



Missouri Sierran

One Earth



One Chance

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

Ballot Initiatives: Vehicle for Change

By Ross Hunt, Political Committee Chair

Why do environmental issues face such an uphill battle in the MO legislature when we're the ones wearing the white hats? How do we get money out of politics in Missouri? It's the Wild West out there, but there's a way for you to saddle up and ride in and save the day!

The MO Sierra Club has endorsed the "MO Democracy Reform Campaign" (Clean MO) Constitutional Amendment. This would pin the Sheriff star on a non-partisan state demographer who would draw more representative state legislative district maps. Result: less biased election results and better representation. Ethics rules are part of the amendment too. Banned: Lobbyist gifts over \$5 per day. Banned: Unlimited campaign contributions in Missouri.

We have also endorsed the "Give Missourians a Raise" campaign which aims to increase Missouri's minimum wage. This ballot measure serves official Sierra Club goals of equity, inclusion and justice.

We need your help gathering signatures, and spreading the word. The measures will be on the ballot Nov, 2018, if enough voters sign.

To find out more or attend a training call the Sierra Club office at 314-644-1011, or send an email to Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org.



Eleven Point State Park Moves Forward

By Jennifer Conner, Conservation Program Coordinator

Missouri state parks came under attack again this year in the Legislature. In response, Sierra Club members took a stand and defeated the worst-of-the-worst! House Bill 821 was a particularly heinous bill that mandated the sale of several new state parks including the Eleven Point State Park.

In addition to the incalculable value of protecting wild land, state parks provide an economic benefit to otherwise economically depressed areas. For every \$1 spent on Missouri state parks, \$26 is generated in the local economy.

Our members recognize the value of our state parks and came out in droves to defeat House Bill 821. Over 900 people responded to the email action, sending messages opposing the bill directly to their legislators. In addition, over 125 Sierra Club members attended our lobby day to oppose this destructive bill.

Thank you for saving the Eleven Point State Park!



Eleven Point River.

Photo by Jennifer Conner

Now take the opportunity to explore what you protected. Enjoy the wilderness and abundant wildlife-float the six mile stretch of the Eleven Point River that flows through the park that you saved! Remember to share your photos on our Facebook page.

Looking to the future, Sierra Club members in West Plains have started meeting regularly. They are motivated and mobilizing to protect our Ozark rivers and public lands.

Would you like to learn more? Former Missouri State Park Director John Karel will be speaking at the Sierra Club meeting in the St. Louis Sierra Club office on June 22 at 7 p.m. and will discuss the importance of this section of the Eleven Point River!



On April 29, over 300,000 people marched on Washington DC and throughout the country demanding immediate action to confront catastrophic climate change. Here hundreds march through downtown Saint Louis. In addition there were marches in Columbia and Kansas City. Sierra Club members also spoke at the April 22 Earth Day March for Science in both Joplin and Springfield.

Photo by Sara Edgar.

Chair's Column

By Sarah Willey, Chapter Chair



I'd like to say welcome to the many new members who have joined the Chapter in recent months. Since the November election, the Club, and our Chapter, have seen an incredible increase in membership and donations. Thank you. In this edition, you will see some of what we are doing with the resources you have entrusted to us. Despite what is a difficult political climate in Missouri, we managed to protect public parks and increase support for renewable energy in the state this session.

The Sierra Club offers tremendous opportunities to get involved and help win victory at all levels politically, but also to build community, learn about environmental issues, and stand for justice. Or, to relax and enjoy the places in Missouri we work to protect.

If you are a new member, or a long-time member who hasn't attended an event, I encourage you to come to a meeting, or an outing, or call one of our committee chairs to learn about how you can get involved and take action. I look forward to meeting you at one of our events!



Like us on Facebook

Stay in touch with other Sierrans in your area. Like our local Facebook pages:

Missouri:

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

Columbia:

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

Kansas City:

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

St. Louis:

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

Springfield:

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

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The Missouri Sierran is published two times a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club, in early June and early November. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication.



If you wish to submit an article or photo, contact our Chapter Office via email at missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org or phone 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333 prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.

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On December 7 Sierra Club intern Eli Horowitz testified before the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) in support of the Grain Belt Express transmission line, which would allow our state and states further east to utilize wind power from southwest Kansas. The PSC is likely to make a decision on this issue this summer.

Photo by Rajiv Ravulapati.

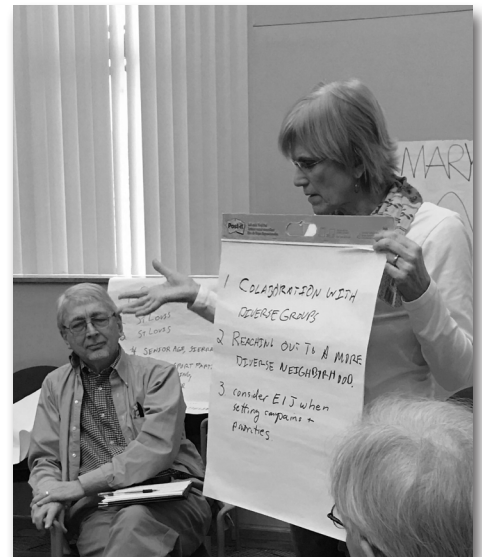
Sierra Club is Growing for Change

By Natalie Lucas, Environmental Justice Chair and Member of the National Board of Directors

On March 5 Sierra Club leaders from across the state participated in a full day Equity, Inclusion and Justice training in Columbia. The Sierra Club is committed to creating a culture in which all people feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate. We can do that by combating racism and oppression in the Sierra Club and our communities. Leaders discussed how Sierra Club can become more inclusive in our programs, outreach and campaigns. Participants took a deep dive into understanding systems of oppression. Understanding these systems will help us learn how to operate our organization to be more equitable.

This is part of a larger Sierra Club initiative called Growing For Change. Sierra Club is taking Equity, Inclusion, and Justice head on and launching a national training initiative that Sierra Club members can participate in. You can attend a Growing for Change training in Chicago on November 14-15, 2017.

As for what the Missouri Chapter is doing next the Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee will be doing a review of our campaigns, programs, outings, groups, and chapter to identify what we do well, and where we can improve. If you are interested in going to the Growing for Change training in Chicago, or participating on the Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee please email Natalie Lucas at natalie.r.lucas@gmail.com.



Jim Turner and Caroline Pufalt discuss issues of racism and inequity as it relates to the Sierra Club. Photo by Natalie Lucas.

Saint Louis University 100% Clean Energy

By Erin Kollar, Intern

In April, Saint Louis University student government unanimously passed a resolution to create a 100% clean energy campus. The Sierra Club worked with the Green Billikens student group to pass this resolution. They also organized a human wind turbine aerial image on campus to show the administration that students support clean energy. Call your college or University, your alma mater, or your child's university and encourage them to transition to 100% clean energy!



Photo by George Tharpe

Mayors for Clean Energy

By Sara Edgar, Beyond Coal Campaign

Mayors for Clean Energy is a new national initiative led by mayors to support a transition to 100% clean energy. Rock Port, Missouri was the first town in the entire US to be powered by 100% clean energy and now there are more than 30 US cities that have followed their lead. University City mayor Shelley Welsch was the first mayor from Missouri to support this national initiative, St. Peters mayor Len Pagano recently became the second, and we are encouraging more Missouri mayors to join the effort. Reach out to your mayor



Sierra Club Intern Kyle Kastraba with St. Peters mayor Len Pagano. Photo by Joyce Huster.

today and encourage them to join Mayors for Clean Energy.



From left to right: Erin Kollar, Hannah Gilroy and Ryan Kennerknecht Photo by Sara Edgar



Sierra Club Intern Sue Bell talks with Senator Claire McCaskill at an April 12 town hall meeting about the need to promote clean energy. Photo by Barb Liley.

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Eastern Missouri Group
<http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri/outings>

Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns or pets are allowed on trips. Use of audible electronics must be approved by the leader. Participants must sign a liability release. Outings Leaders are volunteers. Outings officially start at the trailhead or river access. Carpooling is encouraged but not the responsibility of the Leader. For more information contact the Leader of a particular Outing or for general information contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com. All are encouraged to check for recent outing additions on our EMG website, sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri

Jun 8 & 10 (Thu & Sat) Trail building at Don Robinson State Park. Contact Rick Schweitzer at rickschweitzer2@gmail.com for information including starting time and location

Jun 9 (Fri) Day hike. An almost summer hike. Location depends on the weather. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for information including starting time and location.

June 10 (Sat), Life Outside Festival 2017. Come to Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park, North Entrance off Marine near boathouse. Come visit our booth and enjoy a hike in the park. You can then see, try and learn ways to spend more time enjoying the outside. Free activities include tree climbing, kayaking lessons, bird watching, rock climbing, stand up paddle boarding, nature crafts and activities for kids, walks and bike rides throughout the day, gardening and yoga. Four musical groups provide additional entertainment as well as food and beverage trucks to make your visit a fun experience for you and your family. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com or <http://greatriversgreenway.org/life-outside/>



Young Sierrans Canoe expedition. Photo by Besa Schweitzer.

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

for further information.

Jun 11 (Sun) One day paddling trip. Probably Big Creek near Sam A. Baker State Park or a small stream in the Meramec basin. Jonathan Lehman, 314-791-3969.

Jun 12-15 (Mon-Thu) Passport Hunt, Kansas City Region. For this 4 day 3 night adventure, we will be visiting 8 State Parks, 5 State Historic Sites, 4 National Historic Trails and 1 National Historic Site in the Kansas City Region of Missouri. At each of the State Parks, we will be hiking a short trail as well as seeing the sites of the park before we obtain our Passport stamp. At the State Historic Sites, we will be touring the property and learning about the people of that era that made the site worth preserving. At the National Level we will be visiting the trailheads of 4 trails that originated in Missouri and the Home and Farm of President Harry S. Truman. We plan on staying in motels for this Outing. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Sappington Cemetery, Arrow Rock, Boone's Lick and Bothwell Lodge State Historic Sites. For this Outing we will journey back to Columbia, Missouri to complete our Passport stops for the Central Region. After a short hike at Van Meter State Park we will then visit a cemetery, a tavern, a salt water spring and a lodge. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jun 30 (Fri) Day hike. Join us for our weekly hike to start your long holiday weekend. For information including starting time and location, contact jleachross@hotmail.com

Jul 7 (Fri) Day hike or bike ride. For more information include starting time and location, contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jul 12-13 (Wed-Thu) Ozark Trail backpacking. For this two day adventure, we will be hiking a part of the Courtois Section of the Ozark Trail, camp or cabin overnight at the Bass River Resort then float a six-mile section of the Courtois Creek handled by the Bass River Resort.

This should make for an interesting and fun 2 day trip. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jul 14 (Fri) Day hike. For weekly information include starting time and location, contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jul 26 (Wed) Spelunking in Eastern Missouri State Parks. Fischer Cave & Onondaga Cave. This week we will hike indoors and underground. We start at Meramec State Park with Fisher Cave. After our visit, you will need to change

your clothing, footwear, accessories and equipment before we go to Onondaga Cave at Onondaga Cave State Park. This is needed to limit the spread of a disease affecting bats called white-nose syndrome, a fatal fungal infection. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jun 16, (Fri) Day hike. Flowers should be blooming lots of places for this hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for information including starting time and location.

Jun 23 (Fri) Day hike. A summer day 7 mile hike. For information including starting time and location, contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jun 28 (Wed) Van Meter State Park &

Jul 28 (Fri) Day hike. For information including starting time and location, contact jleachcross@hotmail.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Jul 29 (Sat) Afternoon and evening canoe trip on the Meramec River. We will put out on the river in the afternoon, then stop for dinner on a gravel bar. Our trip will end in the early evening as we are serenaded by the frogs. This trip is a great way to enjoy a summer evening on the river. Must have your own canoe or kayak. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener at 314-434-2072.

Aug 4, (Fri) Day hike. A maybe hike depending on the weather. Contact rickschweitzer2@gmail.com or jleachcross@hotmail.com

Aug 7-10 (Mon-Thu) Passport Hunt, Lakes Region. For this 4 day 3 night adventure, we will be visiting 10 State Parks, 4 State Historic Sites, 1 National Monument and 1 National Battlefield in the Lakes Region of Missouri. At each of the State Parks, we will be hiking a short trail as well as seeing the sites of the park before we obtain our Passport stamp. At the State Historic Sites, we will be touring the property and learning about the people of that era that made the site worth preserving. At the National Level we will be visiting the George Washington Carver National Monument and the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. We plan on staying in motels for this Outing. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 11 (Fri) Day hike or bike ride. For more information include starting time and location, contact jleachcross@hotmail.com or rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com.

Aug 18 (Fri) Day hike. Contact jleachcross@hotmail.com for information including starting time and location.

Aug 20 (Sun) One day canoe trip on either the Meramec, Big or Bourbeuse Rivers. Escape the heat of the city on a canoe trip. We will have plenty of time to swim. Families are welcome. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener at 314-434-2072.

Aug 23 (Wed) Hike. We begin this outing at Dillard Mill, in Dillard Missouri. At

the mill we will be treated to see an actual running mill as it turns either gains of corn or wheat into corn meal or wheat flour. You will get to experience what it was like to work in this 19th Century water powered factory. Then we drive to Elephant Rocks State Park to see what remains of another 19th Century factory that turned granite into the building blocks for cities like St. Louis. The Braille Trail will lead you on a journey about the quarry containing the remains of the equipment and the signatures of the workers who labored there. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 25 (Fri) Day hike or bike ride. For more information include starting time and location, contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Trailbuilding

July 15 (Sat) Trail Protection Introduction. 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn about trail building and trail protection. Discuss ways you can help save the



Trailbuilding at Hawn State Park.

Photo by John Feldmann.

Current River from overuse and overdevelopment with Sierra Club Missouri Chapter Director John Hickey. The workshop is free but please contact Becky Denney to attend at dardenney3@gmail.com.

Oct 14-22 (Sat-Sun) Ozark Work Week.

Join us for the annual October Work Week for trail work in Pioneer Forest. We will stay at Current River State Park. This year we will be working on the Ozark Trail as well as trails at Current River S.P. Join us several days or for the whole week. Level: Moderate. Hope to see you there. For more information contact:

Becky Denney, 636-751-3158, dardenney3@gmail.com or John Feldmann, 314-609-5278, johnfeldmann@msn.com

Eastern Missouri Group

Monthly meetings are at normally at 7 pm on fourth Thursday of the month at the Missouri Sierra Club Office (2818 Sutton Ave., Maplewood, MO 63143).

June 22 (Thu) Former MO State Park Director John Karel will discuss the importance of this section of the Eleven Point River. 7 p.m.

July 27 (Thu) Social dinner at the Olympia Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. (1543 McCausland Ave, St. Louis, MO 63117). There will be no meeting in August. Normal schedule will resume in September.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Monthly Membership meeting are the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please check <http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton> for details.

Osage Group

Monthly Membership meetings are on the Third Tuesday every other month (June, August, October, December, February, April.) 6:30 Social Gathering, 7 p.m. Meeting. Location: TBD, Check Osage Website or Facebook or call Christine Doerr at 573-803-4059.

June 13 (Tue) Osage Group Picnic. 5 to 11 p.m. Stephen's Lake Park, Gordon Shelter (2001 East Broadway, Columbia). Bring a potluck dish to share, your own reusable plates, cups, utensils. Sierra Club provides hotdogs, buns, condiments, lemonade and ice. Come and leave when you can. Music by Tom Lata. Open to members and supporters.

White River Group

The Executive Committee of WRG meets every second Monday, 5p.m. at the Midtown-Carnegie Branch Library upstairs conference room. Address is 397 E. Central St. Springfield, MO 65802. Members are always welcome. HOWEVER, we have CANCELLED for June and July due to summer vacations.

June 25 (Sun) Membership Potluck and Social. 4 to 8 pm. Nathaniel Greene Pavilion at the Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO 65807. Contact Cathy Primm at cathykprimm@gmail.com.

2017 Legislative Report

By Michael Berg, Chapter Organizer and Carolyn Amparan, Legislative Committee Member and Osage Group Chair

This January we entered a legislative session with the threat of passage of anti-environmental laws. Amazingly the legislature did not pass a single one of the many bills that we were most worried about becoming law.

The Sierra Club was instrumental in stopping several dangerous bills from passing. One of these bills would have allowed utilities to levy large additional monthly fees for solar customers. Another would have made it nearly impossible for state parks to acquire new land. Other proposals would have reduced protections for the environment and public from large animal factory farms.

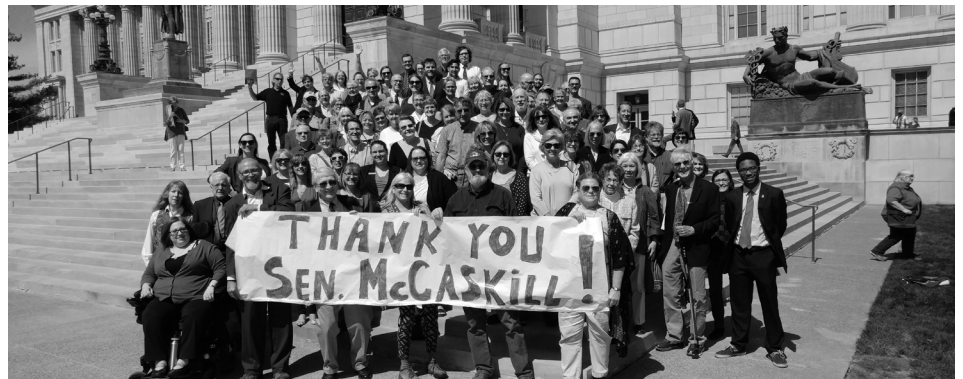
Legislators also attempted to auction off our new Eleven Point State Park – and once again we succeeded at stopping this, despite a last minute effort to insert the bill’s language into unrelated legislation.

More than in previous years we made our presence felt early in the process, testifying on twelve different pieces of legislation. We organized six in-district meetings and an April 12 Lobby Day with 125 participants – meeting with 171 legislators and their staff. Over 4000 members contacted their legislators on these issues.

Two social equity bills we oppose did pass and are awaiting a decision from the Governor. Please contact Governor Greitens at 573-751-3222 to request a veto on SB 43 and HB 1194. SB 43 makes it more difficult to sue and successfully prove that discrimination was the cause of losing a job. HB 1194 means that no city can have a minimum wage higher than the Missouri state minimum wage and overrides the higher wage that was to effect in St. Louis this year. The Sierra Club is committed to a more equitable Missouri, in accord with national Sierra Club policy. You can learn more at sierraclub.org/equity.



On April 12, Sierra Club members from around the state came to Jefferson City to talk with legislators about environmental issues. Here they have packed a Capitol hearing room for the day’s orientation.
Photo by Rajiv Ravulapati.



At the end of the Lobby Day, we thanked Missouri Senator Clair McCaskill for voting to deny climate change denier Scott Pruitt his position as head of the United State Environmental Protection Agency.
Photo by Rajiv Ravulapati.



Sierra Club members speak with Logan Speena from the office of Missouri Governor Eric Greitens
Photo by Rajiv Ravulapati.

This year’s legislative program accomplished much more than in previous years, thanks to the work of our legislative committee: Dan Reed (Chair), Carolyn Amparan, Barb Yates, James Harmon, Caroline Pufalt, Paulette Zimmerman, Henry Robertson, Ross Hunt, Claus Wawrzinek, Steve Mohler, Myra Scroggs, Jim Arneson, and Audrey Elder. Thank you for all your hard work!



Representative Joe Adams (center) meets with Jonathan Lehman, John Sterling and Hilary Simon.
Photo by Segolene Renazé.

Sierrans Speak Out Against EPA Chief Scott Pruitt

By Rajiv Ravulapati, Conservation Program Coordinator

On April 19 the Sierra Club organized a group of mid-Missouri clean energy business owners and advocates to speak out against the Trump administration's proposed cuts to Missouri in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget as well as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's promotion of coal polluter interests over Missouri clean energy business and jobs.

The event preceded a visit to mid-Missouri by Pruitt, who joined U.S. Senator Roy Blunt at the Thomas Hill energy Center in Clifton Hill on April 20.

After the event I led the delegation to a meeting with Senator Claire McCaskill's local staff in Columbia to discuss the growth of clean energy jobs in Missouri and how the Senator's staff can work more closely with environmentalists and clean energy advocates.



From left to right: Dr. Gordon Christensen, Janet Nuse, Karl Skala (Ward 3 councilman for Columbia), Shane Swindle (Sun Solar employee & former coal miner), Caleb Arthur (CEO & Found of Sun Solar).
Photo by Rajiv Ravulapati

Good News for Ozark Streams!

By Jennifer Conner, Conservation Program Coordinator

Budgets for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gauges across the state were set to be axed by the Missouri Legislature this year. Stream gauges provide safety data on area stream and river levels and provide information on water quality. This information is crucial to the safety of residents and recreational users. Sierra Club supporter Gail Rowley spoke at length with Senator Mike Cunningham about her personal experience with the flooding and outlined the importance of maintaining these gauges. Thanks to her valiant effort and persistence, the Department of Natural Resources pledged to fund the gauges into the foreseeable future. Gail is a true hero of Ozark streams!



Missouri stream gauge is checked by staff. River forecasting is vital to the protection of life and property.
Photo courtesy of the US Geological Survey

"From the Ashes" Movie

Nationwide the Sierra Club is sponsoring showings of the new documentary "From the Ashes". The film captures Americans in communities across the country as they wrestle with the legacy of the coal industry and what its future should be under the Trump Administration. From Appalachia to the West's Powder River Basin, the film goes beyond the rhetoric of the "war on coal" to present compelling and often heart-breaking stories about what's at stake for our economy, health, and climate. You can see the trailer at fromtheashesfilm.com.



There will be four showings in Missouri

Saint Louis: June 19 (Mon), 6:30 p.m.

St. Louis Public Library Schlafly Branch, 225 North Euclid Ave, St Louis, MO 63108

Please contact Sara Edgar at Sara.Edgar@sierraclub.org to RSVP or with any questions.

Columbia: June 20 (Tue), 7 p.m.

Shakespeare's, Pizza South, 3911 Peachtree Drive, Columbia, MO 65203

As part of the semi-monthly group meeting, people will gather for pizza and appetizers at 6:30 p.m. Have Shakespeare's pizza for appetizers at the social gathering at 6:30 p.m. A brief club meeting will be before the film. RSVP if possible at bit.ly/SierraJuneMtg or write the Carolyn Amparan at carolyn.amparan@gmail.com.

Kansas City: June 20 (Tue), 6:30 p.m.

Gorman Discovery Center, Movie starts at 7 p.m., 4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110, RSVP at bit.ly/2qrzqkC

Springfield: June 21st (Wed), 7 pm.

Moxie Cinema, 385 S. Campbell, Springfield, MO 65806. Free and open to the public. Contact Cathy Primm at cathykprimm@gmail.com or 417-496-4614 if you have any questions.



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Missouri Chapter
2818 Sutton Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63143

**NEWSPAPER
DATED MATERIAL**



More than 60 Sierra Club members and allies showed their support for strong energy efficient building codes in St. Louis County at the February 8 Building Commission Hearing. The Sierra Club and our allies, the St. Louis Energy Coalition, submitted amendments to restore the proposed building code to national standards. However, the St. Louis County Building Commission voted to gut energy efficiency from the St. Louis County Building Code. As written, the proposed code would cost new homeowners an additional \$152 per year in utility costs due to energy efficiency rollbacks. The proposed code now heads to the St. Louis County Council. Pictured: Missouri Chapter Chair, Sarah Willey, testifies in support of energy efficiency and strong building codes. Photo by Ryan Kennerknecht.

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