



# Missouri Sierran

One Earth, One Chance

Volume 50, Number 1

June 2019

## Defense of the Katy Trail Continues

By Andy Heaslet, Chapter Organizer

In St Charles County, where the Katy Trail meets the Weldon Spring Conservation Area and the regional Busch Greenway, there's a robust forest ecosystem supporting seasonal flowers, endangered bats, and breeding habitat for more than a dozen migratory birds. Bobcats have been seen hunting in area creeks that spill into the Missouri River bottomlands. The University of Missouri (UM) System owns part of this mature, hilly, blufftop forest. It is seeking to sell the land to a private developer who wants to build some 276 homes in these woods.

Since December 2017, the Sierra Club has been nurturing an ecosystem of opposition to this land sale. We have mobilized some 5,750 individuals who combined to take more than 7,000 actions to reach out to the UM System, state legislators, and St Charles County government officials. In addition to

our efforts, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Parks Association, Trailnet, the Katy Land Trust, Great Rivers Environmental Legal Clinic, and a new nonprofit called Weldon Woods have publicly opposed this proposed development. Our fight isn't over.

You can join the thousands who have mobilized to protect the Katy Trail by calling UM System president Mun Choi (573-882-2011) and New Town Homebuilders President Greg Whittaker (636-916-2000) and asking them to stop this proposed subdivision. If you want to get



On March 11, Sierrans pedaled a petition to President Mun Choi with 555 signatures asking the University of Missouri System to stop the sale of a forest where a developer wants to build a subdivision next to the Katy Trail. From left to right: Jeff Stack, Nobel Prize Laureate George Smith, Andy Heaslet, Mark Haim and Dee Dokken.

further involved, like attending public hearings or flying the Katy Trail, contact the Missouri Sierra Club office at 314-644-1011 or [Missouri.Chapter@SierraClub.org](mailto:Missouri.Chapter@SierraClub.org).

## 2019 Legislative Session Recap - Wins & Losses

By Michael Berg, Chapter Organizer

During the 2019 Missouri session we enacted the strongest and most engaged Sierra Club legislative program I have seen in the ten years I have worked at the Sierra Club. We testified at over thirty hearings. Hundreds of members and supporters participated in three lobby days and thirteen in-district meetings with legislators. Thousands of you wrote and called your legislators. Our work paid off - we successfully helped stop some terrible pieces of legislation. (continued on page 3)



Thomas Hart Benton Group area Sierrans meet with Senator Holsman, from left to right: Don Wallace, Hunter Pace, Celesteal Clark, Senator Jason Holsman, Larry Drummond, Claus Wawrzinek on April 30.

# Chair's Column

By Jennifer Conner, Chapter Chair



As your new Chapter Chair, I've been marinating on what skill(s) I can bring to continue the tradition of

our thriving and vibrant Chapter. When I entered the workforce fresh out of college at DNR, we took personality tests. While others found that they were "supporters," "reformers," "observers," and "coordinators," all wonderful profiles for a career in science, my profile came back as the "inspirer." Like the kid who received an F on their term paper, I winced and shielded my results from the others. The other personality types focused so much on "doing," while my profile was a bit more nebulous and could be construed as flighty, especially within the scientific realm. Inspiration has been typecast for so long, that we mostly find it relegated to the halls of the Muny or the art museum nowadays.

I've often wondered since then where there might be space in the environmental movement for an "inspirer". Then I got my hands on Edmund Morris's Teddy Roosevelt biography. And there it was plain as day. I have no qualms that if TR had taken the personality test, he too would have been an "inspirer," and thanks to his influence we have some of our most beloved national parks today. The actions he took were rooted in heart; in what he believed was best for the greatest number of people in the United States.

This year, once again, a bill was introduced to auction off our Eleven point state park. Thankfully a coalition of environmental and

(continued on page 6)

## Chapter Executive Committee At Large

### Jennifer Conner, 2018-2019 Chair

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## Group Representatives

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### Thomas Hart Benton Group:

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### White River Group:

**Judy Dasovich**  
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## Committee Chairs

**Conservation Chair:** Caroline Pufalt

**Secretary:** Caitlin Zera

**Legal Chair:** Henry Robertson

**Legal Co-Chair:** Jim Turner

**Newsletter Editor:** Claus Wawrzinek & Caitlin Zera

**Political Chair:** Ross Hunt

**Legislative Chair:** Erica Hoffman

**Sierra Club Council Delegate:** Caitlin Zera

**Website Chair:** Open

**Energy Chair:** Henry Robertson

**Outings Chair:** John Feldmann

**Equity Chair:** Natalie Lucas

## Staff

### Chapter Staff:

John Hickey, Chapter Director  
Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Asst. Chapter Director  
Michael Berg, Organizer  
Andy Heaslet, Organizer  
Kane Sheek, Ready for 100 Organizer  
Marisa Frazier, Public Lands Organizer

### Beyond Coal Campaign Staff:

Sara Edgar, Organizing Manager  
Andy Knott, Senior Campaign Representative  
Trisha Boyle, Organizer  
Leah Clyburn, Organzier

## About the Missouri Sierran

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.

Looking for resources?

**Campfire** is a collection of tools and resources for use by Sierra Club volunteers, leaders, and staff. Get an account:

[campfire.sierraclub.org](http://campfire.sierraclub.org)



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# 2019 Legislative Session Recap, continued

- For the third year in a row, we stopped legislation to auction off the magnificent Eleven Point State Park to private interests. The amendment to sell the park passed the House. With the proposal one chamber away from passage, we convinced Senators to protect the park. Your calls, emails and testimonies made the difference.
- Quick action early in the session helped stop a bill designed to punish owners of fuel efficient vehicles by imposing higher registration fees.
- A push to put barriers in the way of the Grain Belt Express wind power transmission line passed the House but was stopped in the Senate by a four hour filibuster.
- We stopped a proposal pushed by the Koch Brothers to hold organizations like the Sierra Club liable for trespassing and property damage charges made against individuals protesting fossil fuel infrastructure.
- An attempt to undo the redistricting section of CLEAN Missouri failed, as did proposals to weaken the Property Accessed Clean Energy program, an attempt to end the St. Louis area air quality emissions testing requirement and a proposal to eliminate effective local jurisdiction over solid waste policy.

Our losses were few – but they were significant. Industrial agricultural interests successfully lobbied the Missouri legislature to take away the rights of counties to use health ordinances to protect themselves, their property owners and their water from large animal factory farms. Voted almost completely on partisan lines, Republican legislators told county commissioners, county health officials and rural voters that their



From left to right: Representatives John Black and Sonya Anderson meet with Marissa Frazer, Frances Klahr, Sarah Dalton, Erica Hoffman and William Cooper on April 30.



On March 15 Sierra Club members met at the St. Louis office with their State Senator Scott Sifton to discuss pressing environmental issues.

voice does not matter. The other significant legislative loss was the passage of a draconian bill to outlaw abortion in Missouri. The Sierra Club supports reproductive rights and condemns the new law.

This year's Legislative Committee was energetically and effectively led by Chair Erica Hoffman. Thank you to all the committee members who contributed to our successes: Dan Reed, Barb Yates, Carolyn Amparan, James Harmon, Mike Diel, Frances Klahr, Walter Bargaen, Caroline Pufalt, Paulette

Zimmerman, Henry Robertson, Ross Hunt, Patricia Schuba, Lyn Anthony, Rachel Speed, Jonathan Lehmann, Claus Wawrzinek, Steve Mohler, Audrey Elder, Kristen Kramer, Mary Ann Wynkoop, Myra Scroggs and Jim Arneson. Thanks also to the great effort of our contract lobbyist Dawn Nicklas.

Use AddUp to take action!

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# MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

## Eastern Missouri Group

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

The outings for the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club are listed below. They are being sent for publication by the Sierra Club and for the personal use of our friends. Any other use must be approved by the outings chair. Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns are allowed on trips. Pets are only allowed on "pet friendly" outings as stated in the description of the outing. 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

John Feldmann 314-609-5278 or [johnfeldmann@msn.com](mailto:johnfeldmann@msn.com). All are encouraged to check for recent outing additions on our EMG website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri> as well as the Meetup website, <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Eastern-Missouri-Group-Outdoor-Activities/>

**Jul 5 (Fri) Day hike.** Join us on an adventure hiking 6-8 miles. For

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: [sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](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

more info contact

[thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

**Jul 12 (Fri) Day hike:** If not too hot we will stay close to St Louis for our weekly hike. Contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

**Jul 19 (Fri) Day hike.** Might be a bike ride this Friday. For info contact [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com)

**Jul 20 (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.

**Jul 26 (Fri) Day hike.** Summer hike might be around 6 miles. For info contact



*David Stewart, Mike Mihalik, Denise Stewart, and Amanda Killian hike in Hercules Glade on Saturday, April 6.*

[thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

**Aug 2 (Fri) Day hike:** We might be starting our weekly earlier so for more info contact [jleachcross@hotmail.com](mailto:jleachcross@hotmail.com) or [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com)

**Aug 9 (Fri) Day hike.** For info on our weekly adventure contact [rickenarmstrongpi@gmail.com](mailto:rickenarmstrongpi@gmail.com)

**Aug 16 (Fri) Day hike.** Late summer wildflowers might be blooming. For hike info contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com)

**Aug 17 (Sat) Exploratory Hike Through Forest Park.** This 5-6 mile hike through Forest Park should take us 2-3 hours. We will check out the latest forest restoration projects and take in the trees, prairies, lakes, rivers, wildflowers and wildlife. Bring water, good walking shoes and appropriate outer wear. For meeting location, start time, and other information contact Paul Ohlendorf at [pohlendorf@charter.net](mailto:pohlendorf@charter.net) or (314) 647-5971.

**Aug 23 (Fri) Day hike or bike ride.** For more info contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [rickschweitzer2@gmail.com](mailto:rickschweitzer2@gmail.com)

**Aug 30 (Fri) Day hike.** Join our hearty souls for our weekly hike. contact [thisissuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:thisissuzanne@yahoo.com) or [rickenarmstrongpi@gmail.com](mailto:rickenarmstrongpi@gmail.com)

**Oct 11-13 (Fri-Sun) 18th Annual Car Camping Fall Celebration Campout at Hawn State Park.** 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.

## Thomas Hart Benton Group

(Kansas City and Northwest Missouri)  
<https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton/outings>

[Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings](https://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings)

**Oct 23 (Wed) Return to Hillsdale Reservoir Evening/Night Hike**, signup via Meetup

**Oct 30 (Wed) Return to Kill Creek: 7-mile Evening/Night Hike, Hike**, signup via Meetup

## Osage Group

(Columbia and Mid Missouri)  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/osage>

## White River Group

(Springfield and Southwest Missouri)  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/white-river>

## Like Us on Facebook!



At the new Ozark Mountain State Park in May 2019, from left: Marisa Frazier, John Hickey, Jennifer Johnson Conner and Ronna Haxby.

Also find group outings on Meetup!

*meetup*

<https://www.meetup.com/>

# White River Group Update

By Kane Sheek, Organizer

In March and April, we canvassed for Mike Schilling to get reelected to his city council seat. Shilling is an advocate for the environment, and our biggest supporter in the city council. He won his race with 74% of the votes. Since then we have continued to push for more renewable energy in Springfield. We continue to advocate for energy efficiency updates for new commercial and residential buildings here in Springfield. Updating energy codes is the most effective way that Springfield can move to 100% renewable energy. We hope for the building code ordinance to get to committee in June. Energy efficiency is also an opportunity to create more equity

in utility bills, since low income households pay more of a percentage of their income to utility bills. Springfield has many programs to help update old houses to become more efficient, and on June 13th we will be canvassing to grow the awareness of these programs in low income neighborhoods. Also in June, we are promoting the feasibility of 100% renewable energy through a Clean Energy Bus tour. We will be taking community members and elected officials to spots where clean energy practices are already being promoted. All of this work will accumulate to a resolution for Springfield to commit to 100% renewable energy.

## Get Connected with Us on Social Media



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Like Us!

[facebook.com/MissouriSierraClub](https://facebook.com/MissouriSierraClub)

Stay in touch with other Sierrans in your area on Facebook:

Columbia: [facebook.com/sierraclubosagegroup](https://facebook.com/sierraclubosagegroup)

Kansas City: [facebook.com/THBSierraClub](https://facebook.com/THBSierraClub)

St. Louis: [facebook.com/EMGConnector](https://facebook.com/EMGConnector)

Springfield: [facebook.com/SierraClubWhiteRiverGroup](https://facebook.com/SierraClubWhiteRiverGroup)



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**LORI SULLIVAN**

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# Earth Day Celebration in Forest Park St. Louis

by Caitlin Zera

Eastern Missouri Group Sierra Club members enjoyed spending two days at the 30th annual St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Forest Park. Sierra Club members educated visitors to the festival about current environmental issues affecting Missouri and also sold signature fresh squeezed lemonade. Visitors to the Sierra Club education table were provided information about local outings, renewable energy,

legislative issues as well as encouraged to action to protect the Katy Trail by calling President Choi. Thanks to members who volunteered!

*Pictured from left are Ashton Kuehnel, Natalie Lucas, Caroline Pufalt, and Drew Hagin and his dog Cashmere at St. Louis Earth Day in Forest Park.*



## Chapter Chair's Column, Continued



*John Madras shows his love for the Eleven Point River and the new Eleven Point State Park.*

outdoor organizations answered the call. And we prevailed! The committee voted unanimously to throw out the amendment that included sale of the 11 point state park.

At the stand, I rattled off the reasons these parks should be saved. From an economic, recreation, natural and cultural resource preservation perspective). Boom, boom, boom. The senators looked at me politely. But do you know what made them sit up straight? When I had finished rattling off the facts and started comparing this “opportunity,” with what Teddy Roosevelt faced when Muir took him

to the Grand Canyon. I said “Teddy didn’t stand on the edge of the grand canyon and say ‘too much controversy, let’s just sell it.’ No, he stood his ground. That’s what you have the potential to do today in this room. You have the potential to make a worthwhile legacy

and it starts today” It seemed I had their attention when I gave them a yardstick with which to measure themselves. When I dared them to be brave.

See, they’d heard the facts a million times before. They KNOW the myriad of reasons that we should keep the park and they KNOW that there is not one single good reason to sell the parks.

But they are politicians. Sometimes that’s a negative thing and then sometimes, I think politicians need, daresay crave, inspiration to rise above the echo chamber they’ve found themselves in, and to answer a higher calling. After all if Roosevelt did it, why can’t they?

Indeed, it occurred to me after the testimony that education without inspiration is just a list of facts. The question at the heart is this: “why does it matter?” and “what kind of person do you have the opportunity to be, if you act justly?”

And that gets people’s attention, even politicians.

That experience helped me discover that the goal during my tenure as your chair, is to continuously remind us of our heart. To remember our “why’s” when we fight for clean air and clean water, action on climate change, and renewable energy. And to share our “why’s” with the larger world. Facts only get us so far. To truly educate, we must also speak from the heart. We must inspire. Thank you for the opportunity to be your chair.



*Paul Stupperich takes a break from removing barbwire at Hawn State Park to hold up a tree on March 9.*

# Columbia Takes Action on Climate

by Carolyn Amparan,  
Osage Group Chair

Climate change threatens us all - in mid-Missouri we are taking action. The Columbia Mayor's Taskforce on Climate Action and Adaptation has been engaged in developing an action plan for the past sixteen months. The comprehensive plan addresses both mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and adaptation to forecasted local risks such as floods, droughts, heat waves and other extreme weather.

The Osage Group has been an active supporter of the planning process. Osage Group Chair, Carolyn Amparan, was appointed to the task force as a voice for environmental groups. The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) will come before the City Council for a vote on a policy resolution on June 17. The plan is a framework of information and recommendations on how the city can move forward to meet its goals. It can be accessed at [comoclimataction.com](http://comoclimataction.com). The goals which the City Council passed by resolution include the following:



Osage Group members collect statements of support for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan at the Columbia Earth Day festival.

Reduce GHG emissions by 35% below 2015 baseline by 2035, 80% by 2050 and 100% by 2060

Reduce GHG emissions associated with City operations by 50% below 2015 baseline by 2035 and 100% by 2015.

In April the Columbia held elections for City Council and for Mayor. Three seats on the council were up for election. The two council members, Ian Thomas and Karl Skala, who both have supported climate action in the past were unopposed. However, Mayor Brian Treece who was instrumental in getting the plan moving faced a well-known

opponent. Based on Mayor's Treece's record, the Osage Group endorsed Mayor Treece and worked for his re-election. We are happy to report that he won as did Ian Thomas and Karl Skala and they will all be there on June 17 to vote on the plan they helped start back in 2017.

The Osage Group continues to actively support the plan in the community. At the Columbia Earth Day Festival held on April 28 volunteers collected statements of support for the CAAP and pledges to reduce individual carbon footprints. These will be submitted to the City Council before the vote in June.



Marion Mace Dickerson and Carolyn Amparan with re-elected Columbia Mayor Brian Treece.

## Kansas City Moving to 100% Renewables

by Gretchen Waddell Barwick,  
Assistant Chapter Director

Clean energy is winning! In April more than 200 people attended a Green New Deal Town Hall, - a joint meeting with the Sierra Club, Thomas Hart Benton Group and Sunrise Movement KC. Then, Kansas City signed on to a program with their local utility, KCP&L, to get 100% of their municipal electricity from wind and solar. In the region, other municipalities and commercial interests are following suit. Most recently, the Shawnee

Mission School District signed on to the same program. This is excellent news!

Sadly, Northwest Missouri is seeing the impacts of climate change right now. Parts of our state have been under water for two months. Our region has seen a string of extreme weather including strong storms, flooding, and tornadoes that left miles of wreckage in its wake. Local action on climate change is needed urgently. Now. So we need to continue to take action.

This summer the Sierra Club will

host town halls throughout Kansas City to lead the conversation on climate change and begin an equitable transition away from dirty fossil fuels. Then, in September the Metro Kansas City Climate Change Coalition is hosting a regional conference to take action on climate change. We will attend and advocate for a strong regional plan. **Are you with us?** Contact Kevin or Gretchen to get involved and learn more:

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Gretchen Waddell Barwick:  
[gretchenwaddellbarwick@sierraclub.org](mailto:gretchenwaddellbarwick@sierraclub.org)



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NEWSPAPER  
DATED MATERIAL

### ***INSIDE***

- Defending the Katy Trail
  - 2019 Legislative Report
  - Chapter Chair's Column
  - Sierra Club Outings
  - Farewell & Thank You to Doug Melville
- ... *and more!*

*Save the Date!*

Ozark Trail Work Week is  
October 19 th - 27th. Join us!

## **Farewell & Thank You to Doug Melville!**

by Jim Rhodes

The Missouri Chapter Outings Committee Chair Doug Melville announced he and his wife would be moving to Florida in June to be closer to their daughter. So we held a going away party and "thank you" celebration at the Sierra Club office on May 9. This event was preceded by the last EMG Outing Committee meeting with Doug as the chairperson. Doug has been a vital part of the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Eastern Missouri Group for many years and he will be greatly missed. There were about twenty Sierrans to wish Doug the best of luck down in Florida and there was a cake, pizza,



and many other treats to enjoy. Doug's last message to the EMG outing leaders included the words "I have enjoyed working with you all and wish you continued success with all of your outings, both now and in the future. Remember that you as an outing leader are responsible for fulfilling the first

two goals of the Sierra Club and starting the third by inspiring your outing participants to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet", the motto of the Sierra Club." Doug - you will be greatly missed and we all thank you and wish you the best in Florida.