



Missouri Sierran

One Earth

One Chance



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April – September 2011

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

In KC and STL, Vote YES on April 5 to retain the Earnings Tax

On April 5, voters in both St. Louis and Kansas City will decide whether to retain the current earnings tax. The Sierra Club recommends a “yes” vote, which would preserve the earnings tax, since maintaining the viability of the urban core is necessary for reducing sprawl, limiting greenhouse gases and facilitating energy efficiency. Our chapter has a long record of opposing urban sprawl, and supporting public transit investment to support smart growth. This election provides a key opportunity for our members to take the next step in that campaign.

City General Revenue funds

many environmental programs, including city park maintenance. For many urban kids, these city parks are their only access to open space. The earnings tax also funds recycling programs in both cities. Go to the chapter website <http://missouri.sierraclub.org> to read Sierra Club reports that detail the environmental programs funded by the earnings tax.

We have about 1,000 Sierra Club members who live in St. Louis City and 900 who live in Kansas City - our votes can be the margin of victory. To volunteer to help:

In St. Louis please call Michael Berg at (314) 644-1011 or email



From left to right: member Janet Crews, organizer Michael Berg, member Laurie Veatch. Photo: John Hickey

michael.berg@sierraclub.org.

In Kansas City, please call Claus Wawrzinek at (816) 517-5244 or claus@missouri.sierraclub.org.

The Hinkson Creek Saga

by Ken Midkiff

Hinkson Creek is documentably impaired. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) placed it on the 303(d) List in 1998, after several studies and reports from various state and federal agencies showed that the creek did not fully support warm water aquatic life. (There are three tiers of aquatic life: warm water, cool water (smallmouth bass, for example) and cold water

(trout and sculpins, for example). Hinkson Creek is a warm water stream and, as such, would never harbor trout. The Missouri Department of Conservation gave information on past fish kills. Voluntary water quality monitors pointed to a dearth of pollution-sensitive macro-invertebrates.

In 1999, the American Canoe Association and the Sierra Club, noticing that hardly ever did MDNR or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) do a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, sued the EPA for failure to cause MDNR to comply with the federal Clean Water Act. As a result of the lawsuit, the EPA caved and agreed to have MDNR conduct 174 TMDL studies by December 31, 2009. EPA further agreed that if MDNR failed to meet that

deadline, EPA would finish things up by December 31, 2010.

A brief word about a TMDL study: the purpose is to determine the pollutant(s) causing the impairment and to recommend reductions so that the waterbody returns to a healthy state.

Since no one pollutant or group of pollutants could be pointed to as the cause of Hinkson Creek failing to support warm water aquatic life, MDNR and later EPA Region 7 (MO, KS, NB, and IA), used stormwater runoff as a surrogate for “unknown pollutants”. MDNR and EPA took note of the increased amount of stormwater runoff, the increasing amount of impervious surfaces (where rainwater does not soak in, but quickly runs off), and the “flashiness” of Hinkson Creek, and figured there must be a connection between all the contaminants carried in stormwater runoff and the impairment of Hinkson Creek.

EPA, complying with the federal **Hickson Creek**.....continued on page 3



Hinkson Creek in Columbia

Photo: Ken Midkiff

We Stand with Labor!

by Jim Turner, Chapter Chair



As a delegate to the Sierra Club's Council of Club Leaders in September 2010, I heard Michael Brune and Carl Pope make statements on strategy. By then it was apparent that the fossil fuel industries were effectively blocking federal policy changes that would reduce their economic dominance. So Brune and Pope said the Club will need to exert ourselves on work at grassroots and state chapter levels, to rally the people power that is needed. And since then, the Club has been establishing processes for our Chapters to participate more effectively in national Club tactics.

This February, Brune announced an important development in Club strategy. Since 1970, organized labor has supported our work on legislation for clean air and water. In recent years, in our Blue-Green Alliance, labor unions and the Club have combined efforts toward more green energy jobs. At its February meeting the Club's Board of Directors approved a strategy to support federal and state legislation that supports labor unions' vigor, so that the unions can continue to be effective advocates for our common interests.

On Friday, Feb 25, the Club released this statement of policy to guide chapter activists: "Union members and environmentalists share a common vision of creating healthy, safe, prosperous communities across America. Together, our movement fights for policies that ensure clean air, water and lands, and decent wages, health care, and a secure retirement for working families."

This policy is right for our times! We have seen that Governor Walker's proposed bill threatens the

Labor.....continued on page 6

The Missouri Sierran is published twice per year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$15 per year.

Items for publication: Contact our Chapter Office via E-mail at Missouri.Chapter@sierraclub.org or phone (314) 644-1011 or (800) 628-5333, prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles! Material may be edited for length, content, or clarity. It is our job to help you communicate. If you have strong creative ownership of your writing, and wish to review your edited article before publication, con-



sider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

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

Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad.

All submissions must include name, E-mail or street address, and phone number of the author. Only your name will be printed in the newsletter.

If you want your submission returned (including your CD), please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

Chapter Executive Committee AT LARGE

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John Hickey, Chapter Director
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT THE MISSOURI CHAPTER

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

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

Mail your contribution to: Sierra Club/Missouri Chapter
7164 Manchester Avenue
Maplewood, MO 63143

Hinkson Creek.....continued from page 1
court order, drafted a proposed TMDL, with assistance from staffers at MDNR who had failed to complete a TMDL study by the December 31, 2009, deadline. EPA sent out its draft TMDL for comments.

Enter the Osage Group of the Sierra Club.

Agreeing with the EPA that the Hinkson Creek should be restored to health and the way to do that was to reduce stormwater runoff, the Osage Group embarked upon a media crusade to allow EPA to appropriately respond to comments, rather than responding to the "spin machines" of the City of Columbia, the County of Boone, and the University of Missouri-Columbia, entities that were adamantly opposed to EPA's proposed 39.6% reduction in stormwater runoff. Enlisting the aid of attorney David Shorr, the 3 entities submitted somewhat harsh and negative comments.

But, the "PR machines" of Columbia, Boone County, and UMC never had a chance to spin out their message, because our message was out first and was all over the print media, radio and TV. The only recourse for the PR machines was to react to our constant bombardment. For example, a letter signed by Mayor Bob McDavid was sent to EPA, in which McDavid purported to represent the position of the City Council, even though the City Council had never even considered the matter. He admitted he was wrong. This was front page in the Columbia Daily Tribune.

The City Council meeting of January 18, 2011, was the culmination. Mayor McDavid decided, somewhat belatedly, to hold a full discussion on the Hinkson Creek TMDL and its stormwater runoff reduction. After listening to a string of half-truths from John Glascock, the City's Public Works Director, the public had its say. And say they did. From me, who harangued Chamber of Commerce lackeys on the City Council, to several citizens who talked about how they once swam

Lake of the Ozarks issues roil

by Cheryl Hammond, Chapter Conservation Committee Chair

A series of events began in July 2009 when some Lake of the Ozarks beaches were kept open despite E. coli readings five times and more higher than acceptable levels. As events unfolded, Governor Jay Nixon admitted to making erroneous statements about the beach closures due to faulty information from DNR; Nixon suspended DNR Director Mark Templeton without pay; the Senate Environment Committee, led by Republican Sen. Brad Lugar, held hearings to review DNR policy; and the Legislature subsequently let the clock run out in the 2010 legislative session to renew funding for the DNR Water Protection Program, leaving DNR without 37% of the funding for its water regulatory programs and with the prospect that the Clean Water program could be turned over to the EPA for enforcement.

With so much stirring up of water issues, Attorney General Chris Koster sponsored a Lake water quality symposium last August. Now Koster has released 12 recommendations, calling for on-site sewage disposal units to be replaced with a central sewage treatment system, addressing run-off from golf courses and other landscaped areas, and asking for more inspections, enforcement, and incentives.

Shortly after these recommendations, Governor Jay Nixon announced that the Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance had received a \$550,660 Federal EPA grant to reduce stormwater runoff

and fished in Hinkson Creek, a parade of proponents of the Hinkson Creek TMDL addressed the City Council. Undeterred by all these comments and data, the bought-and-paid-for members of the City Council voted to support the comments of David Shorr, by a vote of 5-2.

at the Lake. The money will be used to conduct tests and to create low-impact landscaping, but will not be used to build a sewer system. However, Nixon noted that this effort will create significant progress on Lake issues.

Attorney General Koster also invited leaders from Missouri Sierra Club and other environmental groups in the state to meet with him in Jefferson City and plans to meet with environmental groups again in the fall. Missouri Sierra Club Director John Hickey and chapter chair Jim Turner both attended this meeting.

DON'T FORGET!

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapters. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in our own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able – and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhoods.

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7164 Manchester Avenue
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Barbara Hoppe (6th Ward) and Paul Sturtz (1st Ward) voted "NO"

The final TMDL was issued on January 28, 2011 and was essentially as originally drafted. Reason prevailed.

But, it is difficult to stop a juggernaut.
Hickson Creek.....continued on page 5

Our Offensive against Coal

by Henry Robertson

In 2009-10 the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations tried to get a climate bill out of Congress. It didn't work. The public doesn't care enough about global warming, and the corporate interests were downright hostile. Forget Congress. The real action is in the states and, at the federal level, the EPA.

The Club is shifting its focus from global warming to the public health effects of coal. This is politic, but I can't let go of global warming just now. Those of us who care enough to learn about it and make it a high priority need to inform the rest. It shouldn't be hard after what happened last year: 2010 tied 2005 as the warmest year on record.

• Still paying the price of coal

The Environmental Integrity Project has ranked the states and individual coal plants for CO2 emissions as of 2010. Missouri is number 10 among the states. Ameren Missouri's Labadie plant in Franklin County ranks number 7 in the country.

Missouri's power plants rank high for other pollutants as well. We get 85% of our electricity from burning coal.

A new study led by Dr. Paul Epstein of Harvard Medical School attempts to put a dollar value on the full life cycle costs of coal from the impacts of mining, transportation, combustion, water pollution, ash disposal and health care. As a reference point, Missouri's residential electric rates average about 8.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

Our comprehensive review finds that the best estimate for the total economically quantifiable costs, based on a conservative weighting of many of the study findings, amount to some \$345.3 billion, adding close to 17.8¢/kWh of electricity generated from coal. The low estimate is \$175 billion, or over 9¢/kWh, while the true monetizable costs could be as much as the upper bounds of \$523.3 billion, adding

close to 26.89¢/kWh. These and the more difficult-to-quantify externalities are borne by the general public.

Is coal really so cheap?

What we're doing. The US EPA recently sued Ameren for Clean Air Act violations at its Rush Island plant in Jefferson County following a Notice of Violation issued to all four of Ameren's coal plants. National Sierra Club and the Missouri Sierra Club are intervening in this suit to give a boost to EPA.

The Missouri Chapter and the Eastern Missouri Group are supporting the Labadie Environmental Organization in its struggle to stop Ameren from putting a huge new coal ash landfill in the Missouri River floodplain next to the Labadie plant, the biggest coal plant west of the Mississippi.

• Efficiency rules!

The Public Service Commission's (PSC) energy efficiency rules are an attempt to solve a conundrum: how can a company stay in business by selling less of its product?

Things are changing at the customer's end of the line. Appliances from light bulbs to air conditioners to refrigerators are getting much more efficient.

Efficiency is cheaper than coal!

Often, however, there's a high up-front cost to the customer. This is where our utilities can help. They can pay the up-front costs and recoup them in rates. As an incentive, we can even pay them part of the savings customers realize. The PSC rules allow this. Everybody saves from not having to build new power plants and transmission lines or import millions of tons of coal from Wyoming.

What we're doing. Ameren has filed a new 20-year plan called an Integrated Resource Plan. Are they eager to take advantage of the new incentives in the PSC rules? No, they're holding out for more. Even though the PSC rules actually allow for lost revenue recovery if utility revenue drops below the level used to set rates, that's not enough for Ameren, so they're cutting back their

already minimal efficiency programs. The Missouri Sierra Club is a party to the IRP proceedings.

• EPA

What you can do. This year EPA will be rolling out a series of rules to crack down on pollution. You'll be getting emails asking you to contact EPA in support of these rules. Please do so.

The first of these rules is already out. It is a revised, less costly version of an earlier rule that will reduce mercury, soot, lead and other emissions from small boilers and solid waste incinerators by improving work practices rather than requiring new pollution controls.

This summer we expect New Source Performance Standards to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from power plants and oil refineries. Republicans in Congress are trying to revoke the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide, an authority the Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that the agency had.

Also this summer the EPA is to issue a stronger air quality standard for ozone, something of great importance to those of us in St. Louis, which has long exceeded standards for ozone, a leading cause of asthma and other respiratory and heart problems. Still pending is a new rule for coal ash landfills, which should treat toxic coal ash as a hazardous waste.

The Missouri Sierra Club will also be highlighting the opportunities for green jobs in renewable energy and efficiency, such as factories making wind turbine components in Washington, Jefferson City and soon Kansas City.

Fossil fuels refuse to die. Fighting them is a dance of two steps forward and one step back. So far the only alternative that's getting traction in Missouri is a new, outrageously expensive nuclear plant. But we have a better and cheaper alternative - reduce energy demand through efficiency and build renewable generation instead. We'll keep up this fight.

Trail Building at Hawn State Park.. We need your help!

by Bob Gestel

Outdoor people, we do need your help. Several of our favorite hiking areas have been affected by the winter weather, and we need your help to get the trails back in top shape for the spring hiking season, which all of us enjoy. Trees have been blown down by high winds. Heavy rains have eroded some sections of the trails. Some areas can be rebuilt, other areas will need to be routed around. It is going to take some elbow grease to make the repairs and do the reroutes. We have done this before and everyone had great fun working together to get the trails back in shape. We had so much fun, we could hardly call it work!!! Now, it is time to have fun together, again!!!

To get the trails back in shape, we have set aside four days to work on the trails in one of our favorite parks, Hawn State Park, a short 60 mile drive south of St. Louis. The dates for this trail work are set for: Thursday, March 31 thru Sunday, April 3.



Bob Gestel hard at work Photo: Paul Stupperich

We have fun things for all skill levels, so don't be afraid to join in, for a day or for all four days. We would love to have you all four days, but any amount of time will be appreciated.

What you will need: Sturdy footwear, rain gear, work gloves, lunch items and water, assuming you

will only be with us during the day. If you can help us for several days, you



Bob Van Sickle and Paul Ohlendorf

Photo: Bob Gestel

will need to bring your camping gear, assuming you will be camping with us. We will provide free camping. We may be able to provide some free meals. We have the option to go out for pizza. We also have the option to go to the Midway Grill for some great burgers!!!!



Mark Schuermann

Photo: Bob Gestel

We really need your help, and your help will be appreciated...

Now, where to meet to help with this project!! We will meet each day at the Hawn State Park Office at 8:30 AM. So, whether you help us for one day, or more, we will start each day at the park office. There you will be introduced to the rest of the workers, given necessary information, and then you will be off to have fun working with the leaders as you all give the trails the gift of your time, which will then be enjoyed by many as the hiking season comes to life this year. Thanks

and have fun playing with others!!!!

For additional information, and questions, etc, use the info listed below.

Trail Crew thanks the LAD Foundation

by Bob Gestel

The Trail Crew would like to thank the L.A.D. Foundation for a \$2000 dollar grant for new trail tools. Some of our tools were over 20 years old and are now replaced with state of the art tools. Since the late 70's the Sierra Club has been working in the Pioneer Forest on their trail system. We have been maintaining 12 miles of the Blair Creek Section of the Ozark Trail, constructed the 2.5 mile Laxton Hollow Trail, helped construct the Brushy Creek Trail and helped flag the proposed Current River Trail. The Sierra Club has also worked with management at Hawn State Park and designed and built several reroutes replacing badly worn sections of trail.

As you can see, this grant money will go a long way in our future trail effort in the State of Missouri. So again thanks to the L.A.D. Foundation for the grant money and to all the Sierra Club members who have helped build and maintain some great hiking trails in Missouri for over 30 years. Hope to see you on a trail soon.

Contacts:

Bob Gestel 636-296-8975 or
rgestel@sbcglobal.net

Paul Stupperich 314-429-4352 or
lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Hinkson Creek.....continued from page 3
naut. Rather than things settling down after the TMDL was finalized, the media continues to cover this matter. Hardly a day goes by in which I am not interviewed on the Hinkson Creek TMDL issue.

Labor.....continued from page 2

interest of workers and of environmentalists. The bill would authorize the governor to privatize some electric power plants owned by the Wisconsin state government. Who will doubt that the Koch brothers are likely beneficiaries of that? Organized labor and the Sierra Club have a common foe - the Koch brothers and their kind who would cripple government so that it can protect neither the middle class nor the environment.

Missouri Chapter leaders find ourselves well positioned to help advance this national Club policy. Our Chapter Director John Hickey has many years of experience as director for a coalition of progressive organizations, including organized labor.

On another topic, long-time Missouri Sierrans remember that in earlier years the Club funded regional Sierran Conservation Committees. Those committees provided important arenas for development of leaders who in due course stepped up to leadership in national Club committees. The good news is that the Club has awarded a grant to support chapters of the Midwest to send delegates to a conference at Chicago in May. Conservation Chair Cheryl Hammond and I will attend the conference.

Finally, I can also report that beginning on March 23, Michael Brune will host a series of quarterly phone conferences for Chapter Chairs and Council of Club Leaders' delegates from each chapter. It will provide a good way for local ideas to rise to the attention of the folks "inside the San Francisco beltway"!

Let me remind you that, notwithstanding the growing help from the national Club, Missouri Chapter's effectiveness will depend upon your vigorous donations and investment of time in our work!



Eastern Missouri Group Outings <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>

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. (Seller of Travel ID # CST 2087766-40). Be adequately equipped and prepared. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips. Please leave the area cleaner than you find it.

Apr 1 (Fri) "No Foolin'" around on our 8 mile hike to see the first bluebells at Meramec Conservation Area near Sullivan. Also views of the river. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com P.S. Might be switched with hike below depending on the flowers.

Apr 8 (Fri) A sea of bluebells and yellow poppies at St. Francois State Park on our 6-9 mile trek past the river and thru the woods. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Apr 9-10 (Sat-Sun) Overnight back-packing trip. Light weight backpacking, part II. We will again take up light weight equipment and some "Make it yourself" instructions. You need not have any special light weight equipment for this trip. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net

Apr 13 (Wed) Day hike. We'll look for bluebells and other spring flowers on the Al Foster Trail in the Glencoe / Wildwood area, as we walk on this easy 5-mile gravel trail between the Meramec River and the Meramec bluffs; optional scramble up the bluffs overlooking the valley. Contact Margot at margot107@charter.net

Apr 15 (Fri) The season for blue. Now it is blue-eyed Marys at Washington State Park and our restored glades for our 7 mile hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Apr 16 (Sat) Late afternoon hike for photographers, wildflower enthusiasts, and those who don't want to go too fast at Pickle Springs Natural Area. We will begin our hike after lunch somewhere in the Farmington area. Contact jarhodes@sbcglobal.net or call (314) 821-7758 for more info.

Apr 20 (Wed) LaBarque Conservation Area (3 miles). The trail is a 3 mile primitive

trail loop that is rated moderate to difficult. There are small sandstone glades, acid seeps, forested fens, and many kinds of woodland. There are sandstone canyons and plants characteristic of earlier times of Missouri geologic history. Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com

Apr 23 (Sat) One day canoe trip on a river in the

Meramec Basin (which includes the Big, Bourbeuse, Courtois, Huzzah, and Meramec). River to be determined by water level. Join us in search of wildflowers and blooming trees along the banks of the river. Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Apr 24 (Sun) Day hike at Pickle Spring. A short but interesting hike through unusual rock formations. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net

Apr 27 (Wed) Day hike. Let's return to the popular Clark Trail at Weldon Spring Conservation Area, probably one of the most visited trails in the St. Louis area. Moderately challenging 5.3-mile hike in forested area on uneven terrain. Contact Margot at mar-got107@charter.net

May 4 (Wed) Shaw Nature Reserve. This will be investigative as well as a hike around the park. The wild flowers will be seen at the Bascom house before proceeding on a 3 mile hike around the grounds. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055, or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com.

May 7-8 (Sat-Sun) Overnight back pack trip on the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail. This will be a fairly short hike, 5 to 6 miles suitable for beginners. Hikers wanting a longer hike may do so as the route is fairly flexible. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

May 11 (Wed) Day hike at Meramec State Park, 6-mile loop. Join us for a scenic but hilly and moderately rocky hike at this popular park near Sullivan, MO. You will need good hiking foot-wear. For information contact Margot Kindley at (636) 458-4063, or mar-got107@charter.net. About 1-hour drive from St. Louis - we'll carpool.

May 14-15 (Sat-Sun) Two day canoe trip on the Current River. Enjoy this beautiful clear river before the summer crowds arrive. We will camp on a gravel bar Saturday evening. Several outfitters service the Current River, so rental canoes are an option. Tomi Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

May 18 (Wed) Valley View Glades Natural Area & Victoria Glades Conservation Area. Since both of these areas are near each other, we will be doing two separate hikes. Both hiking trails are each 2.5 miles in length giving a total of 5 miles for the day's outing. The wild flowers in bloom should make this a very colorful moderate walk in the

meadows. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055, or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com.

May 21 (Sat) A visit to Cahokia

Mounds. We will hike the trails to the various mounds and spend some time at the visitors center to take in the informative displays and movie. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net

May 22 (Sun) Easy canoe trip on the Meramec River from Route 66 State Park down to Castilewood State Park. Enjoy a stretch of the Meramec that is seldom floated.

Canoeing experience is desirable as we will be entering "unexplored" territory. Contact Jim Rhodes at (314) 821-7758.

May 25 (Wed) Day hike at

Broemmelsiek Park. We'll return to this St. Charles County Park for an easy 4-mile ramble through a variety of landscapes – open prairie, forests, over creeks and valleys – with beautiful views of homestead horse farms and ponds. Margot Kindley (636) 458-4063, or margot107@charter.net.

May 27 (Fri) Day hike: Hike about 8 miles to see whatever is blooming and overlook the river on our Lewis and Clark trail near Weldon Springs. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jun 1 (Wed) Forest 44 Conservation

Area. This will be a moderate hike through the woods while going up and down the hills in this conservation area. The hike will be 5.5 miles with views of Lone Elk Park that is just across Hwy 44. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055, or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com.

Jun 4 (Sat) National Trails Day. We will again celebrate National Trails Day at Hawn State Park. We will need people at the trail heads to hand out snacks and brochures. Come down for just a few hours and hike some of the trails the Sierra Club built. Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, or rgestel@sbcglobal.net Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Jun 8 (Wed) Day Hike at Washington State Park, about 1-hour drive from St.

Louis. For this hike we will choose the 3-mile easy but somewhat rocky and hilly Opossum loop trail, with option to add the 1.5-mile 1000 Steps trail. Margot Kindley (636) 458-4063, or margot107@charter.net. We'll carpool.

Jun 11 (Sat) A wild flower hike at Valley View Glades. This will be a leisurely 3-4 mile walk thru the glades where there should be a profusion of wild flowers. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, or lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Jun 12 (Sun) Early Father's Day Float: One day canoe trip on a river in the Meramec Basin (which includes the Big, Bourbeuse, Courtois, Huzzah, and Meramec). River to be determined by water level. We will look for a quiet section of river. Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Jun 15 (Wed) Columbia Bottom

Conservation Area. While the weather is still cool for St. Louis, we will be walking in these grasslands along the Missouri and

Missouri Chapter Campout - October 14-16, 2011

Please save the weekend of Oct 14-16, 2011 for the MO Chapter campout at Cuivre River State Park near Troy, MO. Our group camp is adaptable for many activities for families during both day and evening, and Cuivre River State Park also offers a variety of trails for Sierrans wanting longer hikes.

The cabins are rustic but well lit, and the dining hall will be large enough for a kid's corner and a silent auction as well as our volunteer prepared meals. You won't be able to use your tent this year, but we expect to have plenty of room and flexibility for all to attend.

The campout is put together by volunteers, and all participants help out in some way. If you would like to suggest an event, assist with children's activities, plan or supervise meals, or just want to assist with odd jobs such as camp preparation or clean-up, we will appreciate knowing that as soon as possible.

To volunteer for the 2011 chapter campout committee, please send an e-mail to Becky Denney at Becky.Denney@sierraclub.org.

Mississippi rivers for a look at the spot where they meet. This 4.5 mile hike will be an easy walk along the rivers. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055, or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com.

Jun 22 (Wed) Day hike at St. Francois

State Park which has the lovely, scenic Mooner's Hollow Trail, 2.7 miles on uneven terrain with mildly rocky ups and downs including a creek crossing. Wear good hiking footwear. We'll also add the nearby easy 3-mile Swimming Deer trail. About 1-mile drive from St. Louis; we'll carpool. Margot Kindley, (636) 458-4063, or margot107@charter.net

June 29 (Wed) St. Stanislaus

Conservation Area. This outing will give some great views of the Missouri River bottom land just South of the river in Hazelwood Missouri. This will be a moderate hike at 3.5 miles in length. Contact Doug Melville (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com.

Thomas Hart Benton Group <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/thb>

Apr 15 - 17 (Fri - Sun) Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve, MO

Join us as we hike the beautiful Whispering Pine Trail, enjoy the lofty pines, wild azaleas, sandstone barrens and cliffs, and sandy-bottomed streams. Bryan Ohrman, 816/215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net

Apr 30 (Sat) Eddy & Ballentine Trail, Kansas City, MO. Hike with Bill Eddy and Dick Ballentine, authors of Hiking Kansas City, on their namesake trail near Swope Park. The 3-mile trail has been partially re-routed and extended due to a land swap. Bring your lunch and we will sit on some limestone out-

croppings overlooking the valley below. \$5 dollar donation requested. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Apr 30 - May 1 Ozark Canoe Trip.

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; share your stories around the campfire. \$5 donation requested. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

May 21st (Sat) - Ozark Springs Tour, Eminence, MO. Enjoy the most beautiful spots in Missouri. We'll take a full day to go to "Alley", Two Rivers, the bluest Blue Springs, Rocky Falls, and Big Springs. \$10 donation requested. Contact Patty Brown at (816) 737-2804 or pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net

June 9th -12th (Thu-Sun) Blanchard Springs, Car Camping, Mountain View, AR. Join us at this Bluegrass music mecca nestled in the Ozark mountains. We'll camp next to Sylamore Creek at Blanchard Springs Caverns Recreation Area, tour the incredible cave and visit the Ozark Folk Center State Park. \$10 donation requested. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

June 25th (Sat) Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Join us for this 25-mile ride of rolling hills and rural settings, as we ride from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will reward ourselves to a delicious lunch buffet at Café Thyme. Followed by a hike through the gardens with all its flowers and foliage. For the return trip a trailer for bikes and car rides will be available. \$5 donation requested. Paul Gross (816) 228-6563 wildwoodp@hotmail.com

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

For latest outings, please see website.

White River Group <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/wrg>

For latest outings, please see website.

Sierra Club
Missouri Chapter
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St. Louis, MO 63143

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Who is the Sierra Club activist working on this trail? Check page 5 to see who.



Missouri Chapter Chair Jim Turner lobbying in Jeff City in February to save Family Farms (Belinda Harris is on the left, and Tim Gibbons on the right).