



Members in Independence push to retire outdated coal plant

By Maddy Salzman

Sierra Club members and supporters in Independence, Missouri are asking the City Council to retire the two outdated coal plants operated by the municipal utility. Additionally, the group “Indy Energy” has focused on educating the public about Independence’s energy future.

Independence Power and Light, the local municipal utility, owns two coal-fired power plants: Missouri City and Blue Valley. Missouri City is the state’s oldest operating coal plant, and Blue Valley is the fourth oldest, so the plants are well beyond their design lifespan. The pollution produced by these plants harms residents living with asthma, and costs residents millions of dollars in healthcare every year.

Indy Energy and many on-the-ground Sierra Club volunteers successfully made energy an election issue, prompting many council members to release statements on their stances. The Sierra Club endorsed council candidate and winner Scott Roberson based on his personal commitment to renewable energy. Roberson installed solar panels on his dental practice, supporting local business Free Energy Corp.

Sierra Club members are expanding their grassroots base in Independence to garner support for local investment in renewable energy. Sierra Club members Terry Flowers and Patty Brown spoke to the City Council in April to address concerns about the impact of coal on public health. Professor and Club member Mehdi Borhan has brought the topic to his students through guest speakers



One of dozens of billboards in St. Louis sponsored by the Sierra Club Photo: Sara Edgar

and panel discussions on Blue Valley College’s campus. Numerous opinion pieces have also been published in the local newspaper, the Examiner, further encouraging discussion about moving beyond coal.

Local advocates are hopeful a commitment from the City Council will be made to retire the coal plants by

January 2016. At the same time, the Sierra Club is calling for a robust transition plan for workers impacted by the retirements. Curious how you can support the teams in Independence? Contact andy.knott@sierraclub.org or go to www.indyenergy.org to learn more.

Vote No on Highway Sales Tax and “Right to Farm” on August 5

The Sierra Club is recommending that voters reject two measures that will be on the August 5th statewide ballot.

The highways tax would impose a new 3/4 cent sales tax to fund transportation. The overwhelming majority of the money would be used for new and existing roadways. Instead of building more roads and encouraging sprawl, it is time for the State of Missouri to invest in effective public transit systems that reduce air pollution, discourage sprawl, and build community. A broad sales tax is a regressive method of funding highways. Instead, highway users should pay these costs through

fuel taxes.

The so-called “Right to Farm” referendum is nothing more than an attempt to make it easier for big agribusiness to locate more CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) in Missouri while sidestepping opposition from local communities. That is why organizations representing small farmers, like the Missouri Farmers Union, are calling for a “no” vote on this measure.

If you would like to volunteer to help inform voters about these two measures, please contact John Hickey at John.Hickey@sierraclub.org.

Chair's Column

By James Turner, Missouri Chapter Chair



Recently some of us Missouri Sierra Club volunteers attended a day-long Beyond Coal Campaign conference, focused on Missouri's energy production. The

campaign includes our Missouri Chapter staff, three national staffers based in St. Louis, our Energy Chair Henry Robertson, and some of the Club's specialists based in Chicago, Madison, and San Francisco. Weekly phone conferences keep this team in synch. President Obama's remaining months are crucial for getting effective regulation of fossil fuels, customer and system efficiencies, and more renewable energy.

Sierra Club members across Missouri are responding effectively to our staff's guidance about where and when to apply our efforts. The staff is making timely trips to Kansas City, Springfield, and mid-Missouri, along with their local work in eastern Missouri, to advance our protection of air, water, and our moderate climate. Our Chapter and Group Executive Committees are attentive and enthusiastic about this work.

Be optimistic! America's younger generations recognize that governments and businesses must swiftly evolve toward sustainability. Climate disruption is becoming more and more obvious. The Koch brothers' credibility is eroding fast, and our work will be vindicated. Let's all exert ourselves as opportunities arise, to limit the avoidable damage from outmoded energy policies.

March Appeal Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated in response to this year's March Appeal letter. As of now your donations have brought us \$19,443. Our goal is \$24,000 by the end of June – please help put us over the top by sending you donation to: 7164

The Missouri Sierran is published two times a 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, consider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

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

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.

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Like the Missouri Chapter on Facebook



The Missouri Chapter and all four groups have Facebook pages, with interesting and regularly updated content.

Make sure to like our Chapter page.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriSierraClub>

Manchester Ave., St. Louis, MO
63143 or you can donate online at

http://bit.ly/MO_SC_donate

White River Group Progress

By Judy Dasovich, Chair of the White River Group

The White River Group met with Springfield City Councilman Craig Hosmer in February. About 30 concerned citizens attended the meeting to make him aware of our concerns regarding the proposed coal ash landfill site. Our municipal utility, City Utilities, operates under the direction of the City Council. Our points:

1. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) denied all six of CU's proposed landfill sites in the preliminary site investigation. All six received a rating of "severe collapse potential."
2. All six sites are on highly permeable limestone. CU has confirmed at least five catastrophic sinkhole collapses that have occurred within the existing coal ash storage basins. These are geologically similar to the proposed sites.
3. CU has not performed ground water testing at their existing coal ash landfills since 1987 despite being asked to do so by the MO DNR as recently as October 2013. Coal ash is known to contain multiple heavy metals such as mercury and arsenic that are toxic to human beings (especially children) and other living things.



White River Group members meet with Councilman Hosmer in February 2014

4. Trending faults provide a highly permeable pathway that can provide connectivity to the deep Ozarks aquifer.

Stop the land grab at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways!

By John Hickey, Chapter Director

The National Park Service (NPS) is still evaluating comments received on its draft General Management Plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR). In fact, the NPS may not issue a final plan until early 2015.

Meanwhile, the Missouri Sierra Club is advocating for Alternative A, which provides the strongest protections against damage by ATVs and excessive horse traffic. Hundreds of Sierra Club members submitted comments to the NPS supporting this option.

Unfortunately, some politicians are trying to sabotage the protections being advocated by the NPS.

The Missouri General Assembly, led by House Budget Committee Chair Rick Stream, voted to divert money from the state park system to finance a takeover of ONSR by the state government. Don't let Rick Stream destroy our state's biggest national park!

Ask Governor Jay Nixon to veto the budget allocation that would finance this

land grab. Call his office at 573-751-3222.

Another step you can take: when you visit the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, be sure to tell your local outfitters (e.g. canoe rental, gas station, or lodge) that you support the stronger protections advocated by the NPS. Tourism is the biggest economic driver in the ONSR region, and so local outfitters share our interest in a well-man-



Tire tracks at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways

aged, top-of-the-line national park.

If you're not sure how to organize your own float trip at ONSR, consider participating in the national Sierra Club outing being led by Bill Nichols from October 12 -16. This is outing # 14208A – find more information at www.sierraclub.org/outings/national.

There are seven springs in the area of the proposed sites that ultimately connect with Wilson's Creek, the James River and Table Rock Lake.

5. CU pays dues (in 2014, \$88,000 of ratepayer money) to belong to MAMU, the Missouri Alliance of Municipal Utilities, which contributed money to Lincoln Hough's campaign in the past

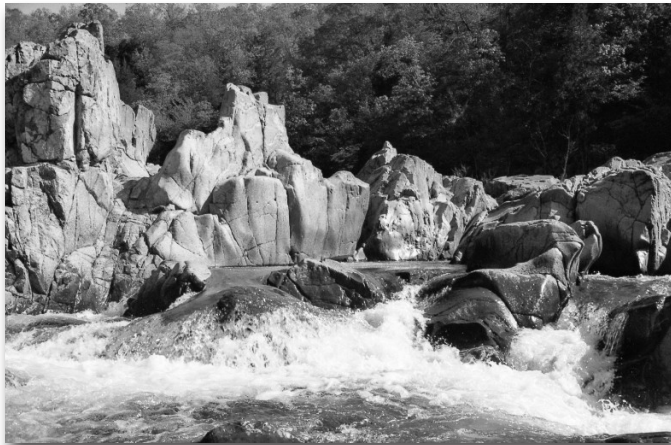
Mr. Hosmer was receptive to the information. He pointed out that 3 of the nine city council members were sympathetic to these concerns, but we would need to convince the other six. To that end, we are planning a presentation for the June 9 to the Springfield City Council. We will keep you informed of our progress.

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

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

Eastern Missouri Group outings are open to the public and a donation of one dollar is requested. Leaders are unpaid volunteers who need your cooperation to make the trip safe 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. No guns, pets, or electronic media are permitted on trips.

For general information about outings contact Mike Bollinger, 636-938-6594 or mfbollinger@gmail.com. For additional



Johnson Shut-Ins

Photo: Marsha Amentrout

collect these outings. 636-288-1055, or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com

Jun 18 (Wed) Hike ~ Lone Elk Park.

Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net for further information.

Jun 20 (Fri) Day hike.

Summer begins and who can predict where we go on a weekly 6-8 mile adventure. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jun 21 (Sat) We will investigate a high quality stream in

a wooded niche near expanding Eureka. Our stream team will monitor Fox Creek and send the data to the Dept. of Natural Resources. At two locations we will test for dissolved oxygen and other chemical parameters, perform a visual survey and measure stream flow if feasible. Please



Hikedown

Photo: Becky Denney

outings submitted after our publication deadline and for changes, please check the Eastern Missouri Group website at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>.

Jun 13 (Fri) Day hike. Might be a hike or a bike ride depending on the weather. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

To participate in 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 before the outing, please see:

<http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5528.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40

Jun 18 (Wed) Deadline for EMG outings from August 15 to October 31. Because of other plans Doug Melville will

contact: Leslie Lihou 314-726-2140 or Jim Rhodes 314-821-7758, jarhodes@sbcglobal.net

Jun 22 (Sun) Almost Summer Solstice Canoe trip. Join us on a one day canoe trip in the Meramec Basin, location depends on water levels. Families are welcome. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener at 314-434-2072.

Jun 25 (Wed) Trail of Tears State Park, Peewah Trail. This will be a 6 mile hike using the East Loop and part of the West Loop of the Peewah Trail. The trail goes through a maze of ravines and then ascends to a ridge to bluff path that overlooks the Mississippi River. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jun 27 (Fri) Day hike. Call for info for the weekly hike info. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Jul 2 (Wed) Hike - Al Foster Trail. Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Jul 9 (Wed) Silver Lake Park, Illinois - Silver Lake Trail. This trail covers the East side of Highland Silver Lake in 4.5 miles, out and back on the same trail. A good area for bird watching and fish jumping as you walk through the trees that line the shore. This is an easy and laid back trail on packed earth. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 11 (Fri) Day hike. Will probably be a bike ride instead of a hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Jul 16 (Wed) Hike - Blazing Star Trail at Cuvier River. This is a 4 mile loop through fields of blazing stars, woodlands and prairie. Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Jul 18 (Fri) Day hike. Hike close to St Louis and finish before the heat gets too bad. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jul 19 (Sat) Afternoon-evening canoe trip on the Meramec River. Join us as we put on the river in the late afternoon to avoid

the crowds. We will enjoy the evening sounds as we take out shortly before dark. Rental canoes are not available. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener, 314-434-2072.

Jul 23 (Wed) Silver Mines - Millstream Gardens Trail. This hike goes along the St. Francis River where there are rapids and shut-ins that make for very interesting scenery. This is also the spot for the Missouri Whitewater Championships that is held in mid March. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 30 (Wed) Hike – Shaw Nature Reserve to see the wetlands and prairie flowers in full bloom. Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net

Aug 3 (Sun) One day canoe trip on the Big River. Enjoy a break from the summer heat on the river. We will have a day with few crowds on a stretch of the Big River. Families welcome. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener, 314-434-2072.

Aug 6 (Wed) The Nature Institute, Illinois. For this hike we will be just across the Mississippi River in Godfrey, Illinois to hike a variety of trails (4 miles total) in The Nature Institute, Olin Nature Preserve. The Preserve overlooks the Mississippi River and contains steep limestone bluffs and other features of karst topography including sinkholes, ravines and bedrock outcrops. We will also find small streams, a waterfall, upland forest and hill prairies. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 13 (Wed) Hike – Clifty Creek near Rolla. This is more of an adventure than a hike. The trip includes wading, swimming and some great scenery. If you have never been there it is worth the trip! Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Aug 20 (Wed) Council Bluff Recreation Area, Lakeshore Trail, Western section. The hike along the Western side of the lake will have some great vistas of the surrounding mountains and forests on the surface of the lake. The trail is nearly flat with a few steep climbs to even greater vistas. The hike will be 5 to 6 miles in length so that you can take in the many views of this lake. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 27 (Wed) Hike – Rockwoods Reservation. Contact Tina Mathes trea-

surehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Aug 30-Sep 1 (Sat-Mon) Three day canoe trip. Location to be determined later. George Behrens, 314-821-0247.

Osage Group

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

June 7 (Sat) – Bike ride on the Katy Trail. Meet at the Rocheport trailhead (depot/ranger station) and ride to McBaine and back (17 miles, less than two hours at leisurely pace). Meet at 9:00 a.m. Follow up with lunch at a restaurant to be decided by group consensus. For those that want to ride fast, or take few breaks, an additional section can be added between Rocheport and the trail west of the tunnel. Expect to meet back at Rocheport sometime around 11 a.m., two hours from the start. Call Tom Lata at 573-489-2302 for more information.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

The Thomas Hart Benton Group has all their outings on Meetup.com. You can find the latest scheduled outings at Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/

White River Group

<https://missouri2.sierraclub.org/content/white-river-group-homepage#>

The White River Group currently has no outings listed. Please check the website for the latest updates.



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October 2014 Trail Work Week

Save the Date — October 18-26

Attend Ozark Trail Maintenance in the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry

Register early to stay at the lodge at Current River State Park.

Tent camping is also available.

Tools will be furnished. Some meals will be furnished. Bring your snacks, water, good boots, work gloves, rain gear, sleeping bag or camping gear.

Attend for a day or all week but you must register.

Contact Paul Stupperich

314-429-4352

lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

for information.



2014 Legislative Report

By Michael Berg, Chapter Staff

Another Legislative Session has come and gone in Jefferson City – and

of Natural Resources to enforce new EPA regulations on greenhouse gas emissions. Fortunately attempts to even



Eastern Missouri Group Lobby Day

the Missouri Sierra Club was there fighting for environmental stewardship. Over 80 members and supporters came to the Capitol from throughout the state on four separate occasions to speak with legislators. In addition, we conducted In-District meetings with Senators Scott Sifton and Jason Holsman, and with Representatives John Wright and Stephen Webber.

One of our top priorities this year was the passage of a resolution calling for the monitoring of toxic coal ash at disposal sites. In an improvement over 2013, House Concurrent Resolution 28 received a hearing in the Tourism and Natural Resources Committee on March 27, where several Sierra Club members made cogent and impassioned arguments for the need to protect our health and environment from heavy metals and other pollutants found in coal ash. Unfortunately Committee Chair Don Phillips neglected to bring the resolution to a vote.

Much of our efforts were spent trying to stop bad legislation. One of the worst to pass was House Bill 1631, which weakens the ability of the Department

further weaken emissions regulations never came up for a vote.

This legislative program was carried



White River Group Lobby Day



Osage Group Lobby Day

out through the work of our Missouri Chapter Legislative Committee – Committee Chair Mike Diel, Dan Reed, Carolyn Amparan, Caroline Pufalt, Ross Hunt, Juli Viel, Bob Klepper, Henry

Monthly THB Group Meeting Schedule Change

Starting in June, the Thomas Hart Benton Group will convene monthly membership meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. We will skip the hot summer months, and plan on our first meeting at the end of the summer. We will continue to meet at 7 p.m. at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110. For more information contact Claus Wawrzinek at 816-517-5244 or claus@missouri.sierraclub.org or watch for our monthly newsletter and find us on Meetup.

We also continue to join efforts with Green Drinks KC where we get together at 6pm in a more social setting and talk about various topics. Both meetings are listed on Meetup.com at <http://www.meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club/>

Robertson, Claus Wawrzinek, David Mitchell, Steve Mohler, Anne McGregor and Myra Scroggs.

Legislative Scorecard

In order to help you better evaluate your own and other members of the state Legislature, we are including in this newsletter our 2013-2014 Missouri Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard. We hope it will be useful during the upcoming elections and for any future interactions you may have with your elected leaders. If you do not know your State Senator and Representative, you can easily find out at: http://bit.ly/mo_leg_find



Thomas Hart Benton Group Lobby Day

Sierra Club Missouri Chapter Political Committee 2014 Report

By John Feldmann, Political Chair

We're off to a good start in 2014 for our electoral involvement. We recently had some electoral victories for Sierra Club endorsed candidates. Scott Roberson won a city council election in Independence. Also, Ginny Chadwick won a city council election in Columbia. Hopefully, the rest of the year will have many more victories in the State Legislature.

We're heading into a very important year in Missouri politics with the mid-term elections this November. The stakes are high for everyone in Missouri who cares about our environment; our Ozark streams, the water we drink, the climate we live in. There's a lot of pressure from factions in the legislature to reduce funding for programs that help benefit Missouri's environment. Indeed, a majority in the legislature seem to be ignoring the mandate that was passed by Missouri voters in 2008 to create renewable energy sources in Missouri (15% by 2021). We still have major problems with coal generation in Missouri even as many other states reduce their dependence on coal

fired power plants. There is a push to reduce the stature of our Ozark National Scenic Riverways from a national park to a state run park.

The Missouri State Legislature is comprised of a House of Representatives chamber and Senate chamber that contains a super majority of Republicans. That means they have enough members to override the governor's veto of legislation.

Unfortunately, they do not generally vote in our favor. Therefore, it is our goal to get legislators elected who will support our environmental views.

This November we have a chance to influence the future of Missouri's environment. The Missouri Chapter political committee is about to start the biannual endorsement process for candidates to the Missouri legislature (as well as national candidates). We will use our legislative scorecard, questionnaires and other criteria to evaluate candidates. As the election approaches, we will publicize our endorsements to our members through postcards, email and phone calls.

There are numerous opportunities to

become involved in the endorsement process through your local political committee.

Contact the following individuals to get involved:

Eastern Missouri Group

Ross Hunt, 314-721-7207,
rhunt711@gmail.com

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Claus Wawrzinek, 816-517-5244,
claus.wawrzinek@gmail.com

Osage Group - Hank Ottinger, 573-443-4954, hank@tranquility.net

White River Group

Myra Scroggs, 417-224-4482,
myrascroggs@sbcglobal.net

In addition to participating in the endorsement process there are opportunities to become involved in "get out the vote" efforts, including phone calling, canvassing, and other voter contact efforts.

We need your help to have a successful political program for the Sierra Club this year. Do not underestimate your ability to make a difference in the election efforts. Individual hard work can provide significant help to campaigns. Please volunteer this year to our electoral effort.

See the Missouri Wilderness Photo Exhibit

By John Hickey, Chapter Director

The federal Wilderness Act was passed 50 years ago, in 1964. The Missouri Sierra Club is marking that anniversary by encouraging people to both enjoy the existing

eight federal wilderness areas in our state, as well as by advocating for new wilderness designations in Missouri.

One example of a potential new wilderness area for our state: The

Sierra Club supports the proposal by the National Park Service to protect 3,434 acres at Big Spring (near Van Buren, on the Current River) by recommending the area for wilderness designation.

Another opportunity to learn more about Missouri's wilderness areas would be to visit the Photo Exhibit assembled by local Sierra Club leaders Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong. The exhibit has already been shown in St. Louis and Columbia. Be sure to visit when the photos are in your town! To the left you can find the schedule for the exhibit for the rest of the year.

<u>City</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Kansas City	now thru June 30	Anita Gorman Discovery Center 4750 Troost
Southeast Missouri	July - August	TBA
Kirksville	Sept	Kirksville Art Association 117 So Franklin St.
Rolla	October	TBA
Springfield	Nov - Dec	Discovery Center of Springfield 438 E. St. Louis St.



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On April 3, the Sierra Club supported the St. Louis release of the new National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) report on Just Energy Policies in Missouri. To read a copy go to http://bit.ly/NAACP_energy

Participants in the event included:

Back row, left to right: John Hickey, Missouri Sierra Club Chapter Director, James Page of Organizing for Action, Adolphus Pruitt, President of the St. Louis City Chapter of the NAACP.

Front Row: Sara Edgar, Sierra Club Beyond Coal organizer and Jacqui Patterson, national NAACP staff.

Sierra Club office moving on July 1st!

The Missouri Sierra Club is growing, so we need more space! On July 1st, we will be moving to a new office – while it is only a few blocks from our existing office, it will have three times as much floorspace. The new address is 2808 Sutton, St. Louis, MO 63143. To furnish the new office space, we need donated office furniture, including desks, folding chairs, and kitchen utensils. Contact Penny Holtzmann at emg.sierraclub@earthlink.net if you have items to donate!

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