gases to the tragic deaths of coal miners in Utah's Crandall Canyon.

The topic of mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining is also gaining national attention. Larry Gibson, a West Virginia activist opposed to MTR, was featured as one of CNN's “Heroes” in a program that aired August 14, 18, and 19 (<http://www.cnn.com/SPEiLeALS/2007/cnn.heroes/index.html>).

*MTR Accelerates . . . continued on page 2*



Missouri Sierran Jan Niehaus with Ronnie Workman at Kayford Mountain Mine.

*Photo by Richard Sprengeler*

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**MTR Accelerates** . . . continued from page 1

Completely surrounded by MTR mines, Gibson clings to a tiny section of Kayford Mountain that his family has owned for generations. Local Sierran Jan Niehaus visited Gibson's land in October 2006 and reported in the Dec 2006-Jan 2007 SierraScape (<http://missouri.sierra-club.org/emg/Sierrascape/S2006M12/sier-rascape.htm>).

### MTR Coal Mining Primer

MTR coal mining involves blasting away 500-800 feet of a mountaintop to get at the coal beneath. (Imagine a multi-layer cake, with the frosting between layers representing coal seams.) Further digging is then required to remove the coal and separate it from the soil and debris. For years, this soil-and-debris mix was considered "waste" material, and dumping it into U.S. waters was a violation of the Clean Water Protection Act.

Then in 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers redefined the terms "waste" and "fill," allowing mine operators to dump this same material—now called "fill"—into valleys, burying streams and surrounding habitat. Current estimates place the total loss of mountain streams at 1200 miles. With the mountains' forest cover removed and vast "valley fills" created, unprecedented flooding has resulted in deaths and the destruction of residents' homes and communities.

Large amounts of water and multiple chemicals are required to "clean" the coal. This step produces a toxic, liquid called "coal sludge," which contains arsenic, mercury, lead, and other heavy metals.

This sludge is stored in huge impoundments, which are themselves grave hazards.

### More Bad News

In August 2007 the Bush administration took another step to further facilitate MTR coal mining.

Under current "stream buffer zone" legislation, mine operators may not disturb land within 100 feet of a stream unless they prove that the water quality and quantity will not be adversely affected. The "proof" required by local agency authorities has been minimal, and it's been very easy for mining companies to secure

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variances.

But a few recent lawsuits initiated by environmental organizations have succeeded in U.S. District Courts.

And the Bush administration is responding with a proposed rule change that purports to "clarify" requirements and "end the ambiguity in interpretation of the stream buffer zone rule." The proposed change was published by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) on August 24. It would effectively remove the 100-foot buffer, requiring only that mining operators protect fish, wildlife and related environment "to the extent possible," using "best technology currently available." The new ruling also specifies that the buffer zone rule does not apply to valley fills, coal sludge dams, or sludge impoundments.

### What You Can Do

A 60-day period of public comment on the proposed rule is mandatory, which gives us until October 23. Before October 23, send your written comments about the proposed rule to:

### OSMRE

Administrative Record

Room 252 SIB

1951 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20240

In all communications, refer explicitly to Docket Number RIN 1029-AC04, which is titled "Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, and Buffers for Waters of the United States."

Specific talking points are provided by the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment: [http://www.appalachian-center.org/issues/coal/2007\\_08\\_29.html](http://www.appalachian-center.org/issues/coal/2007_08_29.html).

Encourage your U.S Representatives to support the Clean Water Protection Act (HR 2169), which would restore provisions of the Clean Water Act that the Bush administration removed in 2001. Specifically, it would re-establish earlier definitions of "waste" and "fill" materials.

As of this writing, Representative Wm. Lacy Clay is the only Missouri representative who has signed as a co-sponsor of the Clean Water Protection Act. The November-December issue of the SierraScape contains an article about Representative Clay's actions.

**Price of Coal** . . . continued from page 1

These advantages aren't exactly overwhelming, and an IGCC plant costs at least 20–25% more to build than an equivalent PC plant. Gasification has long been known in the chemical and petroleum industries but has yet to be built at commercial scale for power generation. A number of plants are in the permitting process; one project in Minnesota was recently set back by an administrative decision.

So what's the attraction? It's being touted as "clean coal" technology because IGCC works better than PC with CCS.

**A decent burial?**

CCS is carbon capture and storage; you could add a second S for sequestration and call it CCSS. We could keep merrily burning coal for our electricity if we could keep the CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide - global warming gas) out of the atmosphere by putting it back where the carbon came from—underground. If CCS doesn't work, it's either no more coal or we cook the planet. The stakes are that high.

CO<sub>2</sub> has to be captured from the waste stream, stored on-site, piped to a secure geological formation, and sequestered there forever. IGCC has a big advantage over PC at the capture stage. The syngas consists of carbon monoxide and hydrogen which, when reacted with steam, yield CO<sub>2</sub> and more hydrogen. The CO<sub>2</sub> can be chemically separated from this concentrated stream of gases.

In a PC plant CO<sub>2</sub> has to be captured from the flue gas going up the stack, where its concentration is 10–12% at best. Amine absorbent binds with the CO<sub>2</sub> and then is separated from it in a regenerator. Incorporating CCS into a power plant is reckoned to cost \$30–\$70 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, according to a Stanford report in Science Daily. The federal Department of Energy puts the cost of capture with current technology at around \$150 per ton of carbon, "much too high for carbon emissions reduction applications" (maybe this refers to retrofitting an existing plant). My faith in statistics is fading, but any way you look at it, CCS is expensive. A mid-sized power plant can emit 7 million tons of

CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

For a technology that's supposed to be the salvation of coal, CCS is not only pricy but unproven. The first pilot project to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from power plant flue gas started up in Denmark in March 2006. Howard Herzog, who led an MIT study into The Future of Coal, says CCS is still in the research phase and will need \$1 billion a year for over 10 years to get it going.

Another shortcoming is that the capture process takes some of the electricity generated at the plant, reducing the efficiency of IGCC by 19% and of PC by 24%, according to Herzog.

Then there is the problem of what to do with the stuff. The only application that promises a profit is enhanced oil recovery

**Renewable energy is great, but it comes in third behind energy conservation and energy efficiency. Conservation is number one. The cheapest, easiest and most environmentally benign way out of the energy and climate crises is simply to use less energy.**

(yes, that's EOR)—pump CO<sub>2</sub> into an ailing oil field and it will boost production. This is being done on a modest scale in an arrangement between the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in Beulah, ND and the Weyburn Oilfield in Saskatchewan. I have one tiny objection to make: how does pumping more oil help solve global warming?

I usually trust the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and they say there's no shortage of geological storage for all human-produced CO<sub>2</sub> with high confidence that it would not leak. Leakage would be a problem because CO<sub>2</sub> in concentrations above 30% is lethal. A natural CO<sub>2</sub> leak at Lake Nyos in Africa killed 1700 people in 1986.

CO<sub>2</sub> is acidifying the oceans, and it

could do the same to groundwater, posing the risk that toxic heavy metals like lead could leach into drinking water supplies.

**Name your price**

So what price do you want to pay for electricity? You can pay, for the time being, for business as usual (BAU, of course)—ever-increasing amounts of coal-generated electricity to light cavernous houses and run car-sized refrigerators, big-screen plasma TVs, video games, 24-hour Internet, and every appliance and power tool ever devised by profit-driven ingenuity. As an unbilled extra you get global warming, up to and including the extinction of the human species.

At a substantial add-on price you can get "clean coal." They'll stash the CO<sub>2</sub>

under the floorboards. I would be digressing if I mentioned the costs of the high-energy life that aren't reflected on our utility bills, such as resource extraction, pollution, waste disposal, and the dirty, tedious and underpaid labor of the poor-country workers who kindly toil for our convenience. Maybe they really are better off than in their ancestral villages, but if we are to avoid the worst of global warming they absolutely must not be allowed to share in our resource-profligate lifestyle. To let them prosper, we must stop hogging the energy.

To replace fossil and nuclear electricity with renewables we'd have to blight great swaths of landscape with wind farms and solar arrays. For the times when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't shine we'd have to overbuild to make up for the loss of steady base load power or develop new technologies to store power for use when it's needed. Apart from that, wind power is now cost-competitive with coal, but solar is still much more expensive even than nuclear.

Renewable energy is great, but it comes in third behind energy conservation and energy efficiency. Conservation is number one. The cheapest, easiest and most environmentally benign way out of the energy and climate crises is simply to use less energy.



# The Greening of Park University

by Roger Hershey

**P**ark University is a growing entrepreneurial institution of higher education headquartered on its historic campus in Parkville, Missouri, ten miles north of downtown Kansas City. Park serves over 26,000 students who study on 43 Campus Centers in 21 states and online through its School for Extended Learning. Park was founded in 1875 and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Since adoption of its Master Facilities Plan May 5, 2006 Park has been committed to an environmentally responsible future. One of the goals of the plan is to promote a unique, beautiful campus setting, preserve its natural beauty, and utilize planning principles that encourage a healthy, attractive environment based upon sustainable design principles. The design guidelines adopted pursuant to the plan require that new buildings incorporate environmentally sensitive building materials. Park has committed that the new student residences currently under construction be built to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Standard.

In February 2007 Park President Beverley Byers-Pevitts signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment committing Park to exercise leadership in its communities by eliminating its global emissions and by integrating sustainability into the curriculum. President Byers-Pevitts attended the ACUPCC Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. June 11th and 12th, where she joined 70 other college and university presidents to publicly launch the Presidents Climate Commitment. The President's Climate Commitment Commission for Park University that was established in June 2007 has been charged by President Byers-Pevitts to develop a comprehensive action plan to enable Park to meet its cli-

mate commitment obligations.

Efforts are already underway to change University policy to assure the purchase of environmentally responsible goods and services. Park is participating with the City of Parkville in an effort to extend public transportation from downtown Kansas City to Parkville, both for environmental purposes and in order to serve the Park student body many of whom are international students who do not own cars. Later this fall the discussion of how to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum is expected to receive attention from the Park faculty.

Park's recent relationship with the Sierra Club began during July 2006 when the Missouri Chapter Executive and Conservation Committees met in the Woodard Conference Center in the Parkville Commercial Underground which is located in space created by the mining of limestone under the campus. Some participants stayed in the Park dormitories and enjoyed the spectacular views of the Missouri River below the campus. The two chapter committees returned to the Park campus for their July 2007 meetings during which they spent several hours working on long range planning for the Chapter. Again, a number of participants stayed in the dorms. The Saturday potluck was hosted by Nancy and Roger Hershey in their Independence home.

On May 4th Park launched its new Civic Engagement Lecture Series. Working with the Thomas Hart Benton

Regional Group, Park invited Michael McCloskey, former Executive Director and Chairman of the Sierra Club to be the inaugural speaker. McCloskey spoke about "Civic Engagement, Environmentalism, his Career with the Sierra Club, and the Challenge of Climate Change." He also autographed copies of his recent book, "In the Thick of It, My Life in the Sierra Club," (which is available through the Park Bookstore)

A varied group of local Sierra Club members, Park students, the general public, the local press and members of Park's faculty and executive staff attended the lecture. Park also arranged for McCloskey to be interviewed live by Stephen Steigman, Producer, Up to Date, on KCUR, the National Public Radio affiliate sponsored by the University of Missouri--Kansas City.

Park's recent actions evidence an institutional commitment to an environmentally responsible future. President Byers-Pevitts hopes that the presidents of other Missouri and Kansas universities will recognize that the well-being of the planet hangs in the balance and sign the President's Climate Commitment.

Roger Hershey, a former Trustee of the Sierra Club Foundation, Missouri Chapter Chair and Council Delegate, is Vice President & General Counsel at Park University where he also serves as Vice Chair of the Park University Climate Commitment Commission.



Roger Hershey (left) with author Michael McCloskey (right)

# Club Member Fights Mountaintop Removal Mining

Profile - Jan Niehaus

By Cheryl Hammond

The Appalachian Treasure multimedia presentation came to St. Louis last September with hideous and outrageous pictures of the everyday tragedy of mountains destroyed and streams filled for the sake of coal. Jan Niehaus was one of that audience riveted to the photos and she took the message to heart. Having already planned a vacation to the South, Jan and her vacation partner changed plans to include a tour of mountaintop removal mining sites in West Virginia. Returning from vacation, Jan volunteered a story for the Sierrascope, the Eastern Missouri Group (EMG) newsletter, that has inspired readers to become engaged in this struggle distant from their experiences in St. Louis.

Jan had a head start writing this story because it is her job every day to write material that is clear, understandable, and interesting. She writes corporate instructional materials, press releases, marketing materials, annual reports, and other materials as a free lance writer. Arriving in St. Louis from Indianapolis to get a Masters in Social Work from Washington University, Jan stayed on to continue her career here, never entering the world of social work, but instead moving into corporate communications. A job covering a national American Institute of Architecture conference started Jan on the road to an interest in energy issues and led to a role on the communications committee of the St. Louis Green Building Council.

Jan has always had an environmental bent. Her 100 year old house is on the Richmond Heights Historical Register and

was built with brick and stone from buildings demolished after the 1904 World's Fair. Jan has maintained this legacy in her current remodeling with a firm commitment to reuse and recycle. Jan has also supported the fundraising efforts of EMG by being the leader on the ads appearing in the Sierrascope for various EMG merchandise.

Motivated by Jan's mountaintop removal newsletter article, EMG continued the mountaintop removal fight at Earth Day in Forest Park and at the Missouri Botanical Garden with displays and collecting letters urging Congressmen to re-introduce a bill that had died in the last Congress that would outlaw dumping waste from mountaintop removal mining in the streams below the mining sites. Since that time, a new bill has been introduced in the 110th Congress, H. R. 2169, to prohibit this practice. With 77 co-sponsors as of this writing, the bill has a chance this year to finally stop this heinous practice. So far, the only Congressman from Missouri to co-sponsor this bill is Congressman W. Lacy Clay from St. Louis. Ask your congressman to also support this bill. <http://www.gov-track.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-2169>

## Learn about mountaintop removal mining.

[http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/Sierrascope/S2006M12/03\\_mountaintop\\_removal.html](http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/Sierrascope/S2006M12/03_mountaintop_removal.html)

*Mountaintop Removal Update Pg 1*

## White River Group News

by Cynthia Andre

It has been one year since a small group of Sierra Club members in southwest Missouri got together to start the process of reorganizing Missouri's fifth group—the White River Group (WRG)—which covers 21 counties

in that region of the state. It has been an exciting and very promising first year.

In addition to holding regular monthly meetings and programs in the fall and



spring, the group has built two important coalitions with others in the Springfield community—one to work on increasing public awareness of air quality and climate change and the

other to support green building. The Group also completed a demonstration rain garden at a Springfield city park in partnership with another organization.

There has been a slow steady growth in the membership in the region during this first year as well an increase in the involvement of the members in the group's activities and programs. Members pitched in to help with the group's year end calendar sales last fall and gave generously this spring providing much of the funding needed for WRG's many activities. (The group was also the recipient of a generous donation from the Eastern Missouri Group.)

While WRG leaders are excited about the progress the group has made in the Springfield area, we are interested in providing opportunities for all our members to become more involved. Along these lines, we encourage members in other areas of southwest Missouri to contact us for help in working on local issues or projects and to be frequent visitors to our newly launched Web site at [www.whiteriver.sierraclub.org](http://www.whiteriver.sierraclub.org) for news of future events, outings and programs in our area. WRG holds regular monthly meetings with programs at the Springfield Nature Center on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ask all the Missouri delegation to Congress to support protection of Appalachian streams from mountaintop removal mining.



# The Off Season in Jefferson City

By Roy C. Hengerson

When the Missouri State Legislature leaves town after the end on the Session in May, Jefferson City becomes a quiet mid Missouri town. Tourists stream through on their way to the Ozark attractions, including clear rivers, streams, lakes, and historic buildings and sites. However, the legislative



action does not completely cease, but rather continues in small meeting rooms, large conferences, and field trips around the state. Out of these activities comes the making of legislative proposals for next year's legislative session. Three such issues are highlighted in this article.

## State Forestry Law

The Missouri State Forestry Law was enacted in 1946. It is badly outdated, especially the Forest Cropland Program which is part of the Law. The goal of the Forest Cropland Program is to encourage private forest landowners to protect and manage their forests by reducing property taxes in exchange for enrolling in the Program. However enrollments have been declining since the early 1970s when 543,000 acres were enrolled. The \$400 cap on per acre land value is one reason for the decline. Another is the generally low property taxes in rural Missouri, giving the landowner little incentive to enroll. The current program is also a burden to counties to administer.

Some of the objectives of a revised State Forestry Law include continuation of a voluntary incentive-based forest protection program, increased use of best management practices on private forests, increased use of trained loggers and foresters in private forest land management,

and recognition of the many benefits of well managed and protected forests to Missouri citizens.

The Missouri Conservation Department convened a meeting of interested stakeholders in late June 2007 to provide input to development of a forestry law revision. Based on this, legislation will be drafted and reviewed to revise the forestry law. It may take more than one year to enact this law, but the goal is to bring a proposal to the Missouri Legislature for consideration during the 2008 Session.

## CAFOs/Local Control

Control of large factory farms or Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) was the biggest environmental controversy in the 2007 Legislative Session. Family farmers, local government officials, and environmentalists won a significant victory by blocking efforts to reduce or eliminate local control of CAFOs. However, we know the issue will be back in 2008. These allies met in mid June 2007 to review the events of the 2007 Session and plan for legislative proposals and actions for the 2008 Session. Involvement of the Missouri Association of Counties will be a key objective. Building public support for the need to control CAFOs will also be important.

During the 2008 Session local control allies will closely monitor the legislative process, assure good communications among the organizations and individuals involved, and plan appropriate activities such as lobby days and other lobbying tactics. The records of individual legislators will be scrutinized and where appropriate will be used in the 2008 legislative elections in order to hold legislators accountable to their constituents. In the 2006 elections local control/CAFO issues became key issues in a number of legislative races.

## Green Building Legislation

Passage of the Easy Connection Act was an important victory for the environmental community in 2006. Now is the time to advance other clean and renewable energy proposals, as more and more people understand the need to conserve energy and reduce climate change-causing

emissions. Two such legislative proposals are establishing a renewable energy standard and measures to encourage the use of "green" building technologies. There will be a number of meetings this fall as legislative proposals take shape. Expect action on energy issues to unfold during the 2008 Session.

## MO Staff is Lean Machine

by Jim Turner, Missouri Chapter Chair

Our Missouri Sierra Club staff is configured to efficiently represent our membership across Missouri in 2008.

Our Development Director Melissa Hope, based near Kansas City, is doing great work in assisting Kansas City Power and Light to meet its obligations for efficiency and renewable energy, as well as other conservation work, and she is communicating throughout Missouri to gather resources for our tasks.

On a part-time basis, our long-time member Roy Hengerson, based in Jefferson City, will lobby the legislature and also attend regulatory sessions in mid-Missouri throughout the year.

Also on a part-time basis, Sue King in Saint Louis is providing essential clerical support to our Treasurer Cheryl Hammond, as we are implementing new web-based systems, provided by the Sierra Club, for our financial and other information. Also, our Conservation Chair Becky Denny monitors our incoming voicemail, and I directly receive email to the chapter, and we both distribute the incoming messages to our activists.

Our Executive Committee believes that this staff is a fine "lean machine" for carrying on our Chapter's business and engaging member-volunteers throughout Missouri. Our staff enables us to project a constant presence encouraging a sustainable and eco-friendly culture in Missouri. Please realize that your donations to our Chapter are essential for our ability to express your environmental values in Missouri.

# Not a Drop to Drink, by Ken Midkiff

reviewed by Chris Buhr

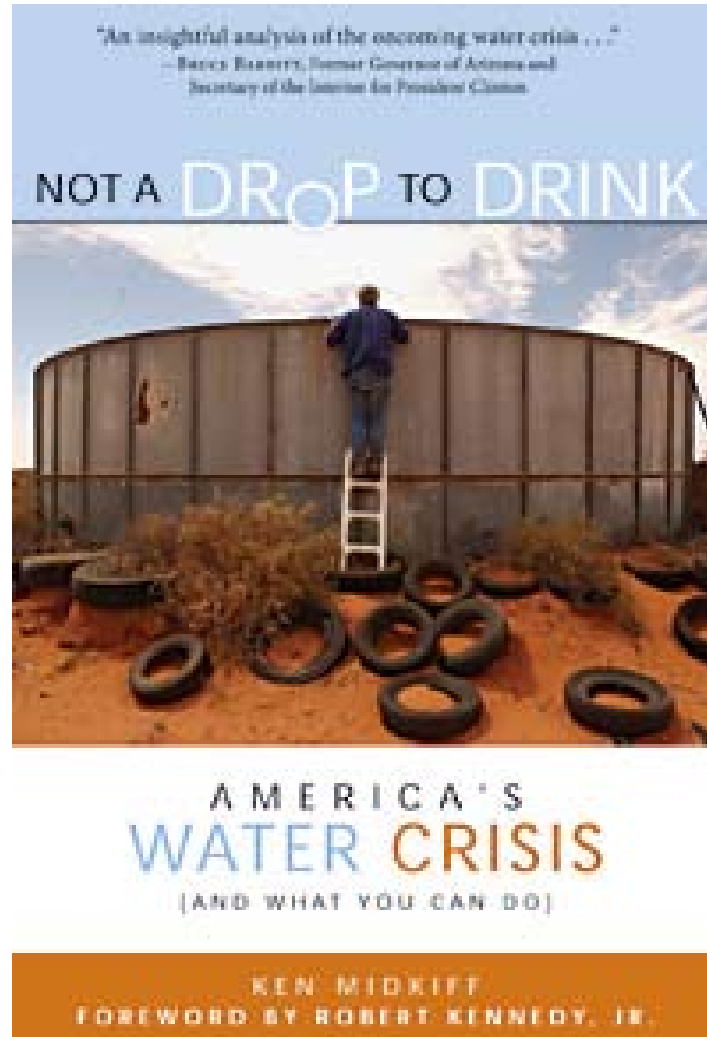
Petroleum-related costs are rising due to scarcity. Global temperatures are rising. The declining supply of potable water in the United States gets much less media attention than oil cost or rising temperatures. Yet, it has the potential to be more calamitous than either of these issues. In the book "Not a Drop to Drink," Ken Midkiff ominously addresses the present and future state of potable water in the U.S. Midkiff, a former director of the Sierra Club in Missouri and former director of the Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign, notes that the entire country faces a water shortage because it has interfered with nature's hydrologic cycle by over consuming water.

This over consumption will more adversely affect areas of the U.S. that get less average annual rain and have fewer lakes or rivers. The author predicts that water scarcity could result in an exodus from the Plains, Sun Belt, and West Coast states. Many cities in these areas are already conducting "water wars" --conflicts with other cities over water. Some cities in these areas and elsewhere use the privatization of water supply as an answer, but the fault with privatization is that it denies citizens a right to water and only guarantees them a privilege to it.

The Ogallala Aquifer, which lies under parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, supplies nearly one third of the water used for agriculture in the U.S. Present practices are depleting this aquifer at an unsustainable pace, more water is taken from it than is replenished. In a few generations the water could be gone unless something is done.

Water problems pervade throughout the U.S. While no additional supply of water exists, each resident of the U.S. now uses an average 50 gallons of water per

day. The water problem transcends simple supply and demand. Misguided agricultural policies are also to blame, according to the author. More than 70 percent of the water used in the U.S. is used for agriculture. The author faults misguided agricultural practices for much of the water over consumption. Unfortunate examples exist of farmers in the Central Valley of California raising cattle, poultry, and growing rice in areas unsuitable for such



water dependent livestock and crops. Thus farmers end up depending on unsustainable irrigation rates. These agricultural practices are in part driven by government subsidies, and they are decisions made primarily by those in charge of agribusinesses. The author faults these subsidies and misuses.

The author clearly demonstrates a broad knowledge of many complex topics affecting water supply, and he succinctly illustrates it through his analysis in the book.

For the environmentally conscious, Midkiff encourages citizen involvement to

prevent increasingly prevalent "water wars". Impassioned citizens can fight inefficient water use through individual conservation of energy and water and by consuming more locally grown food or food that is further down the food chain, and thus likely to be less water dependent. Citizens can also monitor the practices of their local water supplier and that of agribusinesses. They can organize, and lobby their local and national legislators to ensure a sufficient water supply for the planet's current and future needs.

## Wanted.. Wilderness Writers

What could be easier? Letters for wilderness. Your help is needed to advance the effort to add more designated Wilderness to the Mark Twain National Forest. Missouri Sierrans are joining with other concerned citizens in the state to campaign for up to seven additional federally designated Wilderness areas. These areas have long been recognized as having special features and landscapes deserving of protection.

You can help by writing your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives and ask them to support legislation to add Wilderness areas to the Mark Twain National Forest. At this writing we do not have a bill number to provide, but it is not too soon to send letters expressing the reasons you value wilderness in MO and ask your legislators to do so as well.

Visit <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/index.html> for more information and ideas on what to write about.

For additional information on supporting groups and great photography see [www.mowild.org](http://www.mowild.org)

## OUTINGS continued from page 9

Northwest Arkansas. \$10 donation requested. Bob Wilshire, 913-384-6645 [rjwilshire@kc.rr.com](mailto:rjwilshire@kc.rr.com)

**Nov 10 (Sat) — Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS** Join us as we continue our 16-year tradition of maintaining the Perry Lake Trail. Bring a lunch, work gloves, and outdoor hand tools. Steve Hassler, 913-707-3296, [hassler@planetkc.com](mailto:hassler@planetkc.com)

Nov 17-18 (Sat-Sun) — **Bell Mountain Wilderness Backpacking Trip, Potosi, MO** Enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain. From our vantage point, we'll be able to survey Saturday's bushwhack day hike to the summit of Lindsey Mountain. \$10 donation requested. Paul Gross, 816-228-6563 [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com)

**Nov 24 (Sat) — Annual Squaw Creek NWR Birdwatching Trip, Mound City, MO** 300 species of birds, 30 species of mammals and 35 species of reptiles and amphibians call this wetlands home. 300,000 Geese, 100,000 Ducks and 200 Bald Eagles spend the winter here. We're going to stop by and pay them a visit. Great for all ages. \$5 donation requested. Dave Patton, 816-461-6091 [davedahiker@yahoo.com](mailto:davedahiker@yahoo.com)

Dec 1 (Sat) — **Day Hike Mill Creek Streamway Trail, Shawnee Mission Park, KS.** We'll hike a section of one of the best trails in the Metropolitan area. \$5 donation requested Bob Wilshire, [rjwilshire@kc.rr.com](mailto:rjwilshire@kc.rr.com) or Anne McDonald, [pamcdonald@kc.rr.com](mailto:pamcdonald@kc.rr.com) 913-384-6645.

**Dec. 7-9 (Fri-Sun) — Winter Backpacking at Hercules Glades Wilderness, MO** Throw your warm stuff in your pack and join us for a quick weekend backpack. \$10 donation requested. Dave Patton, 816-461-6091 [davedahiker@yahoo.com](mailto:davedahiker@yahoo.com)

**Jan 5 (Sat) — Monkey Mountain Day Hike and Geocaching Adventure, Grain Valley, MO** We'll help you work off some of that Holiday candy on this hike/high tech scavenger hunt in Eastern Jackson County. Great fun for kids too. \$5 donation requested. Dave Patton, 816-461-6091 [davedahiker@yahoo.com](mailto:davedahiker@yahoo.com)

[com](http://www.com)

**Jan 19 (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. Paul Gross, 816-228-6563 [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com)

## Missouri Sierra Club's Clean Air & Energy Campaign

by *Melissa Hope, MO Chapter Development Director*

- Leading the charge against more coal burning power plants;
- Supporting solutions for a clean energy future;
- & leading the fight against global warming!

If we all work together, we can take the kind of bold, visionary action needed to help us fight global warming, end our dangerous addiction to fossil fuels, and jumpstart the new energy economy. Our Clean Air & Energy Campaign is energizing citizens across the state to demand smart energy solutions.

Scientists tell us that we need to reduce our global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050 if we are to avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming, and that we have at most ten years to act before it's too late. That works out to an achievable average annual reduction of

2 percent a year. Everyone has a role to play—individuals, businesses, cities, states, our leaders in Washington, and, in particular, utilities and other energy companies.

With your help our Missouri Clean Air & Energy Campaign will continue to be effective, leveraging recent successes and moving the public, our leaders, and especially energy providers toward cleaner, safer and cheaper solutions to meet the state's long-term energy needs.

### No More Coal in Missouri!

**Sierra Club expects to launch legal challenge soon!**

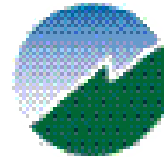
Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI) is moving forward with its plans for a new coal-burning power plant in Norborne, MO. Despite AECI's investment in two Missouri wind farms they continue to insist on a \$1.7 billion investment in more coal capacity. We expect to launch two separate legal challenges in the coming months, utilizing provisions of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), with the help of Washington University School of Law's Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic and Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

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OUTINGS *continued from page 12*

Nov 9, Fri: Call for hike info . Could be the Chubb trail or Pere Marquette but it will be approx . 8 miles . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Nov 10, Sat: Lemonade Volunteer Appreciation Party . Celebrate the close of another successful season at the home of Jim & Phyllis Young, 905 Lami Street in the Soulard neighborhood . Please call Jim Young to RSVP, (314) 664-9392 .

Nov 11, Sun: Caves of Meramec State Park . If you ever wanted to explore a cave without a guided tour, without getting lost or muddy up to your eyeballs, this is your chance . We will explore Sheep Cave , Camp Cave and Indian Cave in the Park . Each one represents a different and unique cave structure with interesting formations . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Nov 16, Fri: Call for information on our Friday hike . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Nov 17-18, Sat-Sun: Two day canoe trip on the Missouri River, close to St . Louis . George Behrens, (314) 821-0247 .

Nov 17-18, Sat-Sun: Overnight backpack trip, Bell Mountain Wilderness area . Jim Rhodes (314) 821-7758 .

Nov 21, Wed: Dayhike . 5-6 miles at Weldon Spring's Clark trail . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@prodigy.net](mailto:margot107@prodigy.net)

Nov 23, Fri: Dayhike . Call for information . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@prodigy.net](mailto:margot107@prodigy.net)

Nov 23-25, Fri-Sun: Hiking on the wild side . Spend 2 or 3 days hiking in the upper Current River country . We will hike into some new areas both on and off trail . We will be limited to ten so call early . The weather, off trail travel experience, and proper hiking equipment will be factors in who can be accepted on this outing . Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, or [rgestel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgestel@sbcglobal.net) Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or [lonebuffalo@earthlink.net](mailto:lonebuffalo@earthlink.net)

Nov 28, Wed: Dayhike . 5-7 miles at Babler State Park . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@prodigy.net](mailto:margot107@prodigy.net)

Nov 30, Fri: Hike the 10 mile Wilderness Loop at Meramec S . P . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Dec 1, Sat: Bonne Terre Lead Mines . Years of lead mining left gigantic caverns many stories deep . When the mine was closed and the pumps were turned off, water filled the lower levels with crystal clear water . This tour will be a walking and boat tour of the caverns . On the way back we will go to the Blue Owl for a late lunch . The cost of the Tour is \$18 . 50 . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Dec 7, Fri: Hike the hills and see the old CCC rock projects at Washington S . P . on our 8-9 mile hike . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Dec 8, Sat: We will explore two great wild areas about one to two hours drive from St . Louis . Come and learn why these areas need to be protected . There will be two short hikes . A great trip for beginners . Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or [lonebuffalo@earthlink.net](mailto:lonebuffalo@earthlink.net)

Dec 12, Wed: Dayhike . 4-7 miles at Howell Island . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@prodigy.net](mailto:margot107@prodigy.net)

Dec 14, Fri: Hike 6-8 miles at St . Francis S . P . about 1 hour south of St . Louis . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Dec 21, Fri: Stay close and maybe see a stray eagle on our 8 mile loop at Weldon Springs . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Dec 26, Wed: Dayhike . Call for information . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@prodigy.net](mailto:margot107@prodigy.net)

Dec 28, Fri: Join our holiday hike around Forest Park for about 6 miles . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Jan 1, Tue: Hike in Meramec S . P . will happen again as it has for the last fifteen years . Hike into a beautiful area that the Sierra Club helped to restore . Mostly off trail hiking . Plan for cold weather . Proper clothing and footwear is required . Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or [lonebuffalo@earthlink.net](mailto:lonebuffalo@earthlink.net)

## 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@castel.net](mailto:dsher@castel.net)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [ctheisl@kc.rr.com](mailto:ctheisl@kc.rr.com)  
Co-leader Dayle Johnson, Outings Chair with the White River Group in Springfield, MO  
[daylejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:daylejohnson@yahoo.com)

October 6-7 (Sat-Sun) — Family Campout - Watkins Mill State Park, Lawson MO Join us for some exploring and good old campfire fun! One of the nicest campgrounds close to KC, and a great weekend trip for beginners. Sign up early so we can arrange campsite reservations. \$10 donation requested. Renee Andriani 913-488-4445 [randri@kc.rr.com](mailto:randri@kc.rr.com)

Oct 13 -14 (Sat-Sun) — Easy Overnight Fun Hike, Adrian, MO. Kick off the Fall Backpacking Season with an overnight trip to Jerry Burns' Farm. So easy, even a caveman can do it! \$5 donation requested Bob Wilshire 913-384-6645 [rjwilshire@kc.rr.com](mailto:rjwilshire@kc.rr.com)

Oct 13 (Sat) — **Beginner Backpacking Class, Independence, MO** Learn backpacking basics in this 5 hour information and hands on class. We'll cover equipment, a section on low budget options, places to go and more. \$5 donation requested. Paul or Melody Gross, 816-228-6563 [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com)

Oct. 20 (Sat.) — Hike, Picnic and Visit to the **Native Hoofed Animal Enclosure at Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO** Bring your picnic basket. We'll enjoy a short hike in the Autumn air, followed by lunch, and a little hot chocolate, then we'll feed the Bison and Elk apples and carrots. Great for all ages. Patty Brown 816-737-2804 [pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net)

Oct 20-21 (Sat-Sun) — Car Camping at Tuttle Creek State Park, Manhattan, KS. Fall is a great time to be on the prairie where we can enjoy a hike on the Konza Prairie as part of our camping excursion to Tuttle Creek State Park \$10 donation requested Anne McDonald, 913-384-6645 [pamcdonald@kc.rr.com](mailto:pamcdonald@kc.rr.com)

Oct 27-28 (Sat-Sun) — Join us on this mystery Jackson County beginning backpack, Jackson County, MO Exact location to be announced to registered participants the day before the hike. It will be fun and close to home. The group size on this easy hike is limited to 10, which includes leader and assistant. This will be a great follow up to the beginning backpack 101 class. We'll be focusing on basic backcountry skills, with an emphasis on Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. We'll hike out by early Sunday afternoon. \$10 donation requested Paul Gross, 816-228-6563 [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com)

Oct 27-28 (Sat-Sun) — Eleven Point River Overnight Float, Alton, MO We will car camp Friday night at a National Forest campground near Greer's Crossing, NE of Alton, MO. We will float Saturday, camp along the river and float Sunday morning to our takeout. \$10 donation requested Terry DeFraties 913-385-7374 [theerustbucket@aol.com](mailto:theerustbucket@aol.com)

Nov 1-4 (Thu-Sun) — Backpacking Trip, Ozark Highlands Trail, AR A more challenging backpacking trip on the Ozark Highlands Trail. Plans are to spend three nights on the trail in the rugged backcountry of  
OUTINGS *continued on Page 8*

# ANNUAL MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

Your official ballot for the Missouri Chapter Executive Committee election is on page 11. The ExCom sets Chapter policy and oversees the business of the Missouri Chapter. It is made up of nine

members elected from the membership at large, plus one additional member appointed by each of the five Sierra Club groups in Missouri. ExCom members are elected to staggered two-year terms.

Of the current ExCom members, Ginger Harris, Leslie Lihou, and Byron Combs continue in office. That leaves six members to be elected this year.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT PROFILES

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### **Chris Burnette (St. Charles)**

Thank you for considering me for this exciting position. Environmental protection is the most pressing issue that confronts our global society but also requires local activism. The Sierra Club has been an inspiration to me and my family for many years and I look forward to being able to help the Club remain the beacon it is.



My background includes a bachelor's degree in American Political Studies with an emphasis in

Environmental Law and Policy from Northern Arizona University and a Masters degree in Nonprofit Administration from Lindenwood University. I am currently the Director of the International Student Office at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. I am active in several nonprofits, including the Boy Scouts of America (North Carolina), the Lindenwood University Campus YMCA (Missouri), and the Sierra Club in North Carolina and Arizona. Originally from Tennessee, I currently live in St. Charles with my wife, Elise, a St. Charles native.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

### **Becky Denney (St. Louis)**

I am running for my first term as an at-large member of the Missouri Executive Committee. I agree to attend chapter meetings throughout the state for the next two years to discuss and vote on state Sierra Club business and conservation issues. For the last two years I have been the EMG delegate to the chapter Ex-com, so I have an idea of what to expect! I have also been on the state Conservation Committee which meets on

the Saturday before the chapter Ex-com to discuss, vote, and send conservation resolutions to the Executive Committee.



My background is really as a stream team member monitoring on Fox Creek and as a lover of Ozark streams. I attended DNR meetings several years ago as the state Stream Team rep to

develop rules for Sand and Gravel mining through DNR. I attended Chip Mill meetings in Jefferson City around 2000 and spoke against allowing them in Missouri. We (citizens/environmentalists) did not get the state action we needed to protect our forests and streams but we did make it uncomfortable for several large chip mill companies so they did not move into the state. Several years ago I completed a forest plan written by a Missouri Conservation Dept forester on my 43 hilly acres near the Black River as it runs into Lake Clearwater.

This is my first year as Missouri Sierra Conservation Committee chair and it is proving to be the most exciting year of my life! Lots of my time is devoted to working on the Clean Air and Energy Campaign in Missouri. Our CA&E Campaign ties into the National Sierra Club emphasis on Smart Energy Solutions—and the push for Cool Cities across the country. I need your help for us to be successful on these campaigns. The Missouri Sierra Club needs your help to fight Global Warming—one city at a time, one state at a time, and one country at a time! Please ask your mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

### **Cheryl Hammond (St. Louis)**

The Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club is the main voice for stopping new coal burning power plants in Missouri.



This has been an important role for the chapter in the last few years and one we need to continue. In the United States, coal power plants contribute 40% of the carbon dioxide causing climate

change. We cannot protect our Missouri landscapes and species without control of climate change. The chapter also needs to continue action in Missouri for energy efficiency and renewable energy, clean water and air, protection of public lands, and smart land use. To do this, the motivation and energy of all our members is of the greatest importance.

As a long time volunteer, I am a current Excom member and am serving as chapter webmaster and chapter treasurer. I also gather environmental news each week from around Missouri and publish links to these news stories on our chapter website. I live in St. Louis and am an internet applications developer.

### **Henry Robertson, (St. Louis)**

I've now served two terms on Chapter Excom. Somewhere in there I became Chapter Clean Air/Energy chair. In my spare time I often represent the Chapter as an attorney with Great Rivers Environmental Law Center in St. Louis, fighting new coal-fired power plants and advocating for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Changing America's energy habits is the key to stopping global warming, which is now the Sierra Club's top

Continued on Page 11...







# MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

## Eastern Missouri Group

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

For general information about outings call Wayne Miller, (314) 628-9084 .

Oct 3, Wed: Howell Island , 7 flat miles . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Oct 5, Fri: The big one!!!!!!! Hike 12 miles around Council Bluff lake to see early fall color . Lake views the whole way . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Oct 5-7, Fri-Sun: Missouri Chapter Campout at Mark Twain State Park . Reservations are required . See the Chapter Newsletter . Join us for a weekend of day and evening hikes . Shared meals and cabins are available . For more information call the office, (314) 644-0890 .

Oct 6-7, Sat-Sun: Overnight canoe/kayak trip on the Current River . We'll be looking for early fall colors in the river valley . Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072 .

Oct 7, Sun: Caves of Meramec State Park . If you ever wanted to explore a cave without a guided tour, without getting lost or muddy up to your eyeballs, this is your chance . We will explore Sheep Cave , Camp Cave and Indian Cave in the Park . Each one represents a different and unique cave structure with interesting formations and unique history . This is one of the 2 most enjoyed and appreciated outings I've led for the Sierra Club . This will be a leisurely walk with time to enjoy the sights & sounds along the way . The drive is about 1 hour to the park . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Oct 12, Fri: Approx . 7 mile hike at Rockwoods Reservation . Should be great fall colors on the overlooks . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Oct 13, Sat: 9 miles at Washington State Park . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Oct 13, Sat: Pickle Springs Natural Area . This unique natural area is a part of the LaMotte sandstone complex of Ste Genevieve county . LaMotte sandstone is the oldest sedimentary rock in Missouri . This is a 2 mile, moderately difficult trail (with rough trail surfaces and considerable elevation) that takes you by

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 [www.sierraclub.org/chapter/forms/](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapter/forms/) or call (415) 9797-5630. Outings cost one dollar and are open to the public. Please call the leader well in advance for details, approval, or if you plan to cancel. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips.

many unique formations with such intriguing names as The Keyhole, Cauliflower Rocks, The Slot, The Double Arch and more . Other features include numerous small springs (including Pickle Springs),

massive bluffs (Dome Rock and Owls Den Bluff), box canyons (Rockpile Canyon and Spirit Canyon), waterfalls (Mossy Falls and Headwall Falls), and a glade (Piney Glade) . Because of the variations in elevation (About 200 feet) several plant communities are evident along the trail . We will relax on Dome Rock & eat lunch and enjoy the view . This will be a leisurely walk with time to enjoy the sights & sounds along the way . This is a 1 . 5 hr drive to the park . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Oct 17, Wed: 5-7 miles on the Green Rock Trail . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Oct 19, Fri: 10 Miles at Meramec State Park . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Oct 20, Sat: Ferne Clyffe State Park . While an apt name, it does not adequately describe this majestic display of natural wonders . Miles of trails weave around, over, under and through massive bluffs and rock formations . The 150 ft long Hawk's Cave is one of the largest shelter caves in Illinois . There is also a 100 ft tall intermittent waterfall . Many species of ferns, mosses, lichens and native plants (More than 700 species) occur through out the park often forming a lush green covering on large areas of rock faces . The bluffs and rock formations are more easily seen when there are no leaves to obscure the view . This will be a leisurely walk with time to enjoy the sights & sounds along the way . The drive to the park is about 2 & 1/2 hours . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Oct 21, Sun: Day canoe/kayak trip on the Meramec or the Huzzah, depending on water level . Jonathan Lehmann, cell (314) 791-3969 .

Oct 21, Sun: Day hike in the back country of Hawn State Park . We will hike the trailless area west of Hawn Park Road . Be prepared to travel entirely cross country . Bring lunch, water, raingear and sturdy foot wear . Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352 or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Oct 26, Fri: Should be peak fall colors on our 10 mile hike at Hawn S . P . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Oct 27-28, Sat-Sun: Halloween Party and Camp out at

Hawn State Park . No trail maintenance this time . Wear costume and come with some scary stories . Wear a costume . Don't be a party pooper . Common commissary Saturday night . Nominal charge for the campsite . Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Oct 28, Sun: Silver Mines Recreation Area/Millstream Gardens . Shut-ins are a unique example of the result of millions of years of erosion creating picturesque wonders of nature . Carving a channel through granite layers, the St Francis River created a multiplicity of boulders of many shapes and sizes . We will picnic by the river at the silver mines area and hike the trail to the old dam . We will also hike the trail along the shut-ins at Millstream Gardens and work our way down to the river at several places . The trail surface is moderate to rough with considerable elevation . Considerable opportunity exists for the more adventuresome . The drive is 1 1/2 hours to the park . This will be a leisurely walk with time to enjoy the sights & sounds along the way . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811 .

Oct 31, Wed: Dayhike . 5-7 miles at Castlewood State Park . Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@prodigy.net

Nov 2, Fri: We head south to visit our friends and hike 8-10 miles at Trail of Tears S . P . near Cape Girardeau . Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762 (after 7:30 pm, weeknights only), thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Nov 3, Sat: Larue Pine Hills/ Pomona Natural Bridge . Larue Pine Hills is a majestic Karst bluff along the Mississippi River South of Chester, Illinois . We will drive up to Inspiration Point and hike along the bluff . The bluffs are about 400ft high . From there we will go to Pomona Natural Bridge several miles east in Pomona , Il . This is a small, but unique natural formation . Larue Pine Hills bluff trails are very good surfaces, but considerable elevation with good switchbacks . The views are spectacular . The degree of difficulty is very flexible with several options . We will eat our picnic lunch in a picnic area close to the car . Pomona Natural Bridge is very unique and interesting . The area is more rugged, but small . The degree of difficulty varies from a walk on smooth woodland trail to climbing around on boulders . Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811

Nov 3-4, Sat-Sun: Trail building/maintenance at Hawn S.P. The last time we worked there I discussed the possibility of rerouting several sections of trail with the superintendent. If we are not building there is always plenty of maintenance to do. Come down for the weekend or just for a day. Common commissary Saturday night. Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, or gestel@sbcglobal.net Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net