



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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The Heartland Sierran

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

The Newsletter of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club

Vol. 27 No. 2

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

October 2014 issue

Parents, Doctors and Faith Leaders Host Forum Addressing Concerns about Air Pollution in Kansas City

By Gretchen Waddell Barwick,
MO Chapter Sierra Club Staff

On August 13, the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted a forum with top local experts and community leaders on the health impacts associated with high levels of air pollution in the Kansas City area.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have declared a portion of downtown Kansas City as having some of the most toxic air in the state from dangerously high levels of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) air pollution.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide air pollution can cause breathing problems in as little as five minutes and may exacerbate some health problems such as asthma and heart disease.

Coal-fired power plants are the top sulfur dioxide polluters in the region. The Veolia coal-fired steam plant is a large contributor to high levels of sulfur dioxide pollution locally, as is KCP&L's aging coal-fired power plant in Sibley.

It's time to find ways to phase out the region's dirtiest coal plants and tap into the clean energy boom that's happening in Kansas City.

New Meeting Schedule

We are going to a quarterly schedule for our meetings. The first month of each quarter, our executive committee will meet to discuss and vote on issues, usually around conservation, political endorsements, long-range planning, etc. Any THB member is welcome to attend and become more informed about the issues at this level. These will be in January, April, July, and October.

The second month of each quarter will be our general meeting that used to take place monthly. We will have speakers on timely topics and social time. These will be in February, May, August, and November.

The third month of each quarter will be a social meeting with an outdoor/nature emphasis. These will be in March, June, September, and December.

All of these meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, MO 64110. Be sure to check our Facebook, Meetup, and email alerts as each meeting or activity draws near.

Our New Fundraiser: Trivia Night and Silent Auction

This year, instead of the lemonade stand, we're trying something exciting and new: a trivia night and silent auction. The lemonade stand was a great fundraiser for us for many years, but sadly, our revenues from that have been steadily declining. So instead, our new fundraising chair, Stephen Flanery, has arranged for us to have a **trivia game and silent auction on October 21, 7 p.m., at the Westport Flea Market.**

We need your help to make this first-ever event a success! First, we need people to purchase tickets in advance if at all possible. Please go to **2014-thb-trivia.eventbrite.com** to sign up and/or **make a donation** if you can't come to the event. Another way to order tickets or make a donation is to send a check to Sierra Club, Thomas Hart Benton Group, P.O. Box 32727, Kansas City, MO 64171. Or phone Claus Wawrzinek at 816-517-5244 and commit to the number of tickets you will purchase

Endorsements for Nov. 4 Election

Political endorsements removed from web issue

at the door. However, it would be best for our planning if everyone can **please purchase tickets in advance.**

Tickets are \$25 for one person, \$45 for two, \$80 for four, and \$150 for a table of 8. It's fine to come as a party of one and be matched with a team once you arrive.

Please bring items for silent auction. If you will have an item or items of at least \$20 value each to donate for our silent auction, please email Stephen Flanery at stephen.flanery@gmail.com with details on the items, and arrive by 6:30 p.m. so that your item can be displayed.

If you have any questions about the trivia night, please email Stephen or call Claus at 816-517-5244. Remember that luxurious Labor Day weekend you enjoyed because you didn't get that lemonade call this year? Please be generous and help our alternate fundraiser be a big success!

Sierra Club Outings

We are now on Meetup!

Sierra Club Outings

We now have our most recent outings on our Meetup Sierra Club Outings Group. Please visit us there for the most up-to-date information on any outings:



Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings

Heartland Sierra Club Friends

We are now listing Sierra Club events and social activities on Meetup. Please join us if you like:

Meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club

Oct 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Hercules Glade

Backpack, Taney County, MO. Kick off the local backpacking season with a 2-night trip in the heart of the Ozarks. 8 person limit. \$10 donation requested. Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com.

Oct 11 (Sat) Champion Tree Day Hike, Kansas City, MO.

Hike three miles through the Loose Park and Linda Hall Library Arboretums to see a variety of Kansas City Champion Trees in beautiful fall colors. \$3 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, eileen425@sbcglobal.net.

Oct 12 (Sun) Autumn Amble at Jerry Smith Park, Kansas City, MO.

View the prairie's autumn colors on a short hike of 1 to 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon. Rain date 10/19. \$3 donation requested. Steve Hassler, 913-707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

Oct 18 (Sat) Corporate Woods to Blue River Parkway Bike Ride, Leawood, KS.

A 26 mile round trip (3.5 hours) bike ride on a very scenic paved trail. Bring your lunch. \$3 donation requested. John Haynes, 913-742-0100, jhaynes5018@everestkc.net.

Oct 24-26 (Fri-Sun). Family Campout in the Flint Hills, Elmdale, KS.

We'll stay at the YMCA scenic Camp Wood and enjoy hiking and horseback riding on the prairie. Two hours SW of KC. Bring a tent or stay in a cabin. Camping and riding fees apply. \$10 donation requested. Renee Andriani, 913-488-4445, randri4445@gmail.com.

Nov 1 (Sat) Eddy-Ballentine Trail Day Hike, Kansas City, MO.

Hike three miles through limestone outcroppings, glades and valleys. \$3 donation requested. David Anderson, 816-561-0626, kobecobra76@gmail.com.

Nov 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Women's Backpacking

Buffalo River Trail, Ponca, AR. Join us for a beautiful fall hike on the scenic Buffalo River Trail. We'll backpack a 10 mile section from Ponca to Kyle's Landing. 8 person limit. \$5 donation requested. Melissa LeSage, 913-219-6941, jmfamily76@hotmail.com.

Nov 15 (Sat) Perry Lake Hiking Trail

Maintenance, Perry, KS. Join us on a fall day as we work on maintaining part of the trail. Bring lunch, water, snacks, work gloves, and if you have them, a lopper or bow saw. Weather postponement date is Nov. 22. Steve Hassler, 913-707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

Nov 23 (Sun) Day Hike at Overland Park [KS] Arboretum.

Meet us at the Cafe in the Environmental Education Visitors Center for a short hike around the grounds and trails of the Overland Park Arboretum. Admission \$3 (Arboretum members free). Additional \$3

donation requested. Steve Hassler, 913-707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com

Nov 28 Black Friday Dayhike on the George Latham Trail, Clinton Lake, KS.

Skip the shopping madness and walk off your turkey dinner on the West side of Clinton Lake. 4.5 mile loop with varied terrain and nice views of the lake. Finish with campfire and hot chocolate. Dogs are welcome. \$3 donation requested. Renee Andriani, 913-488-4445, randri4445@gmail.com.

Dec 5-7 (Fri-Sun) Bell Mountain Wilderness

Backpack, Potosi, MO. Let's continue with our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act as we enjoy the crisp fall air, and the impressive views as we hike to Bell Mountain. On Saturday we will bushwhack to Lindsey Mountain. 10 person limit. \$10 donation requested. Paul Gross, 816-285-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com.

Dec 13 (Sat) Rockhaven Trails Hike at Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS.

We'll explore the three parallel trails on the scenic & rugged south shore of Clinton Lake that transverse the Rockhaven Public Use area. Connecting passes between the trails allow us to tailor hike length to the day's conditions. Bring lunch, snacks, water. \$3 donation requested. Steve Hassler, 913-707-3296, hassler@planetkc.com



2015 Sierra Club calendars



To get your calendar, please contact Eileen McManus

at (816) 523-7823 or email eileen4250@sbcglobal.net.

The Heartland Sierran

P.O. Box 32727

Kansas City, Missouri 64171

The Heartland Sierran, the newsletter of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club, is published on a regular basis for members in western Missouri.

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Claus Wawrzinek, Treasurer, (816) 517-5244, claus@missouri.sierraclub.org

Stephen Flanery, Secretary

Ellen Brenneman

Richard McBroom

Tom Tortorich

Jim Turner

Committees

Conservation, Open

Education, Population & Consumption

Patty Brown

Membership, Ellen Brenneman

Outings, Eileen McManus

Political, Programs, Urban Issues

Claus Wawrzinek

Newsletter Editor, Ellen Brenneman

Newsletter Mailing, Dennis Gredell,

(816) 926-1067, gooseman-2@sbcglobal.net

Program / Meeting Schedule

Oct 21 (Tue) Trivia Fundraiser (see page 1)

Nov 18 (Tue) Executive Committee

Dec 16 (Tue) Urban forest presentation / Holiday treat exchange

Jan 19 (Tue) Executive Committee

All meetings are scheduled at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, 64110.

Be sure to check our Facebook, Meetup, and email alerts as each meeting or activity draws near.

Green Drinks

Sierra Club has joined forces with Green Drinks Greater Kansas City. This is a social get-together with a topic that concerns the environment in some way. Latest info at meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club Meetings are scheduled every second Thursday of each month

Independence to shut down Missouri City plant

By *Jim Turner*

The Independence City Council has approved plans to shut down Independence Power & Light's Missouri City coal-powered electricity plant by 2016, and to shift its Blue Valley plant to natural gas. Planning is underway for achieving efficiencies and conservation in city buildings and for IPL's customers. IPL is currently evaluating potentials for adding solar power to its generation portfolio. For more information, see IndyEnergy.org. Sierra Club's St-Louis-based Beyond Coal Campaign staff has been working with local activists to support these important developments in Missouri's fourth-largest city.



Sierrans and Hiking Meetup Group members enjoyed an outing at Burr Oak Woods Conservation and Nature Center on Saturday, Sept. 6 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This outing will be repeated in October, so watch the Sierra Club Outings Meetup group and the Kansas City Hiking Meetup group for details. Courtesy of anthony

“A human being is part of the whole...universe....He experiences himself...as something separated from the rest....This delusion is a kind of prison....Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” -- Albert Einstein



Thomas Hart Benton Group

Sierra Club Ballot 2014

Your official ballot for the Thomas Hart Benton Group Executive Committee (ExCom) Election is on page 4. The ExCom sets group policy and oversees the business of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club. It is made up of seven members elected from the membership at large (you). ExCom members are elected to staggered, two-year terms.

Of the current ExCom members, Claus Wawrzinek, Richard McBroom and David Mitchell continue in office. That leaves four members to be elected for the 2015 to 2016 term.

You may vote for the candidates named on the ballot, or you may write in the name(s) of other qualified member(s). If yours is a joint membership, two members may vote. Write your 8-digit membership number in the return address space of your envelope to validate your ballot. The number will be verified before the ballot is opened, and separated from the rest of the ballot before counting to assure that your vote is kept secret.

Executive Committee Ballot Profiles



Eileen McManus My name is Eileen McManus and I have been an active member of THB for over 25 years. I originally joined after a visit to Yosemite in 1988. It was one of the most dramatic landscapes I had ever been to and that is when I joined the Sierra Club. Since then I have backpacked many wilderness areas thanks to the Sierra Club National Outings Program which has motivated me to explore, enjoy and protect these areas. Over the years I have volunteered for various local positions such as fundraising, conservation, membership and public lands/wilderness, and now I am the outings chair. I would like to run for THB Excom and would appreciate your vote.

Cut out ballot and mail



Ballot Instructions

- 1) **Vote for one** (1) person (you may write in a name)
- 2) If you have a joint membership, two (2) members may vote
- 3) **Place ballot in envelope** addressed to:
Ellen Brenneman, 54 E. 55th St., Kansas City, MO 64113
- 4) To maintain secret ballot, please **write your membership number** (the 8-digit number on top of the computer address label) in the return address space on the envelope.
- 5) **Affix stamp and mail to us** so it arrives by **December 31, 2014**

I vote for ...

Joint membership?

1st member vote in left column,
2nd member vote in right column.

() ()	Eileen McManus
() () <small>(write in)</small>

Ballot

Sierra Club
Thomas Hart Benton Group
P.O. Box 32727
Kansas City, MO 64171-5727

**NEWSPAPER
DATED MATERIAL**

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 2514



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**Join Us Dec. 16 for Urban Forest
Presentation and Holiday Treat Exchange**
For our December program, Urban Forester Wendy Sangster will speak to us at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost. Please bring your favorite holiday treat to share afterward and we will provide hot drinks.

Sierrans Stand with Environmentalists, Labor Unions and Wind Experts for Wind Energy in Missouri

*By Gretchen Waddell Barwick,
MO Chapter Sierra Club Staff*

Recently, there have been eight public hearings from the Public Service Commission to determine if a wind-energy transmission line will come to Missouri. The project, called the Grain Belt Express (GBE), is part of a series of wind-energy transmission lines Clean Line Energy plans to install throughout the county in an effort to increase our country's access to wind energy.

The GBE would bring 500 MW of energy to Missouri – enough for 200,000 homes. This project would

roughly double the amount of wind energy Missouri generates. (See www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com)

Dozens of Sierra Club members from across the state testified at the hearings or attended in support of the project. We were joined by other environmentalist groups, local labor unions, wind experts and concerned community members.

Reasons to support the project include reducing the cost of energy, helping stop climate change and reducing the cost of coal on our health. The consensus is clear: this project is a step toward a better future. We all need to take action to ensure Missouri's future generations will have access to clean air, water and earth!

A final decision is expected to from the Public Service Commission in December after evidentiary hearings. **Sierra Club members will have the opportunity to enter comments in October – watch your email inboxes for more information!**

Take a Hike with us!

We now have most of our outings and events on social media. Please look for us there.

Sierra Club / Thomas Hart Benton Group
[facebook.com/THBSierraClub](https://www.facebook.com/THBSierraClub)

Heartland Sierra Club Friends
[meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club](https://www.meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club)

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

Visit our website

missouri.sierraclub.org/thb



Sierra Club members join with local labor unions and wind experts to testify in support of wind energy for Missouri.