



# Missouri Sierran

One Earth



One Chance

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

## Sierra Club Volunteers Push Jeff City Reform

By John Hickey, Chapter Director

In November 2016, 80% of Missouri voters supported renewing the sales tax that funds our State Parks. In May 2017, 58% of our state representatives voted to sell off four new Missouri State Parks. Why do our state legislators

ignore the will of Missouri voters on crucial environmental issues like this?

That is the problem addressed by the Clean Missouri initiative petition, which would implement a series of reforms to state government to make our Legislature more accountable to the people, instead of special interests. This measure will be on the statewide ballot on November 6th.

The proposal would:

- Ensure that neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the next census.
- Eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts in the General Assembly by banning any gift over \$5.

- Require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists.

115 Sierra Club volunteers collected signatures to put Clean Missouri on the ballot. In total, the Sierra Club collected over 12,000 signatures.

John Bohney – St. Louis – 1,632

Jim Turner – Kansas City – 327

Anne Marie Bailey – St. Louis – 203

Cathy Bell – St. Louis – 188

Jonathan Lehmann – St. Louis – 95

Sara Campbell – Kansas City – 159

John Madras – Jefferson City – 69

James Harmon – Kirksville – 46

Victoria Podesta – Springfield – 31

The next step? Invite a Sierra Club volunteer to speak at your gathering (e.g. Rotary Lunch, outdoors club, church committee). Contact Michael Berg at the Sierra Club: 314-644-1011 or [michael.berg@sierraclub.org](mailto:michael.berg@sierraclub.org).



On May 3 the Sierra Club joined other organizations to deliver CLEAN Missouri petitions to the Secretary of State. From left to right: John Saxton, Frances Klahr, Michael Berg, John Bohney and Hilliard Hicks. Photo by Stephanie Aria.

## Four New State Parks Saved

By Jennifer Conner, Organizer

In December 2017, Missouri State Parks held a series of public meetings on 3 of 4 new state parks: Bryant Creek State Park, Ozark Mountain State Park, and Jay Nixon State Park. The purpose of these meetings was to solicit public comments on the future of these parks. State Parks Director Ben Ellis had proclaimed that “all options were on the table” regarding the final disposition of these parks, which put the Sierra Club on high alert. Thankfully our members attended the public meetings en masse! In fact, 97 percent of Missourians who commented supported keeping the new parks! Shortly thereafter, the State Parks Director announced that DNR would not sell the parks - a major win

for the Sierra Club and all Missourians!

The bad news: DNR Director Carol Comer decided to give back to the Feds the \$575,000 earmarked for habitat restoration at Jay Nixon and Eleven

Point State Parks. Missouri State Parks claims they still intend to meet restoration goals at both new state parks - we must hold them to this promise!

**NEW PARKS** continued on page 2



Sierra Club members meet in Ava to discuss Missouri State Parks with Rep. Lyle Rowland. Photo by Jennifer Conner.

## Chair's Column

By Ross Hunt, Chapter Chair



During the Bush/Gore debates in 2000, the analysts mis-judged the public reaction. Al Gore, citing scientific studies, asserted many facts. Folksy George W. Bush said "Aw, shucks!", and avoided deep thought. The analysts concluded Gore had won handily. But polling found Bush was considered the winner by the viewers, many of whom figured Gore was just makin' stuff up. Nobody could know all that. But Gore did know, because he had worked hard to understand the facts.

Good science and good journalism are hard to do. In today's world, they don't get much respect. If the facts might impact profits or the powerful, the findings may get labeled as fake. In the post-fact world, hard-working scientists and journalists are sidelined.

The Sierra Club operates in the real world. When you are hiking a trail, or paddling a canoe, you see what is happening right in front of you. Whether it is tracking the health of rivers and streams, the healthiness of the air we breathe, or the damage caused by climate change, we stay true to the evidence. If species are dying out because of bad river management practices, we will work to fix that. If coal burning is sickening or killing people, we marshal our resources to change that.

But if others make up their own story, how should we respond? Learn the science and the facts. Share what you've learned with friends and family, with legislators and decision makers. Come to a Sierra Club meeting and learn more about your neighborhood.

The truth tellers will win. Eventually, the fable makers will be revealed for what they are. In the meantime, take heart, join the battle, and keep this goal in mind: a livable world for everybody!



The Missouri Sierran is published two times a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club, in early June and early December. 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](mailto:missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org) or phone 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333 prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.

### Chapter Executive Committee AT LARGE

#### Ross Hunt 2017-2018, Chair

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##### Carolyn Amparan

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### Committee Chairs

**Conservation Chair:** Caroline Pufalt

**Secretary:** Caroline Pufalt

**Legal Chair:** Henry Robertson

**Membership Chair:** John Feldmann

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael Berg

**Transportation Chair:** Open

**Political Chair:** Ross Hunt

**Legislative Chair:** Bob Grove

**Fundraising Chair:** Open

**Equity:** Natalie Lucas

**Outings:** Doug Melville

**Sierra Club Council Delegate:** Sarah Willey

**Website Chair:** Open

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#### Chapter Staff:

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Michael Berg, Organizer

Gretchen Waddell Barwick,

Organizer, Finance

Jennifer Conner,

Organizer

Andy Heaslet - Organizer

#### Beyond Coal Campaign Staff

Sara Edgar, Organizing Manager

Andy Knott, Beyond Coal Senior

Campaign Representative

Trisha Boyle - Beyond Coal Organizer

### NEW PARKS *continued from page 1*

The public meetings and comments were one giant step in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go! Our next steps: engage in the Conceptual Development Plan process for each of the new state parks, so the parks are not over-developed, and hold a clean-up on the Eleven Point River on July 14. Thanks to the support of our members, we know this is a fight we can and will win!



#### 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>

#### Sierra Club / Missouri Chapter

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## Legislature Rolls Back Coal Ash Protections in the Ozarks

By Jennifer Conner, Organizer

Far beneath our rugged southwest Missouri landscape lies the pristine Ozark aquifer. The most widely used source of groundwater in our area, it is the source of drinking water for cities, towns and farms. On the surface, near Springfield, Missouri, flows Wilson's Creek. This geological wonder has a swallow hole (a sinkhole in the creek) churning to the wonder of passers-by, as the creek disappears into underground passageways, only to re-emerge further downstream.

Unfortunately, our water, both on the surface and under the ground, is once again threatened by special interest legislation. Senate Bill 917, passed by the Missouri legislature in the final weeks of the session, would allow City Utilities (CU) of Springfield to avoid current public health safeguards for its toxic coal ash landfills. The bill contains a special exclusion just for CU, preventing DNR from imposing any protections that go beyond what's in the federal coal ash

regulations, which Scott Pruitt's EPA is in the process of significantly weakening. CU is the only utility in the state to get this exclusion, which would prevent the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from enforcing its own regulations designed to prevent coal ash landfills in unsuitable areas, like the porous karst terrain around Springfield.

Why is this dangerous? CU has been disposing of toxic coal ash in an unlined landfill at the John Twitty plant since the early 1980s without monitoring the groundwater to detect contamination from the toxic metals in coal ash that could be leaking into our springs, creeks, and groundwater. In 2012, DNR amended CU's landfill permit to require CU to implement a groundwater monitoring program. Since then, CU has failed to submit a groundwater monitoring program that meets DNR's requirements, and DNR has repeatedly told it so. CU wants to get DNR out of the picture, so that CU can continue its sloppy handling of coal ash.



Jennifer Conner and Ken Miller stand near a Wilson's Creek swallow hole. Photo by Andy Knott.

Springfield residents deserve better. We should not have to worry whether our municipal utility is contaminating our local waters while doing everything it can – including seeking special favors from the Legislature – to avoid effective monitoring and eliminate meaningful oversight by DNR.

## St. Charles Stands Up for Wild Lands

By Andy Heaslet

Since the fall of 2017, developers have been trying to get zoning rules changed to allow a 350 unit housing development to be built on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River and the Katy Trail near the Weldon Spring Conservation Area in St Charles County.

This is a poor use of fragile land that is more valuable as a wild, natural, recreation area, than as a highly developed, compact housing subdivision.

Throughout the spring of this year, the Sierra Club has worked with other organizations to mobilize opposition. Over 100 concerned residents attended multiple meetings of the Planning and Zoning commission and the county council.

Hundreds of Sierra Club members have called and emailed their County Council members and County

Executive Steve Ehlmann concerning the issue.

On Monday, May 21st, the St Charles County Council held a special hearing on this issue.

Another large crowd attended but the council declined to make

a final decision. This delay gives developers more time to dress-up and greenwash their proposal, attempting to make it seem as if there is a responsible way to add acres of roads, utilities, and hundreds of homes to this fragile ecosystem.

Whether the developers seek to build 250 or 500 homes in their next revised proposal, this will remain a bad idea.



On April 9, St. Charles residents came out in force to oppose the proposed development. Photo by John Hickey.

This site is correctly zoned as agricultural land and it should remain that way.

If you'd like to get involved in protecting this wild place in St Charles County, call Andy Heaslet at 314-644-1011 or email [Andy.Heaslet@sierra-club.org](mailto:Andy.Heaslet@sierra-club.org).

# 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](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com). All are encouraged to check for recent outing additions on our EMG website, [sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri](http://sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri)

**Jun 8 (Fri) Day hike:** For info on our weekly trek contact [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com) or [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com)

**Jun 13 (Wed) Babler State Park.** The Woodbine trail and the Dogwood Trail (totaling 4 miles). We will start and end these trails at the Guy Park trailhead. Hills, hollows, large trees, bridges and a rock cropping with a bubbling spring make up the sights you will see along the trails. Contact Doug Melville 636-288-1055 or [douglas.k.melville@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for further information.

**Jun 15 (Fri) Day hike.** Always an adventure for our weekly hikers. To find out more contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com)

**Jun 22 (Fri) Day hike:** For more info on our weekly 7-9-mile hike contact [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com) or [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com)

**Jun 27 (Wed) Mingo Wilderness - Various trails.** This is the western part of the Mingo Wildlife Refuge and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are two boardwalk trails in the Wilderness Area with the remaining trails using old roads and levees. Great bird watching opportunities as well as many types of marsh vegetation to be seen. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or [douglas.k.melville@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for fur-

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

ther information.

**Jun 29 (Fri) Day hike.** Getting really warm so this week might be a bike ride (or not) Contact [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com) or [rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com](mailto:rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com)

**Jul 6 (Fri) Day hike:** Join our weekly group for a 6-8-mile hike some place cool. Contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com) for information including starting time and location.

**Jul 11 (Wed) Little Grand Canyon, Illinois.** For this hike we will be climbing down into a 300' limestone canyon, traveling through the moist bottom land and then hiking out of the canyon to a spectacular panoramic view the Mississippi River valley. A fun hike for something that you do not normally see in our hikes. Contact Doug Melville,



*Kansas City-area Sierrans attend an Beginning Backpacking series led by Rod Carr. Photo by Julie Green.*

636-288-1055 or [douglas.k.melville@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for further information.

**Jul 13 (Fri) Day hike:** Depending on the weather we will hike or bike. Contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com)

**Jul 20 (Fri) Day hike:** For info on our weekly outing, contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com)

**Jul 25 (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](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for further information.

**Jul 27 (Fri) Day hike:** Might be an early start for our weekly trek. For info contact [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com) or [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com)

**Jul 28 (Sat) Afternoon/evening canoe trip on the Meramec River.** We will put on the river in mid-afternoon, enjoy dinner on a gravel bar and take out before dark. If our timing is good, we will be serenaded by a frog chorus as we paddle after dinner. You must have your own canoe or kayak as rental craft are not available. Toni Armstrong or Richard Spener, 314-434-2072.

**Aug 3 (Fri) Day hike:** Might be a hike or bike. Contact [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com)

**Aug 8 (Wed) Little Black Slough Natural Area, Illinois.** For this week's outing we will be visiting Heron Pond and Wildcat Bluff in the Little Black Slough Natural Area. This natural area is located 35 miles East of Cape Girardeau, MO. There should be a nice breeze off the water and a great view from the bluff also with a breeze. This should be a 5 to 6-mile hike in Southern Illinois. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or [douglas.k.melville@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for further information.

**Aug 10 (Fri) Day hike.** For more info on our weekly outing contact [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com) or [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com)

**Aug 17 (Fri) Outing.** If too hot, this week we might bike ride. For info contact [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com) or [Rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com](mailto:Rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com)

**Aug 22 (Wed) Paddy Creek Wilderness Area, located in Texas County, Missouri,** will be our 3rd Wilderness Area to explore here in Missouri. With scenic overlooks and walking through forests, you will enjoy the hike as we walk along the Big Piney Trail. Contact Doug Melville, 636-288-1055 or [douglas.k.melville@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.k.melville@gmail.com) for further information.



## Outdoor Service Projects

**Aug 24 (Fri) Day hike.** Contact [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com) or [jleachross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachross@hotmail.com) for info on our weekly outing.

**Aug 31 (Fri) Day hike.** We never labor (well sometimes) on our weekly adventure. Contact [jleachross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachross@hotmail.com) or [d.p.east@gmail.com](mailto:d.p.east@gmail.com) to join us.

**Sep 28-30 (Fri-Sun) Great for beginner campers and families.** Bring your own food and gear. Call if you need advice or suggestions. You are also welcome to come for short laid back day hikes if you don't want to camp. Small camping fee to be determined. George Behrens, 314-821-0247.

### Osage Group

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

**Jun 16 (Sat) – 8 am to 5 pm - Grand Bluff Natural Area and Razor Hollow Natural Area.** Led by Mike Currier, former botanist, community ecologist and Natural Areas Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. [ekan@aol.com](mailto:ekan@aol.com) 573-489-1577

Our first destination, Grand Bluffs N.A. includes a ¾-mile linear stretch of Ordovician Jefferson City-Cotter Dolomite cliffs that rise 300 feet above the floodplain of the Missouri River. Our second destination is Razor Hollow Natural Area, in Daniel Boone Conservation Area (Warren County). We will eat lunch in Hermann, MO at the Tin Mill Brewery.

For those coming from Columbia, we will meet at the AC-63 Commuter Parking at 8 am for the drive to the Grand River Bluffs (know colloquially as 'Rhineland Bluff'). Bring hiking boots, or shoes with good support; rain gear; sunscreen and insect repellent; water, lunch, energy snacks; and Leave No Trace!

### Thomas Hart Benton Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton/outings>

Outings are usually listed on Meetup.com – search for “Kansas City Area Sierra Club Outings”

For more details you can also check <http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton>

### White River Group

<http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/white-river>

We now have a certified outings leader, Pam Shaver! Please see her picture here with Doug Melville and some WRG mem-

### July 14 (Sat) – Eleven Point River Cleanup

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Wild and Scenic Rivers by floating our Wild and Scenic Eleven Point River and cleaning her up, along the way.

Registration is open – please register at the following link.

<http://tinyurl.com/11PointClean>

The Missouri Sierra Club is teaming up with the Stream Team, Hufstedtlers/Eleven Point Canoe Rental, and the US Forest Service for this clean-up event.

Bring your boats, bring your family, bring your friends and join in the celebration by floating and cleaning up this Ozarks treasure.

Volunteers will be at Greer access to get you signed up between 8-9 a.m., then you'll hit the river at 9. Make sure you bring sunscreen, hat, plenty of water. The Thomasville to cane bluff section will be the most rigorous (you may have to walk your boat a bit and there are plenty of snakes so bring muck Boots.)

Hufstedtlers Canoe and Richards Canoe are graciously offering a 10 per-

cent discount for anyone participating in the clean-up. We truly appreciate their participation in this clean-up event, so be sure to remember them for your floating and camping needs on the Eleven Point.

A bbq dinner will be served thanks to Ozark Meats out of Grandin and Poplar Bluff and to Elsinore Charcoal Plant. Please bring a side to share. Also, Creek Stink, a fabulous local band has volunteered their talent for the evening (tips welcome.)

Free rudimentary camping will be available at the Greer access and on property of Hufstedtlers.

### Oct 6 (Sat) to Oct 14 (Sun) Ozark Trail Work - Save the Date

Join us for the annual October Work Week for trail work in Pioneer Forest. We will stay at Current River State Park. Great work and a great time for all. For more information or to RSVP contact our office at 314-644-1011 or write [Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org](mailto:Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org)

bers hiking at Busiek State Forest south of Springfield. Our first official outings in April got rained out, but we are planning others. Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page for updates.

**Aug 2 (Thu) – 7 pm - A public forum regarding plastic consumption and waste at Brentwood Church, 1900 E Barataria St, Springfield, MO.** Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details closer to the event.



Hiking at Busiek State Forest. From left to right: Doug Melville, David Shaver., Pam Shaver, Marisa Frazier.

## 2018 Legislative Report

By Michael Berg

This legislative session, in an extremely difficult political climate, the Sierra Club fought very hard to defend our environment in the Missouri State Capitol. We successfully helped stop a bill that would prohibit local government from enacting policy to control proliferation of solid waste such as Styrofoam. Unfortunately, we were unable to stop some very significant anti-environmental actions, such as:

- The Senate approved a slate of nominees for the Missouri Clean Water Commission who are more interested in standing up for the interests of factory farms and other industries than for clean water.

- A bill passed that diminishes the right of counties to regulate disposal of manure from factory farms in order to protect the health of the county's citizens and the quality of its water.

- At the request of Governor Eric Greitens and the Department of Natural Resources Director Carol Comer, the Legislature inexplicably authorized the DNR to give back over half a million dollars that was slated for environmental restoration in our new state parks.

- The Legislature approved weakening protections for groundwater pertain-

ing to both toxic coal ash waste and agricultural runoff. On the positive side, in large part due to our efforts, some of the very worst provisions originally in these bills were removed before passage.

Sierra Club members testified multiple times at hearings concerning these issues. Thousands of you wrote and called your legislators. We had three different lobby days with over 100 participants where Sierra Club members from throughout the state went to the Capitol to talk with their own legislators and others.

Thanks to the Legislative Committee for making this possible, including outgoing Chair Dan Reed, incoming Chair Bob Grove, Barb Yates, Carolyn Amparan, James Harmon Mike Diel, Terry Ganey, Rebecca Elder, Caroline Pufalt, Paulette Zimmerman, Henry Robertson, Ross Hunt, Patricia Schuba, Claus Wawrzinek, and Myra Scroggs.



Central Missouri Lobby Day, March 6



Eastern Missouri Lobby Day, March 27



Western Missouri Lobby Day, April 18

## Reinventing Power

The Sierra Club is sponsoring five Missouri showings of Reinventing Power: America's Clean Energy Boom. This film takes us across the country to hear directly from the people making our clean energy future achievable, including solar installers right here in Missouri.

### Columbia

Wednesday, June 6, at the Osage Group General Meeting, 7 PM at Boone County Commission Chambers, 8th and Ash Street, enter from Courthouse Plaza - 6:30pm Refreshments

### Springfield

Wednesday, June 20, 7 pm at the Moxie Cinema, 305 S Campbell in downtown

### Kansas City

Sunday, June 24th, 2pm at All Soul's Church, 4501 Walnut, as part of Ready KC rally

### St. Louis

Tuesday, June 26 at 7 pm at The Stage at KDHX, 3524 Washington Ave near Grand Center

### Kirkville

Thursday, June 28 at 7 pm Take Root Cafe 114 Harrison St.



Gretchen Waddell Barwick speaks at a press conference in Kansas City before the EPA listening session on the future of the Clean Power Plan.



## Columbia Climate Plan

by Carolyn Amparan, Osage Group Chair

The City of Columbia in January started an 18-month process to build a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. This plan will focus both on reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community and preparing the community for the climate change impacts that are now unavoidable.

The Osage Group played a role in advocating for the City Council to move forward rapidly with this initiative. Osage Group Chair, Carolyn Amparan, was appointed as a member of the Mayor's Task Force which has a leadership role in plan development. The City Council will receive the plan for approval in May 2019. More at <https://www.como.gov/sustainability/climate-action/>

This progress comes after years of advocating for environmentally-friend-

ly, climate concerned city council members. For the past 4 years, Sierra Club hosted a city council candidate forum focused on clean energy, the

climate and environmental issues. These forums have been well attended enabling the effort to educate the community on the candidates' positions.



Over 250 people, including many Sierra Club members, came out on April 4 to speak against a proposed Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or factory farm near Tipton in Cooper County. The 7700 hogs that the Pipestone Company wants to place on the land in a concentrated area would expose neighbors and creeks and fish to serious risk. If you are interested in getting involved in stopping this CAFO, contact Joan Read at 573-228-2236 or email [js77r@yahoo.com](mailto:js77r@yahoo.com)



On May 8 Jim Turner spoke on behalf the Sierra Club at the Runcie Club in St. Joseph on the subjects of climate change and renewable energy. He is pictured here with Sierra Club members Mary Shuman, Laurie Turner and Runcie Club President Dee Dee Squires.

## ReadyKC Promotes Renewable Campaigns in Kansas City

by Bob Grove, Legislative Chair

The Thomas Hart Benton Group has launched ReadyKC to coordinate support for renewable energy campaigns throughout the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Early signs of progress are encouraging.

Independence has adopted a resolution to become the "Greenest City in America" and has already exceeded targets for increased renewable energy production by Independence Power and Light. Expansion of their community solar farm is on track to make Independence the largest producer of solar energy in the state. ReadyKC began work with Kansas City Council member Jolie Justus, to produce the "Go Eco KCI" report of renewable priorities for the upcoming reconstruction of the KCI International Airport.

ReadyKC rallied around Kansas City's "Feasibility of Clean Energy Initiatives" report which affirmed the feasibility of ten separate city initiatives, including the use of 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations, the development of community solar farms for residential



Used with permission of Kansas City Councilman Scott Taylor (pictured here).

use, the completion of an electric vehicle purchase plan for public fleets by end of 2018, and bringing municipal buildings to Energy Star certification within five years. Kansas City Power & Light submitted proposals for a Renewable Energy Program (Green) Tariff and 50 megawatts of solar farm to the PSC and the Kansas City Council announced their intention to enter into a 20-year, 100% renewable energy contract with KCP&L

as soon as the tariff was approved.

ReadyKC's next rally will be Sunday, June 24th, 2pm, at 4501 Walnut (64111), featuring a premiere screening of Sierra Club's new documentary, "Reinventing Power", followed by speakers from KCMO, KCP&L, IndyEnergy, National Drive Electric Week, and others discussing exactly how power is being reinvented throughout the Kansas City Metropolitan area.



Missouri Chapter  
2818 Sutton Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63143

**NEWSPAPER  
DATED MATERIAL**



A group of Sierra Club members and friends met on April 21, 2018, the 180th the anniversary of John Muir’s birthday, for the inaugural meeting of the Northeast Missouri (NEMO) Section, Osage Group of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

The inaugural members of the section are (left to right): Foster Speichinger (Chair), Larry Smith, Mike Diel, Renate Smith, Christine Harker (Secretary/Treasurer), Betsy Hoscheid (Vice-Chair), and James Harmon. Not pictured are: Betsy Delmonico, Marc Becker, Sergio Escobar, Daniel Mandel and Rebecca Elder.

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