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## Renewable Energy Heads for the November Vote

By Henry Robertson

It was a long shot. We could get a renewable energy initiative on the November ballot if we could collect 150,000 signatures in a little over two months. We got 170,000. The campaign had to rely on paid signature gatherers, but 28,000 signatures were collected by volunteers, many of them Sierra Club members—a very impressive achievement in such a short time. It's 99.9% certain the

Renewable Energy Standard will be on the ballot although the official certification from the Secretary of State won't come until early August.

Renewable energy comes from sources that are naturally replenished, like wind, sun, water and plants (if they're sustainably harvested). Fossil fuels pollute, and their supply is finite, but they've fueled this country for over a century. An industry that's been entrenched for that long doesn't give up easily. Renewable energy is expensive and unreliable, they say. We'll do a little bit of it if it makes you happy; just leave it to us.

The answer is a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) that requires utilities to generate an increasing portion of their power from renewable sources. In our case, that will be 2% of their retail sales by 2011, 5% by 2014, 10% by 2018, and 15% by the end of 2020. The RES will build the market, achieving economies of scale that will bring down the price of renewables. Half the states have already adopted this strategy in one form or another. Missouri will be the third state, after Colorado and Washington, to bypass a reluctant legislature and go straight to the people.

The time has come. Economics and the environment are in alignment.

People are beginning to pick up on the fact that the Era of Cheap Fossil Energy is well and truly

over. It's not just the price of gasoline. The Missouri Public Service Commission has warned us to expect record high natural gas bills next winter, and natural gas is also used to generate electricity at times of peak summer demand for air conditioning. By the time you read this, Kansas City Power and Light will have announced substantial cost overruns for the construction of their new coal-fired plant in Platte County. And AmerenUE expects to spend \$6 billion on a new nuclear plant. I guarantee you it will cost a lot more than that.

There wasn't much time to sit back and

relax after the successful signature campaign. "Renewable energy" has a good, friendly vibe, but the general public is not well informed about it. The "Vote Yes" campaign will have to



educate the electorate and dispel misconceptions.

Passing the RES is the most important thing we can do for clean energy in Missouri. I urge all Sierra Club members to get involved.

### Who's who?

From the start the RES has had the support of the Sierra Club and a wide coalition of environmental groups all over the state, as well as Missouri's small renewable energy industry, the handful of companies that install solar and wind devices at homes and businesses. The push really began with the 2006 Environmental Summit organized by

Missouri Votes Conservation (MVC) to bring the state's green groups together around a common set of legislative priorities.

Renew Missouri spearheaded the petition drive. As the campaign gathered momentum, national organizations got interested and started kicking in money, notably the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, and the American Wind Energy Association. All these groups have a local presence: Sierra's Missouri Chapter and five groups, MVC, and Wind Capital Group (developer of the first wind farms in Missouri) respectively.

See page 12 for  
2008 EMG Harvest Celebration

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Obviously this effort is important beyond Missouri, but we want to see our strong home state support continue both financially and in the form of citizen action.

### What you can do?

A new, temporary organization, Missourians for Cleaner Cheaper Energy, has formed to run the "Vote Yes" campaign. Go to their website, [www.missouricleanenergy.org](http://www.missouricleanenergy.org). Click on "Get involved" to sign up. You can do something as simple as get a yard sign or make a donation. Click on "Send a message" and you can send an e-mail to people you know. Or you can do much more.

We don't have to worry about getting out the vote; the presidential campaign will take care of that. We need to educate the vote. MCCE plans to hold forums around the state to tell people about renewable energy.

Tax-exempt 501(c)3 groups like the Sierra Club aren't allowed to spend much time or money directly lobbying for a ballot measure to pass, but we can always educate. The Sierra Club has similar plans to get the message out to citizens and media in the communities where we're active.

### What the RES will do?

When I was out collecting signatures I heard a number of questions about the RES. Now is a good time to clarify some things.

A lot of questions concern the definition of "renewable energy resources." Basically, these are:

- **Wind**, both large (utility scale) and small.
- **Solar**. Don't expect the utilities to build central station solar power plants. Solar will come from customers generating their own electricity and feeding the excess onto the utility grid. In fact, 2% of the RES goal must be met by solar. This is known as a "solar carve-out" and is meant to build the solar industry, which is still hampered by high costs in the absence of technological breakthroughs. The RES also requires the utilities to offer rebates of \$2 per watt to help customers finance their solar installations.
- **Dedicated energy crops**. This means plants grown solely for use in generating electricity, like switchgrass, not food crops like corn. Corn ethanol would not be used for electricity anyway.
- **Plant residues**. This means mainly the leftovers from logging or harvesting crops. These must be harvested sustainably, and the Department of Natural Resources is charged with making regulations to ensure this.
- **Hydropower** up to 10 megawatts not involving new diversions or impoundments of water. This is "run of the river" hydro—

no new dams.

It's also important to know what's **not considered renewable**: nuclear power, pumped storage facilities like the collapsed Taum Sauk reservoir, animal waste like manure from factory farms, chemically treated wood, old tires or municipal solid waste. If it's not on the list of renewable energy resources, then it can't be used to meet the targets.

### What will it cost?

The RES guarantees that it will not increase rates more than 1% over what they would otherwise be. Based on experience in other states, the rate impact should be no more than a fraction of 1%. Rates may even decrease.

### Who's covered?

The RES applies to Missouri's four investor-owned utilities (IOUs)—AmerenUE, KCPL, Aquila and Empire District Electric. It doesn't apply to rural electric cooperatives or municipal utilities.

Renewable Energy Credits (REC): The utilities won't have to build their own renewable generating facilities. We'd like them to, and the RES encourages economic development and job creation in Missouri by allowing 25% extra credit towards the goal for in-state generation. However, the targets can also be met by purchasing RECs.

When, say, a wind farm anywhere in the country generates power, that power is the same as any other—it's just electrons. But it has additional value because it came from a clean, renewable source, and that extra value can be sold on the market as a Renewable Energy Credit. So if AmerenUE decides that the wind in its service territory doesn't make a wind farm economical, it can buy RECs from a wind farm somewhere else. But the electricity must still be delivered to customers in Missouri. It could come from a Kansas or Illinois wind farm but probably not one in California.

People sometimes asked me if the RES is like AmerenUE's "Pure Power" program. Pure Power is a "green pricing" program; customers volunteer to pay a premium as a way of investing in renewable energy somewhere in the country. AmerenUE buys RECs with the Pure Power premiums; in that way it's similar. When people asked me about this, I told them that with the RES they wouldn't have to pay extra for renewable electricity (beyond that maximum 1%).

The RES should unite environmentalists, nsumer advocates, labor and everyone concerned about energy and the future of our planet.

To volunteer contact *Melissa Hope*:  
816.806.6965 or [melissa.hope@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.hope@sierraclub.org).

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We strongly prefer to receive material by email. All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: **Caroline Pufalt, Editor; Heather Henke, Design Layout.**

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# Omnibus Energy Bill Passes Despite Late Session Filibuster On Village Bill

By Roy C. Hengerson

There was great interest in energy and global climate change issues during the 2008 Session of the Missouri Legislature, resulting in many bills dealing with energy issues. The Sierra Club supported most of those bills. However, many made little progress through the legislative process because of the slow pace of activity and controversies over other issues. High gasoline prices and increasing public concern about global warming did put pressure on legislators to enact something to address energy issues.

Going into the last week of the Session, essentially only one energy bill was still in play – SB1181. After hearing a number of energy-related bills, the Senate Commerce, Energy, and Environment Committee, chaired by Senator Kevin Engler, put together various measures from other energy bills into Senate Bill 1181, which became the omnibus vehicle for energy-related legislation. Senators Kevin Engler, Joan Bray, and Jeff Smith were particularly active in these efforts.

But SB1181 ran into a problem in the last couple of days of the Session, as did all bills which had not made it completely through the, sometimes cumbersome, legislative process. SB1181 was still in Conference Committee but could not move forward due to a battle which carried over from the 2007 Session over the so-called “Village bill”.

This measure was slipped into other legislation by House Speaker Rod Jetton in 2007; it would allow an individual (or small group of individuals) to incorporate their property into a “Village” and then, by virtue of being a “Village” being able to choose not follow local and county ordinances already in place. It could even be used to site a CAFO (large factory farm) in an area over strong objections of citizens in that area. It was reintroduced in 2008. A measure to repeal this provision was staunchly fought by Jetton and his supporters, but other legislators, including Senate and House Republicans, turned up the heat. In the closing hours of the 2008 Session the Senate continued to filibuster all legislation into the last days and nights of the Session. Finally, at about 4:00 a.m. on Friday, May 16th, Jetton relented. That allowed a flood of bills, including SB 1181, to be enacted that last

day of Session.

## Provisions in SB1181

Among the provisions of SB1181 are:

New or renovated state buildings must meet minimum energy standards and 10% of maintenance expenses must be used for energy conservation. Tax incentives for energy efficiency are available to taxpayers and there is created a green sales tax holiday in April for one week for Energy Star certified appliances. Schools must meet green school cleaning policies. Inter-Agency collaboration to secure energy grants is mandated. The Missouri Energy Task Force must report periodically to the Governor and General Assembly. The Missouri DNR is to certify home energy auditors. Product Energy Efficiency Standards shall be adopted and updated by the Missouri DNR.

## Aquila Bailout Measure

The only provision that the Sierra Club strongly opposed, but which was enacted, was the “Aquila bailout language”. This measure allows the Public Service Commission (PSC) to permit utility facilities after the fact. Aquila Company had built a natural gas fired peaking power plant in Cass County, despite violating local zoning ordinances and not receiving a permit from the PSC. After losing several court rulings, Aquila then went to the Legislature to get permission to keep their already built power plant. The original language was completely open-ended, meaning that it could apply to other facilities as well. However, we were able to get that improved so it only applies to Aquila’s South Harper plant. Still, this sets a bad precedent and we continued to oppose the bill. The language was added to several bills, and the idea of requiring the Harper South plant to be dismantled was one that most legislators from both parties could not support. The language would up in SB720, which was finally passed.

## Energy Efficiency

Coming out of the settlement agreement between Sierra Club and Kansas City Power & Light, SB1277 was introduced by Senator Delbert Scott. The bill’s goal was to encourage utility investments in energy efficiency and conservation. However, the bill was complex and there were some concerns that the bill’s language could lead to weakening of the Public Service Commission’s ability to control rates charged consumers of electricity and natural gas. After having a hearing in mid April in the Senate Commerce, Energy, and Environment Committee, on April 17 that Committee declined to vote do pass on SB1277, thereby killing the bill. Further work on energy efficiency legislative language is needed so a revised bill can be brought back for the 2009 Session.

## CAFOs/Local Control

Family farmers, local government officials, and environmentalists continued to guard against legislation that would take away counties’ ability to regulate large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) during the 2008 Session. No such legislation was ever introduced despite some talk a bill would be filed. However, other related agricultural issues were followed closely in the 2008 Session. One such issue was giving subsidies to large CAFOs to help them with their costs of controlling their pollution. Such costs should be part of the expenses of operating these polluting facilities, and not subsidized by government. Despite such a provision being added to several bills during the 2008 Session local, we were successful in preventing its enactment.

To learn how specific environmental bills fared you can use the Sierra Club legislative tracking report available on the internet to follow the progress of bills of interest. Go to the Sierra Club website at [www.missouri.sierraclub.org](http://www.missouri.sierraclub.org) and then click on track legislation in the upper right area of the website. Clicking on the bill number in the report connects you to the state legislative website for specific information on the bill.

*For more information on the Sierra Club’s state legislative program please contact Roy Hengerson at (573) 644-2828 or [roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org](mailto:roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org).*

## Hope Joins Coal Campaign

That’s **Melissa Hope**, and she has recently joined the Sierra Club’s National Coal Campaign as Associate Regional Field Staff.

**Congratulations to Melissa!** She served several years as Missouri Chapter’s Development Director and helped develop and implement our fundraising program, while also working on conservation issues. We will miss her direct help on our Chapter efforts, but know she is continuing to contribute to our greater conservation goals. In fact, Melissa is staying in the Kansas City area and will be working with Sierrans in Missouri and other region states.

The club’s “Coal Campaign” is a nationwide effort which combines national and local attempts to educate and engage the public regarding issues as they relate to coal and global warming. See <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/>. The club’s coal campaign has already helped us in the Midwest. In 2007-2008, the campaign helped to contribute to the defeat of a new coal fired power plant in Norborne, Missouri. With Melissa on board, their work continues.

# Resilient Habitats

By Caroline Pufalt

Climate change is happening now. Governments and individuals who realize that are planning for the future. Actions are being taken to limit greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fossil fuel use and in some areas plan for physical changes such as protection for cities against rising sea levels.

But what about non human habitat? What plans are underway to prepare forests, wetlands, grasslands, marine environments etc for climate change? Is it even possible or realistic to take any action to address climate change impacts to these ecosystems?

Recently a group of about 45 Sierrans met to discuss these issues. The group included volunteers and staff who work in related areas such as wildlife protection, public lands, National Park issues, marine habitats etc. They considered what we know now about climate change and natural habitats and what we think can help ensure that habitats are resilient in the face of change.

One point to consider, that may seem obvious to us but not necessarily to others, that while we refer to non human natural habitat, we are all dependent on those natural habitats too. We rely on natural habitats for watershed protection, for biological diversity and all its benefits, for temperature control, resources, for recreation and many other benefits.

The warnings and consequences are dire. We could lose one quarter of the earth's plant and animal species by the end of the century. That is what will happen if global warming continues unabated and we take no action to help wildlife adapt to increased temperatures, so predicts the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Some climate change impacts are already happening. Extreme drought and other weather related changes are already impacting some areas. Such changes may result in increased diseases, loss of food sources and even competition from new species in impacted habitats.

Left unchecked specific losses will likely include the disappearance of moose and maple trees from New England, loss of coral reefs and their associated marine habitats, loss of most of the Florida Everglades, loss of many cold water

fish, such as trout, in American streams and major changes in our hallmark National Parks, such as Yellowstone.

If we want wildlife to survive and ecosystems to remain healthy even while transitioning, we will need to take several challenging steps. According to experts in the field the following are some key features of that challenge.

- **Cut global warming emissions by 80%** so that climate change is minimized.

Potential temperature change predictions due to global warming are generally thought to range between 2 to 6 degrees Celsius. If we can keep closer to the 2 degree change, we may be able to manage that change. If we experience 6 degree change there is little we can do to avoid major species and habitat loss.

- **Protect adequate and appropriate space** by protecting large core areas, providing buffer zones and habitat corridors.
- **Limit or eliminate non-climate stresses** such as reducing habitat fragmentation, invasive species and human disruptions.
- **Where necessary provide adaptive management interventions** to insure species survival. This might involve specific re-introduction of native species, migration assistance, pest controls and assisting natural processes through efforts such as prescribed burnings.

What does this mean for Missouri? See Alan Journet's article page \_\_\_ for a discussion on climate change and natural habitats in our state.

Promoting resilient habitats in the face of climate change requires that we continue to do much of what we already do. Only now our work takes on additional significance. For example, wilderness areas which are protected from road building, logging, motorized intrusions and other human impacts, can provide a protected core for a resilient habitat. Low impact resource management in surrounding areas can ease habitat stress.

Encouraging conservation easements, public land ownership consolidations, greater protection



High Elevation habitats, such as in Rocky Mt National Park, are at great risk due to climate change. Photo by Jim Bensman

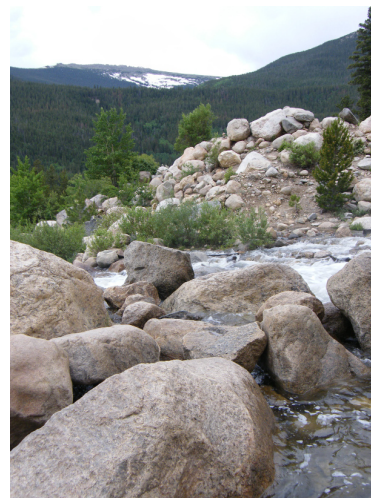


Photo by Jim Bensman

for riparian or streamside habitats (which can assist in migration corridors) all can play a role. Federal, state and private lands can all make a contribution.

But how will species migrate across major highways or developed waterways? One could also hope that recent floods will remind people of the advantage of undeveloped floodplains as sensible planning as well as habitat protection. Highways may need to include migration crossovers or underpasses to encourage safe crossings.

The fourth item above, adaptive management intervention, may prove the most controversial. When would it be necessary or the best strategy to assist species migration, for example? One thinks of the many but only limited successful efforts to assist salmon in migration. What to do when a species appears in imminent peril? Remember the controversy over whether to capture and breed the last of the California condor? Such choices will need to be made on a case by case basis. But as we tackle the challenges of climate change we will need to keep a flexible and analytical attitude to ensure good, or at least better choices in difficult circumstances.

Part of this challenge will be to insist that climate change be a factor in public land management. The record so far on this has been dismal. Despite a 2001 directive to consider climate change and mitigations needed in all levels of planning, a 2007 Governmental Accountability Office report concluded that very little had been done.

Perhaps a change in administration in 2009, combined with increased awareness of the reality of climate change will result in an improved response. But part of that pressure will always need to be citizen activism, such as that Sierrans can provide.

The Sierra Club has made responding to climate change a major priority. Over our 100 year plus history we have risen to many challenges and this is one of the most daunting. We are working hard in helping this country develop an effective energy policy in response to climate change. But

in order to address all facets of climate change, we also need to draw on one of our traditional strengths, our concern about wild areas and the life within them. This is a challenge to which we are well suited. Sierra Club Harvest Celebration 2008. ■



# Get Involved! You'll Feel Better

*Rick Haeseler-MO Chapter EXCOM*

When I lived in Connecticut years ago, I became involved in the government of the small town I lived in. Being at many committee and board meetings, I noticed that out of a population of 5500 people, only about 200 people had any involvement in the government at all. Many of the same people were involved in 2 or more committees or civic groups.

As I became actively involved in Sierra Club early last year after years of "quiet" membership as the saying goes "it was déjà vu all over again". I went to various committee meetings and noticed many of the same people involved in multiple committees.

My best estimate is that slightly over 200 members, out of approximately 5000 Eastern Missouri Group (EMG) members, are actively involved in Sierra Club activities. I don't mean 200 on committees; I mean 200 total including lemonade brigade, road cleanup, outings participation and general meetings attendance. Although my experience is with the EMG, I'm sure it applies throughout Missouri.

I bring up these matters because, for many environmentally concerned citizens, the last 7 years have been painful.

I found that I was becoming almost reclusive in response to my frustration. Those of you who know me will realize that I'm not the reclusive type! I finally became so frustrated that I got off the couch and started attending general meetings and then a few committee meetings. By doing this I met a number of intelligent, nice, environmentally concerned people. Just meeting and talking to similar minded people can remove some of the helpless feelings from your shoulders. It's nice to be able to say what you're really thinking without having the listener try to find the exit or the nearest psychiatrist.

I wonder what Missouri Sierra Club could do if, instead of 4% of our members being actively involved, 8% or 10% of us were participating.

A doubling of active participation would allow members currently on 3 or 4 committees to concentrate their efforts on 1 or 2. This is important because over-commitment leads to burnout. When burnout occurs, we often lose a valuable member from multiple committees all at once. Over-commitment also weakens the focus on the specific issues, preventing individuals and committees from effectively

making progress.

A doubling of active participation might allow us to have a much greater influence on the political process. We would be able to attend, and testify at, more hearings. With higher participation, we could contact many more lawmakers regarding key issues and votes. Sierra Club would be on the minds of many more legislators.

I realize that most of us have many demands on our time that make serious involvement in a formal committee difficult; however we can become involved in other ways.

If you have an interest in a specific subject (global warming, renewable energy, wilderness, water quality etc.), but can't attend committee meetings, you can help by doing research for a committee from your home. This may involve calling to get information or doing research on your computer, for a committee or your entire group.

Other needs might be contacting our members to ask for information including their email address and areas of interest or expertise. Frequently there is a need to let members know about an issue coming to a vote. Without their email addresses, we don't have any way to communicate quickly with all of our members. Currently we have email addresses for less than half our members.

Cool Cities is a Sierra Club program to fight global warming. You can help form a group to get your town to join the Cool Cities program.

Another way to help is to call your friends and other members to let them know that their support is needed on a particular issue. This can be a call to request that they contact their elected officials regarding a crucial vote or an agency head regarding proposed regulations.

If you're upset with an anti-environment legislator, volunteer to work for their opponent. That might involve stuffing mailers, making or receiving phone calls or many other activities. If you're the social type you may want to hold a fundraiser.

Many children don't get to know the outdoors as they grow up. Bring a child on an outing to let them experience the joys of nature. Helping a child to find an appreciation for the outdoors is a lifelong gift to the child and the environment. If your children and grandchildren see you working for a cleaner, safer environment, they won't feel helpless.

A child who loves the environment is likely to become an adult that works to protect it.

As you can see, there are many ways you can contribute to making the world a better and healthier place through Sierra Club.

If you're feeling the frustration I was feeling, contact a committee chair (listed in your group's newsletter) and ask what you can do to help. When you step up and volunteer you will be helping the environment, Sierra Club and yourself. ■

## ANNOUNCEMENT: Consider Joining the Missouri Chapter ExCom, Nominations Sought.

Missouri Chapter is seeking nominations for candidates to run for the 2009 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
- Helps set the conservation direction for the Sierra Club in Missouri.

We welcome interest from Missouri Sierrans who willing to:

1. Attend chapter meetings (4 to 6 per year), and
2. Participate in email and conference call discussions.

Missouri chapter members who are interested in being a candidate for the chapter executive committee, or nominating another member, should contact either:

- Eileen McManus at Eileen4250@sbcglobal.net or 816-523-7823, or
- Caroline Pufalt at cpufalt@sbcglobal.net or 314-721-7202.

Nominations will be collected through **Aug 25 2008**. Potential candidates not recommended by the nominating committee may submit petitions through **Sept 8, 2008**.

# The St. John's Basin - New Madrid Floodway Project:

## The Gap that's Far from the Mall - Part IV Environmental Vindication

*Alan Journet, Trail of Tears Group Conservation  
Chair*

In 2003, the Ozark (Missouri) Sierran published a series of articles on the St. Johns Basin – New Madrid Floodway project proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This update represents a somewhat belated, but still timely, summary of the 2007 U.S. Federal Court decision resulting from environmental opposition.

The Mississippi River levee system started in 1717 at the behest of city founder Bienville to protect New Orleans. Completed by 1727, this levee was three-foot high. For many years, levee construction then became a private landowner responsibility. By 1743, riverfront landowners were required to build and maintain levees on their property or forfeit the land to the French crown. These low levees, however, did not offer enough protection against the mighty Mississippi River breakthroughs (known as crevasses) were common, and sometimes deadly.

The unorganized levee system finally became U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Mississippi River Commission responsibility around the middle of the 19th century. Interestingly, in 1852, the Federal Government appropriated \$50,000 to commission a study of solutions to the Mississippi River flood problem. After conducting his study, Charles Ellet Jr.

suggested that the causes for flooding were:

1. The levee system that confined the flow of a river that formerly expanded over many thousand square miles,
2. Human agricultural cultivation,
3. Shortening the route of the river by channeling meander cut-offs.

In a prescient conclusion, Ellet predicted that with further human settlement along the river, the problem would only become worse. As a harbinger of the future, the USACE ignored Ellet's report, and instead adopted that of two USACE Engineers, Captain Andrew Humphreys and Lieutenant Henry Abbot. Their recommendation, which has formed the basis of subsequent USACE management, was that further extension of the levee system was the best way to control flooding from Cairo to the Louisiana delta. Construction of approximately 1600 miles of the Mississippi River Levee took from 1882 until 1933. This levee expansion, of course, did not solve the flooding problem with many serious floods occurring over ensuing years – a major such event occurring as early as 1937 and repeated events transpiring since then up to as recently as the 1990s.

The federal 1928 Flood Control Act, authorized the construction of a complex levee system from Birds Point – a little south of Cape Girardeau, MO – to New Madrid. Producing the enclosed Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway, the construction comprised a frontline levee along the river bank and a setback levee, at times many miles inland of the frontline levee and running from Birds Point down to New Madrid. The system was designed such that at the upper end an 11-mile section of the frontline levee is two-foot lower than the rest along with a comparable five-mile section and a planned 1,500-foot gap in the levee system both at New Madrid. When flooding threatens Cairo, Illinois,

water either would flow over the lowered section of levee into the New Madrid Floodway – or sections of the upper levee would be blown to allow water to flow through the floodway and out through the New Madrid gap. This would lower the river and reduce the threat to Cairo. However, nearly 75 years later the system, especially the 1,500 gap, would literally become a federal case.

Besides serving as a critical habitat for migratory birds and a nursery for many species of Mississippi River fish species, the floodway itself is prime agricultural land and has attracted farmers to the region to take advantage of the fertile floodplain soils. Additionally, the towns of East Prairie and neighboring Pinhook suffer repeated flooding.

The easy assumption was that the floods resulted from the nearly annual spring floods which included Mississippi river back up through the gap. But the primary cause of that flooding appears due to a poorly designed and maintained storm water control system in those communities that is inundated by the spring headwater flooding caused by high local rainfall or water flowing down from higher land neighboring the region. .

Previous articles on this project, published in the Ozark Sierran, are available at:

- [http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/AprJune2003/05PartIofSierranFloodwayArticle\\_msr.HTM](http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/AprJune2003/05PartIofSierranFloodwayArticle_msr.HTM),
- [http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/JulySep2003/01PartIIofSierranArticlewithimagesbyAlan\\_msr.HTM](http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/JulySep2003/01PartIIofSierranArticlewithimagesbyAlan_msr.HTM), and
- [http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/JulySep2003/01PartIIofSierranArticlewithimagesbyAlan\\_msr.HTM](http://missouri.sierraclub.org/SierranOnline/JulySep2003/01PartIIofSierranArticlewithimagesbyAlan_msr.HTM)

Opposition to the project was led by two national environmental groups (Environmental Defense and the National Wildlife Federation), and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment with support from the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club.

This was based on several issues:

1. The impact that closing the levee would have on the annually flooded lowland fish nursery and migratory bird habitat,
2. The evidence that the project did not, despite its claims, address the primary cause of flooding in the communities,
3. The extent and potential success of proposed mitigation efforts, and
4. The questionable calculation of the project economic costs and benefits.

With the national organizations taking the lead, opposition efforts culminated in a suite filed in Federal Court in Washington D.C. After a



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series of intermediate negotiations and deliberations, this case resulted last year in a ruling (September 13, 2007) in favor of the plaintiff and against the defending USACE. Interestingly, during deliberations, the USACE acknowledged a "major math error in the 2002 REIS [Revised Environmental Impact Study]" and undertook a re-computation.

In his finding, U.S. Federal Court Judge James Robertson found that plaintiffs were correct in claiming that "the Corps has improperly manipulated its habitat models to make it seem that the project's environmental impacts will be fully mitigated, when they will not." Indeed, Judge Robertson stated that "the Corps of Engineers has resorted to arbitrary and capricious reasoning - manipulating models and changing definitions where necessary - to make this project seem compliant with the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act when it is not."

In determining that the project complied with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the USACE claimed that "impacts to significant fish and wildlife resources are fully compensated." Judge Robertson, however, found that certification of compliance "runs counter to the evidence before the agency [and] is so implausible that it [cannot] be ascribed to a difference in view or the product of agency expertise."

In his decision, Judge Robertson ruled: "Further construction work on the project will be enjoined, and the Corps will be required to restore the disturbances created by the preliminary construction work that has already been completed."

Despite publicly arguing against the Robertson decision, to date, it is not clear what the USACE plans to do by way of response. According to an undated posting on its website, the Memphis District of USACE states: "[it has] immediately halted work on the St. Johns/New Madrid Project in order to comply with the Court's instructions while the parties concerned review the Court's accompanying opinion." It continues "The Justice Department is reviewing the Judge's decision and no determination has been made as to what the government's next step will be. All construction on the site has been suspended."

Although it remains unclear what ultimately will transpire, the decision by Judge James Robertson represents a profound repudiation of the behavior of the Memphis in manipulating scientific evidence, underestimating mitigation needs, and fudging cost-benefit calculations to justify a favored project. ■

## State-wide Missouri Wilderness Conference

September 6th, 2008

Sierrans don't miss this event! Come to Salem, Missouri for a day of Missouri Wilderness education, discussion, and strategy planning for the citizen's proposal to designate seven Wilderness Areas on the Mark Twain National Forest and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Guest speakers will include Dave Murphy of the



Lower Rock Creek, by Scott Merritt

Conservation Federation of Missouri; Rindy O'Brien, former aide to U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton and staffer at The Wilderness Society; John Karel of the Missouri Wilderness Coalition, and more. We will have a Missouri

wilderness slideshow, displays, handouts, and a moderated strategy planning session later in the day.

Lunch will be available - sandwiches catered by a local family, and a \$5 donation is requested to cover the food expense. Please let MWC know if you plan on attending the event, and also, if you would like to get the lunch: send an email to MWC at [scottm@mowild.org](mailto:scottm@mowild.org), a letter to P.O. Box 377 Boss, MO 65440, or a phone call to (573) 626-1021 or (314) 602-6639.

The Conference will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Ozark Natural and Cultural Resource Center  
202 South Main (Hwy 19)

Salem, MO

Phone: (573)729-0029

email: [oncrc@salem-mo.com](mailto:oncrc@salem-mo.com)

website: <http://oncrc.org/>

In addition, you may want to sample the Salem Farmers Market on Saturday morning (directly next-door to ONCRC), or visit some of the outstanding nearby natural landscapes, such as Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Montauk State Park, and various sites within Mark Twain National Forest. For more information Sierrans may contact Caroline Pufalt at (314) 721-7202, [cpufalt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpufalt@sbcglobal.net). ■



East Mountain, by Scott Merritt

## Tour the Greenest Building in St. Louis

Sierra Club Harvest Celebration Dinner and Auction Fundraiser

You're in for an education in sustainable building when you join us for the Sierra Club Harvest Celebration 2008 on Saturday, September 6th (**more details on page 12**) at the "greenest" building in the City of St. Louis: The William A. Kerr Foundation Headquarters located at 21 O'Fallon Street, just north of the Arch.

The media today is filled with the term "green," much of it hollow hype. But 21 O'Fallon, is the real deal, an authentic, energy-conserving structure that promotes the health of its occupants and preserves the external environment.

The most widely accepted measure of "green building" is the U.S. Green Building Council's rating scale: Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED). Buildings that are LEED-certified contain certain characteristics, such as proximity to public transportation, a brownfield location, wind turbine, solar panels, rainwater capture and re-use, native planting, a green roof, lots of natural light, energy-saving devices such as motion sensors, renewable building materials such as bamboo and cork, and a small footprint. 21 O'Fallon possesses every one of these features, and more. (*The SierraScape June-July 2008 contains a longer article on 21 O'Fallon.*)

Most St. Louisans have seen the wind turbine in St. Louis County, a landmark of the Alberici construction company. The Alberici building, with 60 LEED points, became famous when certified in 2004 as the highest-LEED-rated commercial building in the world. In August 2007, 21 O'Fallon earned 58 LEED points.

What Is LEED? Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is a green building rating system that defines, quantifies, and measures sustainable design and building practices. A whole-building approach established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED specifies standards in five categories: Sustainable site, Water efficiency, Energy and atmosphere, Materials and resources, and Indoor environmental quality.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., you can join a personal tour of this historic yet modern property led by the experts on its renovation and operation: Foundation Trustee, Dr. John Sweet; principal architect, Tim Montgomery; and landscape architect, Mary Deweese. Hope to see you September 6th! **More details on page 12.** ■

# The World Without Us (published July, 2007)

By Alan Weisman

Reviewed by Cheryl Hammond

Alan Weisman imagines a world where all the people have suddenly disappeared from the earth. Many films and books have explored this fascinating theme, including the recent film, *I Am Legend*, starring Will Smith living in a world where a virus has wiped out most humans.

On the other hand, Weisman's *The World Without Us* gives us well researched, scientific insight into the fate of the natural and built environment without us. There are examples of places where humans have already departed. The Korean DMZ between North Korea and South Korea is 151 miles long and 2.5 miles wide and has been essentially without people since the 1953 armistice left the two parts of Korea in a state of cold war hostilities with the DMZ as a no-man's land. This strip of land has become a refuge for wildlife that would have otherwise disappeared.

Asiatic black bears, Eurasian lynx, an endangered mountain goat known as the goral, and other mammals precariously survive in only a small fraction of the range needed for genetically healthy populations. The red crowned crane, a highly significant symbol in Chinese literature and art, with only an estimated 1,500 birds left in the wild, finds sanctuary here. Rice paddies, 5,000 years old, have reverted to wetlands.

The messy Cyprus conflict in the early '70s ended in a truce which left the city of Varosha deserted, suddenly empty of its 20,000 residents and workers. Now, 30 years later, no resolution has been reached and Cyprus remains divided into Turkish and Greek zones.

Varosha is a time capsule where hotel balconies have fallen with cascading damage below, hunks of walls have dropped from buildings, paint has dulled, bats roost in the bell towers of Greek churches, houses have disappeared under heaps of bougainvillea, and streets have been overtaken by plants and trees whose roots and tendrils defeat pavement even without the freeze and thaw cycle that we know in the Midwest. Geisman expands on this real-life example of the world without us to describe how our built environment would degrade very quickly, including how cities of massive skyscrapers would return to nature.

Unfortunately, the worst aspects of the legacy of man will far outlast us. The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre is an area of the north

Pacific with a slowly rotating high-pressure vortex of hot air that creates a whirl of water beneath it with a depression at the center. Everything that blows into half the Pacific rim ends up here in an area almost the size of Africa and it has become known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Sailors travelling here find themselves crossing a sea of refuse, including plastic cups, scraps of sandwich wrap, plastic bags, six-pack rings, and so on. Despite the millions of pounds of plastic discarded annually by ocean going vessels, 80% of the plastic garbage floating in this Gyre was first discarded on land, and then blown by the wind or floated down sewers and rivers to the ocean. The planet has six other major tropical gyres and plastic debris is now the most common surface feature of the world's oceans. Because plastic is not biodegradable, almost all plastic produced in the last 50 years is still with us and that amount surpasses 1 billion tons.

The Rothamsted Experimental Station is the oldest agricultural research site in the world. The station has accumulated bottles of soil samples since 1843 and studies there show that the original 35 ppm of zinc has nearly doubled in the control plots, with the increased zinc on these control plots coming from airborne industrial fallout. This and other man-made changes are hard to reverse and will be here even if all humans disappear. Weisman reports that zinc will stay in the soil 3,700 years, and compares it to the time it took to get from the Bronze Age to today.

Cadmium also builds up in farmed soil because it is an impurity in artificial fertilizers. Cadmium will persist 7,500 years. PCBs also built up in the soil beginning from the time they were invented in the 1930s. Since they were outlawed in 1977, Rothamsted noticed a decrease to practically pre-industrial levels. However, it turns out they have not disappeared, but instead migrated to Arctic regions to cause havoc there.

We are now living through a period of great extinctions. Biologist E. O. Wilson estimated in 2002 that, if current rates continue, one half of all species on earth will be extinct in 100 years. Could we foul our environment so much that we are one of those extinctions? Could there really be a world without us? I was able to attend a book signing with Alan Weisman in St. Louis last summer. He signed the cover page, "With hope." ■

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\*Contributions to the **Missouri Sierra Club** are **not tax-deductible**; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts in Missouri. This type of gift is preferred as it provides maximum flexibility for our work in Missouri.

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- Please send me information on how to plan a bequest from my will or living trust.
- I am specifically interested in supporting Missouri Sierra Club with a planned gift.
- Please do not publish my name as a donor.



# Motorized Obsessions: Life Liberty and the Small-Bore Engine

By Paul R. Josephson

Reviewed by Caroline Pufalt

Ah, summer. The season brings anticipations of summer vacations, summer reading, float trips, gardening, picnics and also unfortunately, lawnmowers, leaf blowers, weed wackers, jet skis, and ATVs. We Americans love our engines and, for better or worse, we have invented many uses for them.

Paul Josephson, a history and international relations professor, has written previously about technology, nature and about Russian nuclear policy. He reports how as a new homeowner he started in typical fashion with a gas lawnmower and determination to maintain the proper lawn with all the motorized equipment. But then, perhaps because of his interest in nature and technology, he began to think about alternatives. His lawn went natural and he presumably had more time to get out in the Maine woods and encounter All Terrain Vehicles and other forms of motorized recreation. Thus he had an interest to start a book that examines our obsession with motors and gadgets, big and small.

Background for this book requires a brief detour into mechanics. A small bore engine refers to an engine with small cylinder holes (bores). Such engines are often two stroke engines (a stroke is the action of the piston traveling the full cylinder length). Small bore two stroke engines are less efficient and pollute more than four stroke engines. Most motorized recreational vehicles and lawn care machinery operate with small two stroke engines. However, some manufactures, responding to pollution control regulation and public concerns, have recently started producing vehicles and machinery with four stroke engines and other pollution controls.

Josephson uses the term ATV to include Off Highway Vehicles and Off Road Vehicles. His consideration of land based motorized recreation also encompasses also dirt bikes, motorcycles, jeeps and dune buggies. He describes the early development of such vehicles and of snowmobiles. Originally these vehicles were invented with utility in mind. ATVs could be used on the farm, the ranch or in the forest. Snowmobiles provided needed transportation in the winter.

In 1934 one early developer of snowmobiles, J. A. Bombardier, was motivated by the death of his son due to appendicitis, who was denied

medical care because of snow covered roads. Early versions of snowmobiles were larger, slower, utilitarian vehicles used mostly in rural settings. But growth in the early versions of what would eventually become today's snowmobiles, stalled in the late 1940s when both the US and Canada began plowing country roads, thus reducing the need for alternative winter transportation.

Increased improvements in both ATVs and snowmobile technology, increased affluence among average Americans and marketing diverted interest from utility to recreation. By the late 1960s motorized recreation was an all season occasion. Much of that recreation took place on public lands and federal state and local and officials were not prepared for the impacts and conflicts that would bring.

In 1972, President Nixon issued an executive order requiring federal land managers to in effect, manage motorized recreation so as to avoid irreparable damage. President Carter reissued and updated that executive order during his term and since then land managers have continually struggled and mostly failed to fulfill the executive order requirements.

Josephson describes the variety of environmental damage that result from ATV recreation. Across all types of landscapes, forest, prairie, desert, and shoreline, ATVs cause soil erosion, disrupt wildlife, damage riparian zones, spread exotics and increase fire risk. These impacts occur even if riders stay on designated trails. When riders go off trail, which is common, the damage is more severe.

Josephson also discusses the growth of personal watercraft (PWC) which includes jet skis and other brands of PWCs. These vehicles can travel in shallow water and thus enable riders to move along close to shore, where they can have negative impacts on nesting birds, turtles, fish, and other life that flourishes in such areas.

In addition to damage to the environment, Josephson considers injuries to people, to the drivers and passengers of ATVs and PWC. The results are sad and shocking. This spring the greater St Louis area suffered three ATV related fatalities. These led to a Post-Dispatch cover story on ATV hazards. Unfortunately such stories are all too common. ATV and snowmobile accidents and fatalities are increasing in actual number, although the accident rate based on increased usage has slightly decreased.

Some safety steps have been taken, the most important being an end to the production of highly

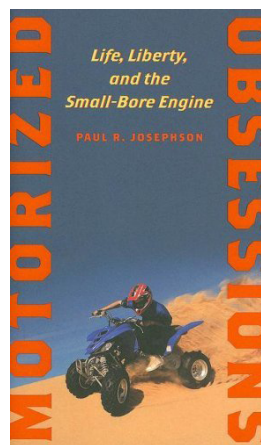
unstable three-wheeled ATVs. Still the four-wheel model, with its high center of gravity, challenging steering and potential speeds, is also unsafe. In fact lawnmowers have more safety requirements in center of gravity and steering mechanisms than do ATVs. As a recreational vehicle, ATVs are attractive to children. But their steering, especially over rough terrain requires adult strength. Thus, sadly, many ATV accidents involve children.

PWC are also dangerous. Josephson's discussion of operator injury resulting from some PWC accidents ought to give pause to anyone choosing to ride one. Yet the injuries continue.

Josephson devotes a good deal of his book to describing the many efforts of local governments, states and federal agencies to control ATV, snowmobile and PWC use. Only vigorous efforts such as mandatory safety and environmental impact education, licensing, even liability insurance requirements and enforcement seem to have an effect. Josephson also recommends that in terms of safety we treat ATVs like automobiles, thus requiring roll bars, seatbelts and prohibition against use by children. He also thinks we should question the assumption that motorized recreation should have a place on all public lands. He argues that some areas, beyond just designated wilderness, should be protected from motorized recreation.

Josephson closes his book with a chapter on motorized equipment for the lawn and garden. Here, Missouri has a special link. In 2003 Missouri's Senator Bond helped stall standards set by and for the state of California requiring catalytic converters on some lawn equipment in order to reduce pollution. Missouri was the home of Briggs and Stratton Corporation, the nation's largest lawn and garden equipment manufacturers and Bond feared an impact on that company. He later argued that catalytic converters were a fire risk, a charge refuted by the EPA. And another small link to MO, the weed wacker was first produced in 1977 by Emerson Electric in St Louis.

Josephson's book is a worthy treatment of this timely topic. Although I approached this book with a concern mostly in regard to environmental impacts I found the history and the discussion of safety issues very interesting. Josephson helps the reader understand the multiple impacts of our inventiveness with the small bore engine. The book is copyrighted 2007 so that most of the research cited is no later than 2005. One thing the author did not cover is how \$4.00 - \$5.00 gallon gas will effect motorized recreation. Let's hope it encourages some people to walk, or at least to slow down. ■



# MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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 in advance for details, approval, or if you plan to cancel. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips.

**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>

Aug 15-17, 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 16, Sat: A prairie wildflower hike at Cuivre River S.P. This will be a 2-mile hike on the Blazing Star trail to look at the summer wildflowers. After, if there is enough interest, we may also do the Frenchman's Bluff trail. We will do a picnic style lunch before heading back. Jim Rhodes, (314) 821-7758, or [jarhodes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jarhodes@sbcglobal.net)

Aug 16, 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. There will be a \$2 charge for the tubes and other expenses. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Aug 20, Wed: Deadline for outings from Oct 15 to December 31. Mark Schuermann, (636) 394-6265, [mark\\_schuermann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark_schuermann@sbcglobal.net), or Wayne Miller, (314) 628-9084, [millwy@aol.com](mailto:millwy@aol.com)

Aug 23, Sat: Operation Clean Stream on the Meramec River. Join us for a day of fun picking and digging up stuff and giving it a canoe ride to a trash pickup. We may be able to help a few people who do not have a canoe. Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072.

Aug 27, Wed: 4-6 mile day hike, location to be determined and dependent on weather conditions. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or [margot107@charter.net](mailto:margot107@charter.net)

Aug 29, Fri: Stay close to home and hike 6-8 miles at Rockwoods Reservation. For info call (618) 281-4762, or e-mail [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Aug 30-Sep 1, Sat-Mon: 3 day canoe/kayak trip on the Mississippi River. Enjoy vast open spaces and big sand beaches. Some experience required. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Sep 3, Wed: We'll hike about 4 miles on forested terrain with hilly and rocky stretches at Greensfelder County Park near Six Flags. Margot Kindley (636) 458-4063 or [margot107@charter.net](mailto:margot107@charter.net)

Sep 6, Sat: It's a party! Sierra Club Harvest Celebration 2008, EMG's first-ever fundraising dinner with live Dixieland band, scrumptious food, and silent auction at the "greenest" building in the city of St. Louis: William A. Kerr Foundation HQ on the Mississippi Riverfront. \$60/person. We gotta' make up for lost lemonade revenue! Buy tickets at EMG website or mail check to EMG office. Call Penny Holtzmann for details. (314) 644-0890.



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Sep 7, Sun: Moderately challenging day hike at Washington State Park. We will walk about 8 miles through forests, hilly terrain and glades, find old CCC buildings and view historic Native American petroglyphs. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063 or [margot107@charter.net](mailto:margot107@charter.net)

Sep 7, Sun: Canoe Float down the Meramec/Explore Green Cave. Utilizing the Meramec State Park Canoe Rental, we will float from the Sappington Bridge down to the boat ramp. We'll stop and explore Green Cave on the way down the river. The charge is \$37 per canoe for the canoe rental and transportation for 2 people per canoe. Payment must be made in advance. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Sep 20, Sat: Cathedral Cave. As we continue to explore the breathtaking beauties of the caves of Missouri, this cave is especially interesting. It is a separate cave, but is located in Onondaga Cave State Park. The tour is led by a park naturalist. After a short walk through the woods we will enter the cave through the natural entrance. The charge is \$6 for the tour. The drive is 1 1/2 hours to the park. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Sep 24, Wed: Rockwood Reservation is a favorite park in West County for day hikes. We will plan for 4-6 easy to moderate miles on 2-3 scenic trails. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063 or [margot107@charter.net](mailto:margot107@charter.net)

Sep 26-28, Fri-Sun: Seventh annual fall celebration at Hawn S.P. Great for beginner campers and families. Camp or come for the day. See box add for more info or call George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Sep 28, Sun: Picnic for trail builders and trail builder wannabes at Hawn State Park. We will join George Behrens family group at the Scout Area Camp Site. Free camping will be available Friday and Saturday night. Bob Gestel, (636) 295-8975 or [rgestel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgestel@sbcglobal.net) Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352 or [lonebuffalo@earthlink.net](mailto:lonebuffalo@earthlink.net)

Sep 28, Sun: Caster River Shut-Ins. 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 Caster River created a multiplicity of boulders of many shapes and sizes. We will picnic by the river and

explore the trail among the shut-ins and along the river. The trail surface is moderate with some elevation. Considerable opportunity exists for the more adventuresome. The drive is 1 1/2 hours to the park. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

Oct 1, Wed: We'll hike 5-6 miles in Castlewood State Park including the challenging Cedar Bluff and the level Stinging Nettle loops. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063 or [margot107@charter.net](mailto:margot107@charter.net)

Oct 3, Fri: Early fall colors hike. Probably within 90 miles of St. Louis. For info call (618) 281-4762, or e-mail [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

Oct 5, Sun: One day canoe/kayak trip on a river in the Meramec Basin. Toni Armstrong & Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Oct 5, 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. This will be a leisurely walk with time to enjoy the sights & sounds along the way. Bob Herndon, (314) 961-4811.

### Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

September 12-14, Friday-Sunday: Beginner Backpack on the Pigeon Roost Trail, War Eagle, AR — A fun, 8-mile loop on a well-marked trail near Beaver Lake in NW Arkansas. We'll stop for cornbread at War Eagle Mill on Sunday. \$10 donation requested. Renee Andriani 913-341-4753 [randri@kc.rr.com](mailto:randri@kc.rr.com)

September 21, Sunday: Woodland Day Hike at Kill Creek Park, Desoto, KS — We'll follow up June's prairie hike with a trek through the woodland areas of Kill Creek Park. \$5 donation requested. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 [hassler@planetkc.com](mailto:hassler@planetkc.com)

September 27-28, Saturday-Sunday: Float Trip, James River south of Springfield, MO — Bypass the crowds and explore a quiet Ozark stream on our laid back canoe/kayak float trip. Catch the sunset and see

the stars Saturday night from our sandbar campsite; and share your stories around the campfire. \$5 donation requested. Terry DeFraties 913-385-7374 [theerustbucket@aol.com](mailto:theerustbucket@aol.com)

October 4, Saturday: Backcountry Hike at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS — We'll enjoy the beauty of the Flint Hills with an easy, 6 mile hike, and explore the historic barn and ranch house. We'll finish up with a casual dinner at the Hays House in nearby Council Grove before heading back to KC. \$5 donation requested. †Renee Andriani 913-341-4753 [randri@kc.rr.com](mailto:randri@kc.rr.com)

October 11-12, Saturday-Sunday: Easy Backpack, Clinton Lake, KS — This short 4.5 mile loop passes through wooded hills and fields with good views of the lake. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823 [eileen4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net)

### Osage Group

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

Aug 2, Sat: Katy Trail Bike Ride. We will take a bike ride on the Katy Trail starting at Cooper's Landing. When we return to our starting point, we can have dinner at the best Thai Restaurant on the Missouri River. Contact Greg Leonard, (573) 443-8263 or [greg.leonard@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:greg.leonard@missouri.sierraclub.org).

Aug 15 - 17, Fri/Sat/Sun or Sat/Sun: Overnight camping outing to the Paddy Creek Wilderness Area near Licking, Missouri. Hiking trails, swimming, and wading are some of the potential activities. Contact Randal Clark, (573) 875-0514.

### White River Group

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

August 1, 2 and 3. Float trip outings to the Current/Jack's Fork and Buffalo Rivers.

Those who don't have to work August 1 (Friday) can carpool and begin the weekend float Friday morning. Others can join us that evening or Saturday morning at a designated campsite. We'll plan to camp Saturday night as well. Call Jennifer Ailor, 581-4018, to sign up or ask questions. We'll have to work through the details of carpooling, renting canoes or kayaks and shuttles.

# A Fundraising Dinner and Auction, by the Sierra Club Eastern Missouri Group

## Sierra Club Harvest Celebration

Look ahead to the evening of **Saturday, September 6**, and imagine yourself ...

- On the Mississippi Riverfront
- At the “greenest” building in the City of St. Louis
- Listening to the lively and legendary Old St. Louis Levee Band
- Dining on fresh, organic, locally-grown, Mediterranean cuisine
- Mixing with old friends and making new ones

It’s all happening at the First Annual Sierra Cub Harvest Celebration, a fundraiser dinner produced by the Eastern Missouri Group’s (EMG).

### Saturday, September 6th Events:

5:30	Happy Hour “Green” Building Tours Silent Auction Open
7:00	Buffet Dinner
8:00	Old St. Louis Levee Band

### Old St. Louis Levee Band

The Old St. Louis Levee Band (OSLLB) played for 13 years (1978-1990) aboard the Lt. Robert E. Lee, a floating restaurant/saloon moored on the Mississippi River just south of the Arch. Led by local jazz legend Jean Kittrell, this five-member Dixieland band consists of cornet, trombone, banjo, sousaphone, and drums, while Kittrell herself “pounds out a unique barrel-house piano, sings lusty Bessie Smith songs and humorous ballads, and shows the world that old age is a great time to have fun herself.” ([www.jeankittrell.com](http://www.jeankittrell.com))

“The location by the levee around the site of the old cotton exchange strikes us as a perfect setting for her great Dixieland,” said Jim Young, longtime fan of Kittrel and her band and chair of the EMG Lemonade Brigade.

Since leaving the Robert E. Lee, OSLLB has



OSLLB 1978

entertained on Mediterranean and Caribbean cruises, during European and Japanese tours, in jazz concerts and festivals across the country, and at pop concerts conducted by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra’s Richard Hayman.

“It will be fun to bring my Old St. Louis Levee Band back to the St. Louis riverfront for some happy Dixieland music,” Kittrell said.

When honoring her as one of the “Great Ladies of Jazz,” directors of the Sun Valley Swing’n’Dixie Jazz Jamboree said: “Jean Kittrell is a unique performing personality. She is part college professor and part red-hot mama, with elements of Bessie Smith, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, and Jelly Roll Morton thrown in for good measure. ... As a band leader, pianist, and vocalist, she is most deserving of a place among the “Great Ladies of Jazz.”

“This band is so right for our event, the river, the levee, Sierra Club, the mural by the river, etc.,” concluded Norma Deen, Director of the Harvest Celebration 2008 Silent Auction and chair of the EMG Fundraising Committee.



OSLLB at Lt. Robert E. Lee Saloon

### Just the Facts

**What:** The Sierra Cub Harvest Celebration 2008, EMG’s first-annual fundraising dinner with live Dixieland jazz and silent auction

**When:** Saturday, September 6, 5:30-11:00 p.m.

**Where:** The William A. Kerr Foundation Headquarters, 21 O’Fallon Street, north of the Arch

**Why:** Fun and Funds: We’ll make up for lost revenue (since lemonade sales have declined) and have a whole lot of fun.

**How:** Advance Sales Only – No Tickets Sold at the Door - **RSVP by August 27**. Buy tickets online at: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>, or mail your \$60-per-person check, with your phone number and email address, to:

*Sierra Club Harvest Celebration 2008  
7164 Manchester Avenue  
Maplewood, MO 63143*

For more information, call EMG Office at (314) 644-0890, or email at [emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net](mailto:emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net)

### Who: YOU!

... If you love great food, prepared with care from fresh, locally grown, organic ingredients.

... If Dixieland music gets you clapping and tapping.

... If you want a personal tour of the “greenest” building in the City of St. Louis, by the building owner, architect, and landscape designer.

... If you love the earth and want to support Sierra Club’s important work.

### Quality Auction Items Needed

Only if our Silent Auction is a success can we meet the fundraising goals of the Sierra Club Harvest Celebration 2008.

We are now soliciting donations from retailers and professionals in and around St. Louis—gifts of sporting equipment, dinner certificates, spa treatments, and art. But we need many more items to make the Silent Auction exciting and lucrative.

If you own a business or possess a marketable skill or talent (e.g., guitar lessons), please consider making a donation to the Harvest Celebration.

As you know, because of the Sierra Club’s political activity, donations are not tax-deductible. But the reward of a tax deduction pales in comparison to the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting direly needed conservation and public information programs.

To arrange for your donation, contact:

- **Penny Holtzman**, EMG Office Administrator, (314) 644-0890; [emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net](mailto:emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net)
- **Norma Deen**, Director of Harvest Celebration 2008 Silent Auction; (314) 862-6793; [normadeen@hotmail.com](mailto:normadeen@hotmail.com)

*See page 7 for info on Building Tour of Greenest Building during Celebration...*