

OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth One Chance



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<http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

Sierra Club Shows How “Cool Cities” tackle Global Warming

by Jill Miller, Conservation Organizer,
 Sierra Club Global Warming & Energy Program

What makes a city “cool”? When it makes a commitment to curb global warming pollution and set a positive example for others.

The Sierra Club highlighted solutions-minded places across the country this fall by releasing a new national guide called “Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time.” The guide is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities/>. Volunteers then generated dozens of events around the Midwest, New England and the Southeast.

Missouri Sierra Club had a lot to celebrate, so with a three-city hybrid tour the week of October 18, we applauded a myriad of cool accomplishments and ongoing efforts. Among them:

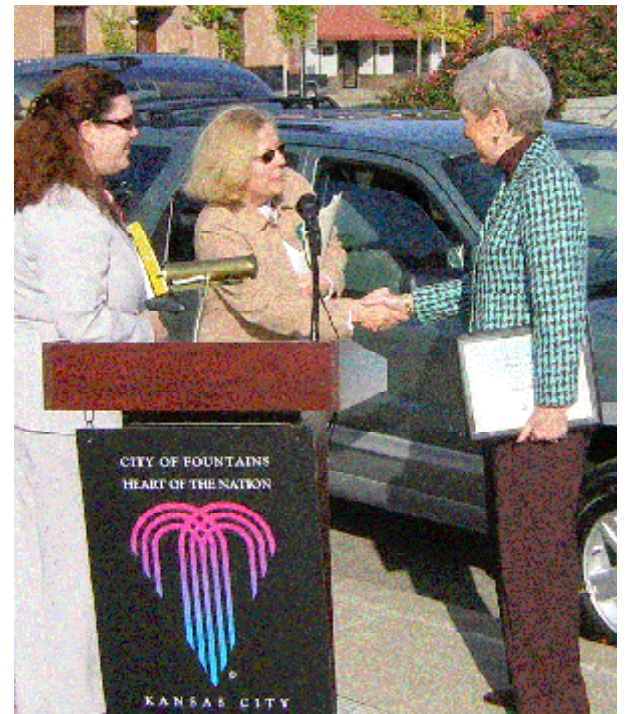
- ◆ The city of Columbia earned a prominent mention in the Cool Cities guide. Last year, with 78% of

the vote, citizens overwhelmingly approved a ballot initiative requiring the city to increase the amount of electricity it gets from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

- ◆ Energy activists in Springfield have educated citizens and changed minds about the practicality of improved efficiency and renewable sources of power, building citizen support for an energy conservation plan as an alternative to City Utilities’ coal-fired power plant proposal.
- ◆ The Eastern Missouri Group launched a successful grassroots campaign urging mayors to sign onto the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement. As a result, four have signed so far, including the city of St. Louis.
- ◆ Kansas City’s mayor was the first in Missouri to sign on to the Mayors’ Agreement, and deserved recognition as well.

Initiated by the mayor of Seattle earlier this year, the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is a pledge to reduce the city’s greenhouse gas emissions by 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. Some suggestions are quick and simple to implement, while others call for long-range planning. To read the Agreement, visit

continued on page 4...Cool Cities



Jill Miller and Carla Klein thank Mayor Kay Barnes of Kansas City, Missouri for signing onto the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement.

photo by Steven Schoeffler

Gearing up for the 2006 Legislative Session

by Carla Klein, Chapter Program Director

**Legislative Bill filing begins
 December 1st**

In preparation for the 2006 Legislative Session the Ozark Chapter Legislative Committee has discussed issues we feel will become priorities this session. After reviewing the results of the 2005 bills and considering the current political climate, we set the following areas as initial priorities for the Ozark Chapter:

1. **CAFO bill/Local Control** — opposing efforts to outlaw counties ability to pass health ordinances
2. **Renewable Energy Standards** — supporting statewide requirements for major producers to use renewable energy sources for a portion of energy produced.
3. **Anti-environmental regulation initiatives** — opposing audit privilege, no stricter than federal, etc.
4. **TIFs/TDDs/Eminent domain** — sprawl related issues to be addressed on a bill by bill basis, there is much room for abuse, these powers can be dan-

gerous we will work for additional protections

5. **Missouri Department of Conservation related measures** — we will work with coalition partners to support continued funding for the MDC sales tax while working to ensure citizens have a voice over their policies

As we monitor the thousands of bills that are intro-

continued on page 3.....2006 Legislative Session

INSIDE

- Sierra Summit Draws Crouds.....p 3
- High Gas Prices.....p 5
- Clean Water Campaign.....p 6/7
- Pospone Springfield Power Decision....p 8
- 2006 Ozark Chapter ExCom Ball.....p 10/11

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NEWSPAPER
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Did you know that nearly half of Missourians' energy bills go to heat our homes? Sierra Club has released a new Winter Energy fact-sheet for Missouri that gives useful tips on how to reduce high heating bills. The report is available online at <http://missouri.sierraclub.org>

The **Ozark Sierran** is published four times a year by the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$15 per year.

OZARK SIERRAN

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later!

Submissions received after the deadline are

subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

The **OZARK SIERRAN** is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a CD, **WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT**. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your CD), please include a SASE.

Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: Claus Wawrzinek Editor; Bob Sherrick, production.

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Dates You Need to Know

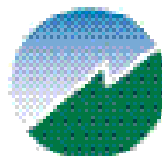
Oct 8-9 Ozark Chapter Annual Reunion & Campout: Mark Twain State Park
 Nov 12 Chapter ConsCom meeting: St. Louis contact Ken Midkiff. kmidkiff@mchsi.com
 Nov 18 Chapter ExCom meeting: St. Louis contact Keet Kopecky. kkopecky@kc.rr.com, (816) 966-9544
 Nov 27 Submission deadline: January-March Ozark Sierran
 Jan 26 Chapter ConsCom meeting: Columbia contact Ken Midkiff. kmidkiff@mchsi.com
 Jan 29 Chapter ExCom meeting: Columbia contact Keet Kopecky. kkopecky@kc.rr.com, (816) 966-9544

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Investing in Missouri's Future — Chapter Funding Update

Now you can donate on-line - <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/misc/donation.htm>

\$ 28,000 and counting!

Thank you to all of our financial supporters for helping us exceed our 2005 goal and for supporting our important work in Missouri. I don't mind telling you though, that this is only the beginning. The environmental challenges we face in Missouri have grown in number and scope in recent years and to meet these challenges Chapter leaders have developed an ambitious long-range strategic plan that will fully fund the Club's conservation priorities.

The plan actually expands our reach and effectiveness in Missouri so that we can continue our work to safeguard Missouri's natural heritage for generations to come. It identifies aggressive conservation priorities and legislative goals, and provides for a new long-range sustainable fundraising plan that will enable us to achieve our expanded vision.

You are an important part of that plan!

Financial support from ALL our members is needed in 2006 and beyond to ensure that Sierra Club has the resources to hold polluters accountable and affect positive policy changes for the long-term health and safety of Missouri communities.

Your Missouri Sierra Club – staff working with an active and engaged member base – is involved throughout the state implementing critical programs aimed at shaping public policy and protecting the best of Missouri for our children. These programs are not merely theoretical. Our work has a direct impact on you, your family, and your community.

There are many important environmental organizations in Missouri, each playing its part, but only the Sierra Club has an army of citizen activists. Only the Sierra Club utilizes every lawful means of defending the environment, including grassroots organizing, litigation and lobbying. We are the only

2005 INVEST IN MISSOURI'S FUTURE			
Dec 5, 2005	2005 GOAL	2005 (to date)	2004
\$ Donations	\$25,000	\$28,216	\$20,385
Number of donors	530	308	424
New donors	106	122	



environmental organization with a full-time lobbyist at the state capitol.

The work of our staff, multiplied by an active and engaged member base, makes Missouri Sierra Club the most efficient and powerful environmental organization in the state. One you can be proud to support!

The 2005 Missouri Ozark Chapter Annual Appeal has received more than \$28,000 in member donations – exceeding our \$25,000 goal. Our average donation is up thanks to some generous major donors, however, we have so far received far fewer donations (number of donors) in 2005 than we did in 2004 — we have fallen short of our goal by 222 donors. Those 222 donors would add over \$4,000 to our annual appeal at only \$20 per donation.

Your support makes a difference!

To reach our long-range goals and fully fund the Chapter's conservation priorities we need the continuing support of all our members. If you haven't made your 2005 donation please do so today! If you are making a 2005 Sierra Club Foundation donation we must receive it in time to send it on to the Foundation and allow them time to process it so that you can claim a tax deduction. We are counting on you! Send a generous donation TODAY to

Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Ste 3, Columbia, MO 65201. *

* Please make your check payable to "Ozark Chapter

2006 Legislative Session.....continued from page 1 duced each session, our priorities can change. The dedicated members of our Legislative Committee help to research bills and determine the Chapter's positions on many complicated issues. We are fortunate to have such knowledgeable members involved in this critical process.

Every year we face repeated attempts to roll back environmental protections. "No stricter than" language, which limits important protections unique to our area; is already in a draft CAFO bill. Another industry favorite that comes back every year is the "dirty secrets" bill, or audit privilege. These bills would allow industry to be immune from prosecution of environmental violations as long as they self report. Not only do they get a "pollute free" card they would be allowed to close their records to the public. The Sierra Club, through the strength of our members has successfully beat back these bills every year. We will remain vigilant in our offense.

Statewide Renewable Energy Standards, RPS

will be a priority this session. With heating prices at an all time high and the onslaught of dirty coal plants targeting Missouri this is the year for renewable energy standards to become a reality.

We are working with Representative Jenee Lowe on a bill to be introduced early in the session. The bill requires nominal increases in renewable energy: one percent by 2008, three percent by 2012, six percent by 2016 and ten percent by 2020. The reason for the lesser amount is to combat industry arguments that the goals are unattainable. Having RES on the books in Missouri is important because it is a major consideration for renewable energy companies when conducting feasibility studies. We have strong coalition support working on its passage.

The upcoming session will be exciting and challenging please get involved by signing up for the OZARK CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT LISTSERV. ☞

Sierra Club". Contributions and gifts to the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. This type of gift provides maximum flexibility for the Club. If you prefer to make a tax deductible gift, please make your contribution payable to Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter. Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

On-line donations: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>. Only non-tax deductible donations are available on-line.

For questions contact Melissa Blakley, Chapter Development Associate, Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, 573-999-7388.

SIGN UP FOR THE OZARK CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT LISTSERV

As we begin another challenging Missouri legislative session in January, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club continues to be the only environmental organization with full-time lobbyists at the Capitol in Jefferson City. Our Chapter Director, Carla Klein is often the lone representative among hundreds of industry lobbyists pedaling their influence to roll back laws that protect the health and safety of your community.

Therefore it is more critical than ever that we activate our members quickly when **critical** issues arise that require **immediate** action.

The *****Ozark Chapter Legislative Action Alert***** listserv will be an effective tool to help us accomplish this.

The purpose of the legislative action alert is to empower activists to quickly respond to needed action. Alerts will be limited; this is a one-way service so you will only receive notices sent out from the Ozark Chapter office on key state issues that are at a critical juncture. Included in the alert will be a short summary of the problem, the Bill information, what action is needed and who and how to contact key legislators.

To subscribe to the Ozark Chapter legislative listserv email your name and email address to: ozark.chapter@sierraclub.org or call our office toll free at (800) 628-5333. This listserv does not allow subscribers to post to the list. If you want to contact the list owners please email us at Ozark.chapter@sierraclub.org or call (800) 628-5333.

For more detailed and in depth information on current legislative issues the Chapter provides the **GREEN REPORT**. This report is a publication sent out approximately five times during the legislative session from January through May. If you would like to receive the **GREEN REPORT** in an electronic form, send an email to the ozark.chapter@sierraclub.org

Cool Cities.....continued from page 1

<http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/>.

To date, 188 mayors from 38 states, representing some 40 million Americans, have signed on. Five (so far) are in Missouri: Mayor Kay Barnes, Kansas City, MO; Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis City; Mayor Mark Langston, Maplewood; Mayor Joseph Adams, University City; and most recently, Mayor Robert Lowery of Florissant.

We kicked off the Cool Cities tour in St. Louis on October 18th with a press conference, hosted by Mayor Mark Langston the front lawn of Maplewood City Hall. A 2006 hybrid Mercury Mariner, manufactured in Missouri and on loan from Ford Motor Company for the tour, served as one great example of fuel-saving technology.

The Eastern Missouri Group's new Energy Committee was well-represented, including chair Henry Robertson, Jim Young, Janet Jump, and others. I introduced the Sierra Club's Cool Cities guide and helped present certificates of appreciation to Langston and to Mayor Joseph Adams of University City. Both mayors spoke movingly of the need for local leadership on global warming and protecting natural resources for our children and grandchildren.

Our community partners highlighted a few specific actions cities can take, such as adopting the U.S. Green Building Council's standards for building design, called



At Drury University in Springfield, dozens of students, faculty and staff learned about Missouri's home-grown Mercury Mariner and other hybrids."

the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Having a policy in place to prevent school buses and other vehicles from idling at the curb is a simple but important step. Replacing traditional traffic signals with Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting instead has already saved Salt Lake City tens of thousands of dollars.

Later that evening, fifty more St. Louisans got a chance to check out the hybrid Mariner and Young's Toyota Prius at a fun St. Louis Green Drinks event. The topic was sustainable transportation, and I was a panelist. I explained how cities are saving money and reducing pollution by replacing their gas-guzzling fleet vehicles with high-mileage, fuel-sipping hybrids.

The next day, I headed to Springfield. To further emphasize ways to reduce fossil fuel consumption, I carpooled with Sierra Club volunteer Steven Schoeffler, executive director of a free online carpooling website, eRideShare.com. People can save thousands of dollars a year by carpooling, notes Schoeffler. At the same time, sharing a ride helps to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On October 20th, we held a successful hybrid event at Drury University organized by Dr. Wendy Anderson, professor of biology, as part of Drury's ongoing Sustainability series. Sierra Club energy activist Linda Chipperfield brought her Prius, while another volunteer

provided a hybrid Honda Civic. More than a hundred students, faculty and staff stopped by, and the event was covered by two local television stations.

Hitting the road once again, our final stop was Kansas City for an exciting October 21 press conference at Ilus Davis Park near City Hall. We presented a certificate of recognition to Mayor Kay Barnes, who had signed on to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in June, and urged her to enact a serious action plan. Mayor Barnes told the small crowd that she believes local action is critical to solving global warming.


Our Chapter Director, Carla Klein, spoke about the wisdom of energy from wind and solar, and how renewables can benefit our farmers and economy as well as the environment.

To underscore that point perfectly, she was followed by Jim Stoufer, the President of United Autoworkers Local 249. Stoufer arrived in a silvery-green hybrid Ford Escape built at the Claycomo assembly plant. The Escape was the first hybrid ever built in the U.S., as well as the first hybrid SUV. Stoufer explained how the hybrid Escape and Mariner are supporting thousands of well-paying jobs in the Kansas City area.

These local actions by cities and states represent a welcome trend, one that stands in stark contrast to the Bush administration's policy of taxpayer handouts to the coal and oil industries.

Our efforts in Missouri are continuing, and Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign model has now been adopted by Sierra Club programs in several cities and states around the country for 2006.

To get involved, please speak up at your next Sierra Club gathering,

or email globalwarming@sierraclub.org. 

Hybrid Tactics Put Campaigns on the Road to Success

*by Jill Miller, Conservation Organizer,
Sierra Club Global Warming & Energy Program*

In the past four years, Sierra Club hybrid vehicle events in Missouri and all over the country have proven to be an amazingly effective grassroots tool for generating interest in and support for the Sierra Club's national and local clean cars campaigns, a major part of the Global Warming and Energy Program.

The goal of the campaign is to make all cars and light trucks go farther on a gallon of gas. U.S. passenger vehicles account for over 40 percent of the oil imported to the U.S., and 20 percent of our country's total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Raising overall average fuel economy to 40mpg would save more oil than we could import from the Middle East or get from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, combined. By putting modern, existing technolo-



In St. Louis, Sierra Club energy activists and allies applauded several cool mayors. From left to right: Jim Young, Mayor Joseph Adams (U. City), Henry Robertson, Jill Miller, Erin Noble (MO Coalition for the Environment), and Dan Albes.

photo by Emily Andrews

gies under the hood, our automakers can dramatically curb fossil fuel emissions, save drivers money at the gas pump, and reduce our dependence on imported oil.

Why emphasize hybrids? Because seeing is believing. Incredibly, many Americans still believe that hybrids have to be plugged in, that they're tiny and unsafe, or that they don't have the power to drive highway speeds! The best way to dispel these myths is by seeing a hybrid up close and talking to somebody who owns one.

Ultimately, by holding public events where people can look at, learn about, and sometimes test-drive a car that can go from St. Louis to Kansas City and back on one small tank of gasoline, we impress on others that they should expect automakers to do a whole lot better when it comes to gas mileage.


By increasing public demand, the campaign is putting pressure on Ford Motor Company and other carmakers to build more fuel efficient vehicles in all the makes and models people need and want to buy. Currently available technologies include not only full hybrid systems, but also continuously variable transmissions, integrated starter/generators, variable valve control engines, and more aerodynamic designs.

At the same time, public demand strengthens the call for federal action to raise fuel economy standards, and for more states to adopt California's clean car standards that regulate CO₂.

Hybrid car events tend to earn media attention, which increases a campaign's credibility, effectiveness, and reach. Sierra Club hybrid events have been instrumental to successful efforts to get cities to purchase hybrids for their vehicle fleets, among them Columbia, Missouri and Charlotte, North Carolina. Hybrid tactics also have given us a good opportunity to work with important allies, including faith-based organizations in St. Louis, sheriffs in Florida, Steelworkers, and United Autoworkers. The Ford and Mercury hybrids made at the Claycomo assembly plant near Kansas City are helping to support thousands of good jobs, while lessening the impact on our planet.

Hybrid events can be a good way to showcase other important clean energy solutions, too. In Missouri alone, we've held events at bike and pedestrian trail sites, in urban parks, and at farmers markets. We've included speakers and displays on a wide range of issues, from carpooling to wind power to green building design. There is no limit to mutually beneficial opportunities.

So the next time you see a hybrid car or hear about an upcoming Sierra Club event, you'll know that is about a lot more than one gas-sipping vehicle. It's a message to other car buyers, our automakers, and to elected officials: that we can't have a truly clean energy future without addressing the cars and trucks we drive.

To get involved with the clean cars campaign, email jill.miller@sierraclub.org. 

THE LONG EMERGENCY: SURVIVING THE CONVERGING CATASTROPHES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

by James Howard Kunstler
reviewed by Cheryl Hammond

Sleepwalking into the future

We are walking off a cliff into “an abyss of economic and political disorder on a scale that no one has ever seen before.” James Howard Kunstler shows us a future of sharply decreasing supplies of oil and gas where everyday things we take as normal will cease to be part of our lives.

As we are reaching peak oil in this decade, the point at which we will have used up half the available oil on Earth, we are starting a downward slide toward a life Americans are unprepared for. Kunstler shows convincingly that it is not just a matter of exploring for more oil, as the world has been extensively mapped for oil, and no more major oil fields are to be found.

The 1973 Arab oil embargo sent the first oil shocks to the US. The opening of the oil pipeline from the North Slope fields of Alaska and a new generation of drilling platforms in the North Sea between Scotland and Norway enabled the world to postpone the reckoning date, and in fact created a glut of oil which lasted through the ‘80s and ‘90s. Americans lost all concern for availability of oil supplies, and now, in 2005, Americans have yet to understand how peak oil will affect the oil-intensive American way of life.

Americans who consider the issue at all are engaged in “magical thinking,” a belief that market economics will kick in and solve this “engineering problem” and create new technologies like the many miraculous technologies that were invented in the twentieth century. We are confusing energy with technology. “The oil endowment was an extraordinary and singular occurrence of geology, allowing us to use the stored energy of millions of years of sunlight. Once it’s gone, it will be gone forever.” Technology is just hardware. Technology is bound by the laws of thermodynamics that say you can’t get something for nothing and there is no such thing as perpetual motion.

Globalism cannot survive without plentiful, cheap

oil. We have dismantled the US manufacturing base under the misguided application of the notion of “comparative advantage”, which means that each locality has something it is good at producing and which together make up a macro economy of trading partners. However, ultra cheap transport has made slave wages the comparative advantage of poor countries while the developed countries have all the capital. Small American retailers and manufacturers have disappeared as Wal-Mart and other major corporations have become a pipeline from China of DVD players, clothing, and all the goods needed to fill the suburban homes of US shoppers.

Without manufacturing, “the dirty secret of the American economy in the 1990s was that it was no longer about anything except the creation of suburban sprawl and the furnishing, accessorizing, and financing of it.” None of this can survive the loss of cheap oil.

How will our communities cope? “More than 80% of everything ever built in America was built after World War II, and most of it was designed solely to be used in connection with cars.” Can it be adaptively reused? There are three considerations:

1. How walkable is it? What seems like minutes in an air conditioned car will feel like the “Bataan death march” on foot in August.
2. Can it be heated?
3. Can the roof be kept in repair? Big box stores, already planned for only a 20 year life span, will be subject to quick deterioration.

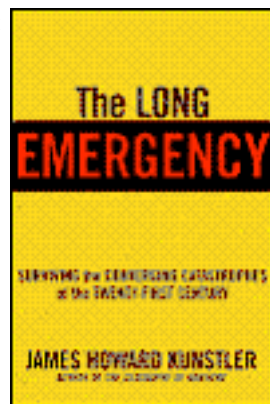
Kunstler discusses the interstate highway system, which is surprisingly fragile. The ability to zip along at 70 mph requires a very well maintained surface. Slightly broken pavement deteriorates quickly. Our national trucking system cannot tolerate partial failure of the system. Cracked pavement leads to broken axles and dangerous 16-wheelers. Even in today’s relative well being, 18% of federal highways are in poor or mediocre condition. As energy prices increase and the middle class becomes more financially distressed, fewer Americans will have the means to drive and the will to maintain the

largest public works system in the history of the world, the interstate highway system, will fall sharply.

The converging catastrophe of the book title is global climate change. It won’t even matter if the far-right skeptics were correct that human activities have had nothing to do with climate change, but that the incontrovertible global warming is just a natural climate cycle. The relevant questions is how will we survive the hardships with chaotically destabilized governments and less ability to take international action. Kunstler gives very interesting descriptions of climactic shifts in historical times, including the deforestation of England during the cooling of the Little Ice Age beginning from the 1500’s. The Gulf Stream Switch is the surprise result of global warming. As Arctic glaciers melt, the fresh water entering the northern Atlantic will disrupt the Gulf Stream, which keeps Europe relatively warm. Europe could be looking at a very cold climate.

The food supply is the most worrisome part of oil and gas depletion. The Green Revolution, which allowed the population of the world to increase tremendously, is overwhelmingly about using fertilizers and pesticides made from fossil fuels and not about plant genetics. The world population will have to somehow get back to a level, which can be supported by sun energy and not fossil energy. Farming in the American western plains was basically a failed experiment until mechanization and irrigation with fossil water prolonged it. It was only tried because land was given away free to the desperate. The prospects are dire for this region where counties in Nebraska are already the poorest in the nation and towns have been folding up for years.

The Long Emergency is well worth reading and thinking about. The period of oil powered growth in the US and the world has been “normal” for such a short time. The transition to a future without oil will be difficult. The calls to get the oil from ever more sensitive locations are growing much louder. How will environmentalists fight against drilling in coastal waters, national parks, and anywhere with a drop of oil as mainstream America desperately tries to maintain an energy wasting lifestyle that ultimately has no future? ☹



Clean Air & Energy Campaign

Sierra Club’s national Global Warming & Energy Program and Missouri Sierra Club’s Clean Air and Energy Campaign work cooperatively to promote clean energy solutions for Missouri, joining forces throughout the year to hold public events, develop community partnerships, and support each others’ priorities.

Missouri’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign is focused on Missouri’s long-term energy future. Missouri is far behind surrounding states in developing clean, renewable energy sources. This lag is allowing utility companies to continue to build dirty, coal-burning power plants in the state, while ignoring cleaner, more affordable, renewable energy solutions.

The goals of the Missouri Ozark Chapter’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign are to educate the public about the threats to human health and the environment posed by coal-burning power plants and ultimately protect the long-term health of Missourians by moving the state to

embrace a clean energy future. To achieve these goals, our objectives are to:

- Promote clean energy options in Missouri — primarily efficiency and wind — as cleaner, more affordable and safer solutions to long-term energy needs;
- Prevent the construction of proposed new coal-burning power plants in Kansas City and Springfield and any additional plants that might be proposed;
- Reduce emissions from existing coal-burning power plants; and
- Promote a balanced energy portfolio for all utilities in Missouri.

Three new coal-burning power plants have been proposed in Missouri. Financial support is needed NOW to pay for expensive litigation associated with the permitting process of the two farthest along in their permitting process — in Springfield and Kansas City. The results of this litigation has the potential to affect future energy planning and projects throughout Missouri and the

entire Midwest

To financially support Missouri’s Clean Air & Energy Campaign, send your contribution to Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Ste 3, Columbia, MO 65201. *

* Please make your check payable to “Ozark Chapter Clean Air & Energy Campaign”. Contributions and gifts to the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. This type of gift provides maximum flexibility for the Club. If you prefer to make a tax deductible gift, please make your contribution payable to Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter Clean Air & Energy Campaign. Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club’s conservation goals.

On-line donations: <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/>. Only non-tax deductible donations are available on-line.

For questions contact Melissa Blakley, Chapter Development Associate, Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, (573) 999-7388.

Family Farm Stewardship

by Terry Spence

The roots of most American rural communities over the decades have been structured and grown around sustainable family farm operations. With the growth of the factory farm type of agriculture in America, agriculturally dependent rural communities have withered away and some have died out. Large corporate hog farms in Missouri alone have depleted over 60 percent of the independent family hog farmers over the last six years. With the loss of these hog farms there has been a significant loss of family farms, farm families, loss of support to local schools, churches, public institutions and farm-related retail businesses in areas where they operate as well as social impacts.

Missouri had a ban on corporate farming until 1993, when an amendment attached to an economic development bill quietly exempted three counties (Putnam, Sullivan and Mercer) so that Corporate Premium Standard Farms could raise swine in these three counties. Today in these three counties there is a combined population of 15,701 residents and over 1.6 million Premium Standard hogs within an area of 1,625 square miles. This amounts to 985 hogs per square mile, or 102 hogs for every man, woman and child.

REAL FARMERS care about people, their families and their communities, ... they care about the land, and the environment and the animals they raise.

Corporate entities undermine the economic factors that communities rely on by getting reduced rates on utilities from what other area farmers have to pay, exemptions in enterprise zones up to 100 percent tax abatements on real property, such as slaughter and packing houses, as well as a raft of community development block grants for infrastructure and job training assistance. The loss of revenues from these factors, as well as the loss from corporations not purchasing locally for their operations and selling the community-based product outside the region brings social and economic disaster to rural areas in Missouri.

A corporate entity in itself is not a living thing; it is without a heart, without a soul or any type of feelings as to its course of action in how it is being used. Corporate executives are living things; they call themselves farmers while dealing with agriculture issues. The only difference in corporate farmers is that REAL FARMERS care about people, their families and their communities, they reside and work at their place of business, they care about the land, and the environment and the animals they raise. REAL FARMERS realize that farming is a sacred trust; to take only what is needed from the land and to use good stewardship, providing opportunities for future generations who follow.

The corporate integration and industrialization of agriculture is slowly eroding away at the fabric that America was built upon. Farmers, for centuries, have been the backbone that makes America what it is today. Farmers have provided an abundance of wholesome,

healthy food and commodities, which in turn built strong and healthy rural communities.

Corporate integration hasn't taken place overnight; it's been like a black sheep in the night, roaming from place to place, to see where it can fit in without being noticed and being free to do whatever it pleases. Farmers have relied on agriculture groups such as the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) to be a watchdog for anything that might be detrimental to family farmer's future. These groups became the voice for the American farmer, but at the same time also became good associates with corporate industry. These groups have become so wealthy from dues and checkoffs from the family farmer, that some of them now own stocks and shares in the corporations that are destroying family farmers and agriculture.

Nobody knows better than we do what is strangling the life out of rural America. As farmers, we must individually voice our opinion loud and clear, if the preservation of the family farm is to be continued for the future.

I believe the earth was created so that everything on it could live in harmony. With the new type of corporate industrialization of agriculture, the harmony and balance of nature will soon be nonexistent. Corporate greed has no balance compared to the stewardship of the REAL AMERICAN FAMILY FARMER. ☞

Terry Spence owns and operates a 400-acre, second-generation beef cow/calf farm in Putnam County, Missouri, on which he has lived all but two of his 53 years. He and his wife, Linda, have two children and three grandchildren.

CAFOs and Family Farmers

by Ken Midkiff

It once was that hogs were the fall back for cash poor times. If the mortgage on the farm was due, a farmer would sell a few hogs, make the loan payment, and have some money left.

That's no longer the case. The number of Missouri family farmers raising their own hogs to sell can be counted on one hand, and the number of hogs produced in this state has decreased commensurately. In fact, there were several million more hogs raised in 1975 than there are today in 2005.

What happened was that the hog market was taken over by a few large companies — Cargill, ConAgra, ContiGroup, Smithfield (aka Murphy's) among others. These companies own the hogs, provide feeds laced with antibiotics and other additives, tell those responsible for the daily ministrations what to do, and even dictate when the hogs will be picked up and slaughtered. The contract growers are NOT farmers — they're caretakers of someone else's animals. Or as an Iowa farmer put it "hog janitors."

These agribusinesses won't buy hogs from independent producers. As an Illinois farmer phrased it, "They own and control it all, from semen to cellophane." The goals of BigPig are uniformity and efficiency. The slaughterhouse and packing plant lines move quicker when all animals are the same weight and configuration. Every cut of meat looks like every other cut of meat. Feed-to-weight ratios are as low as possible.

But, as Lynn McKinley, a farmer from Putnam County in far north Missouri says "I won't contract with Premium Standard Farms, Inc. — owned by ContiGroup. I've seen their way. It isn't my way."

Lynn recently sold all her hogs and concentrates on other aspects of the farm. Farmers don't make very good janitors. ☞

The Future of Missouri Agriculture

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Program Director

Memories of growing up on the family farm will always be among my most precious. I loved being outdoors, driving the tractor in from the hayfield, playing hide and seek in the hayloft and working in the garden. My Dad taught us the importance being good stewards, caring for the land and the animals and being a good neighbor. It was hard work and long hours but he loved farming almost as much as he loved his family. We had great neighbors that were always there to help out when needed. It was common practice to loan out farm equipment to your neighbor, help get in a crop and share extra bounty from each others gardens.

Neighbor helping neighbor and the natural smells and sounds of the farm and nature are images that many people envision when thinking about the family farm. Unfortunately the very way of life that Americans treasure is at risk of being lost. Missouri's family farms are being



pushed out by corporate agriculture or confined animal feeding operations, CAFOs. These operations are not farms so much as they are workings of an industrial process. These huge facilities house thousands of animals crowded into confined spaces. Gone are the images of livestock roaming the fields with fresh air and sunshine. Hogs, cattle and chickens are now raised as machines in factories (see CAFO diagram).

Packing huge numbers of animals into crowded facilities results in enormous amounts of waste. These facilities pollute our waterways and emit horrible airborne toxins. Far from being a good rural neighbor, factory farms rob their neighbors of the enjoyment of their property. Folks unfortun-

continued on page 8...Missouri Agriculture

Rural Values Created the Sierra Club

by Tom Kruzen

Many Sierra Club members as well as its detractors forget that the Club was founded a century ago from the deep wellspring of rural values of its progenitor... John Muir. Born in Dunbar, Scotland in 1838 and son of preacher/farmer, John Muir once recalled: "When I was a boy in Scotland, I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures. Fortunately, around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness...with red blooded playmates, wild as myself, I loved to wander in the fields, to hear the birds sing, and along the seashore to gaze and wonder at the shells and seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools among the rocks when the tide was low."

"Somehow we have lost or discarded any controlling sense of the interdependence of the Earth and the human capacity to use it well. Can we actually suppose that we are wasting, polluting, and making ugly this beautiful land for the sake of patriotism and the love of God? ..."

The family later moved to the wilds of Wisconsin for religious freedom and cheap land. Years of hard work and keen observation on the family farm in Wisconsin showed Muir the interconnectedness of the web of life. "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

Having lived in rural Iowa in the 1970's, I found this same deep understanding of nature alive and well. It was not uncommon for my farmer-employer/friend and mentor, Lester Haferbier to take a break during the frenetic planting or harvest times and wander into the "back 40" away from all the bustle to sit in wait of an eagle feeding

her young or to pick a gallon of blackberries or to just stand on a bluff soaking up the beauty of it all. The ebb and flow of the natural world comes easy to people who

Corporate industrialism, masquerading as farming, planting itself in the rural landscape today destroys, diminishes and demeans all that traditional family agriculture has stood for.

toil with the earth. Farmers whose lives depend on living natural systems learn very quickly to respect the earth and understand its spirit. They understand on many levels literally who and what butters their bread ... and where the bread and butter come from. Farmers engage in the act of preservation from the get go. They put up hay and save seed. Farmers' wives preserve the bounty from the garden and from wild-collected fruits and nuts. Very often the entire family was totally engaged in these activities. The abundance of June, July and August translated in a very real way to winter survival and pleasant surprises of a January blackberry cobbler.

For Muir it was no giant leap then to see the intrinsic value of a place like Yosemite or Hetch Hetchy. Self-reliance and resourcefulness were qualities found in family farm life. Often miles from the nearest hardware store or repair shop, farmers often substitute something that works as well as the original. It was resourcefulness that bound Muir with such men as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Roosevelt to help save America's wild treasures. Muir created the Sierra Club to weld an ever industrialized and alienated public to the spiritual essence of unfettered places.

John Muir's boyhood wonder and farm-bred practicum later found fulfillment and further challenges in the grandeur of the Sierra Nevada, Alaska and the Grand Canyon. It is why today the Sierra Club engages in

trying to save the last best wild places like Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the very life-sustaining elements of the planet — water and air. It is also why the Sierra Club today often finds close allies in the traditional farming communities. John Muir's great contribution to wilderness preservation was to successfully promote the idea that wilderness had spiritual as well as economic value. We find ourselves heading toward doom and annihilation because we have allowed the economic interest in nature to take precedent and overpower its spiritual essence. It would do us well to remember these Muir words: "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, overcivilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

Modern urban industrialists with their CAFOs and their Monsanto-bred "terminator seeds" stand in stark contrast to traditional rural values. Twisting nature into their image, they make it virtually impossible for family farmers to save seeds, operate without poisons or even to survive as independent businessmen. Corporate industrialism, masquerading as farming, planting itself in the rural landscape today destroys, diminishes and demeans all that traditional family agriculture has stood for. In the words of present day Kentucky farmer/conservationist, Wendell Berry: "Somehow we have lost or discarded any controlling sense of the interdependence of the Earth and the human capacity to use it well. Can we actually suppose that we are wasting, polluting, and making ugly this beautiful land for the sake of patriotism and the love of God? Perhaps some of us would like to think so, but in fact this destruction is taking place because we have allowed ourselves to believe, and to live, a mated pair of economic lies: that nothing has a value that is not assigned to it by the market; and that the economic life of our communities can safely be handed over to the great corporations." Over a century later I still hear John Muir talking. ☞

The Agribusiness Federation

by Ken Midkiff

The Missouri Farm Bureau Federation — an organization to which all Farm Bureau Insurance policyholders belong and provide funding (whether they know it or not) — has taken some curious positions. The positions are far to the right of the American electorate. While endorsed candidates may not subscribe to all these positions, it is worth noting that the Farm Bureau gives its stamp of approval to those politicians who most closely adhere to the values of the organization.

Each year, the Farm Bureau Federation pulls together a conference to ratify resolutions. These statements of policy come from a number of sources. Some are strictly farm-related (such as pesticide and herbicide uses) and come from the county associations or individual members. Others — such as nuclear proliferation — apparently stem from the retrograde leadership of the American Farm Bureau Federation and still others (opposing protecting endangered species) seemingly come from the state offices. For a complete list of these positions, visit www.mofb.org on the web.

This mix of national, state and local positions has led

to some flatly contradictory positions. In the preamble to its resolutions, there is a statement that the best government is that which is closest to the people. But, one of the resolutions states that county governments should not be empowered to enact ordinances on agricultural operations that are stricter than state laws.

It should be obvious to the most casual observer that county commissioners are closer to their constituents than anyone in Jefferson City...and consequently should have the ability to make decisions about issues and impacts to those constituents. Fortunately, state statutes have given county governments that ability.

So, what is the Farm Bureau doing advocating that counties shouldn't be allowed to enact ordinances stricter than state law? In a nutshell, they are sticking up for commodity groups representing industrial agribusiness. Some counties have health ordinances in place to regulate industrial agribusiness facilities — protecting the residents against noxious odors and water pollution.

The counties' ordinances have been particularly applied to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations — industrial facilities that have thousands, tens of thousands, even millions of pigs or chickens. Numerous peer-reviewed studies

show that such operations are harmful to the health of nearby residents. These studies have been made available to county commissioners, who have in turn decided to protect their constituents. Health, it seems, outweighs corporate agribusiness' profits.

A law was passed in 1995 to provide state regulation of such operations. The last sentence in this law states that nothing above shall be construed to limit counties' authority.

But, the Farm Bureau is on record as being opposed to counties exercising that authority, and, at the same time, advocating that government is best when closest to the people. Contradictory? Well, yes and no.

When things at the state and federal level benefit the agriculture industry, the Farm Bureau supports those. When the agribusiness industry is benefited by local ordinances, the Farm Bureau supports those. No contradiction — just a failure to determine the difference between agriculture and agribusiness. ☞

Missouri Agriculture.....continued from page 6

nate enough to have industrialized agriculture move in to their communities are often forced to stay indoors and keep their windows closed to escape the noxious odors.

Health Impacts

CAFO generated waste can contaminate groundwater and surface water with nitrogen in the form of nitrates and other nutrients such as phosphorous. Elevated nitrates in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Blue baby is a cause of both illness and death in infants. Dangerous bacteria and other pathogens can remain in surface waters near CAFO lagoons spills for a full two months. Contamination of drinking wells near these facilities is well documented. For more information see: "Poultry on Antibiotics: Hazards to Human Health" report <http://www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/antibi->

otics/.

A common gas emitted from factory farms is hydrogen sulfide, known to cause eye, nose and throat irritation, diarrhea, hoarseness, sore throat, cough, chest tightness, nasal congestion, heart palpitations shortness of breath and even death. A study of the Minnesota Department of Health found levels of hydrogen sulfide emanating from a CAFO manure lagoon posed a potential threat to human health. After two years of testing the facility, the state found hydrogen sulfide levels far exceeding the state standard. Missouri CAFO facilities have just recently begun air monitoring.

Robert S. Lawrence, MD John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health testified this month before the Congressional hearing on environmental and health impacts of CAFOs. Dr. Lawrence concluded, "The public health threat of CAFOs reflects the multiple exposure

routes through air, water and soil of harmful gases, pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrates, and pathogenic microorganisms." Lawrence asserts the threats are real and urgent and additional protections are needed.

Subsidized Agricultural

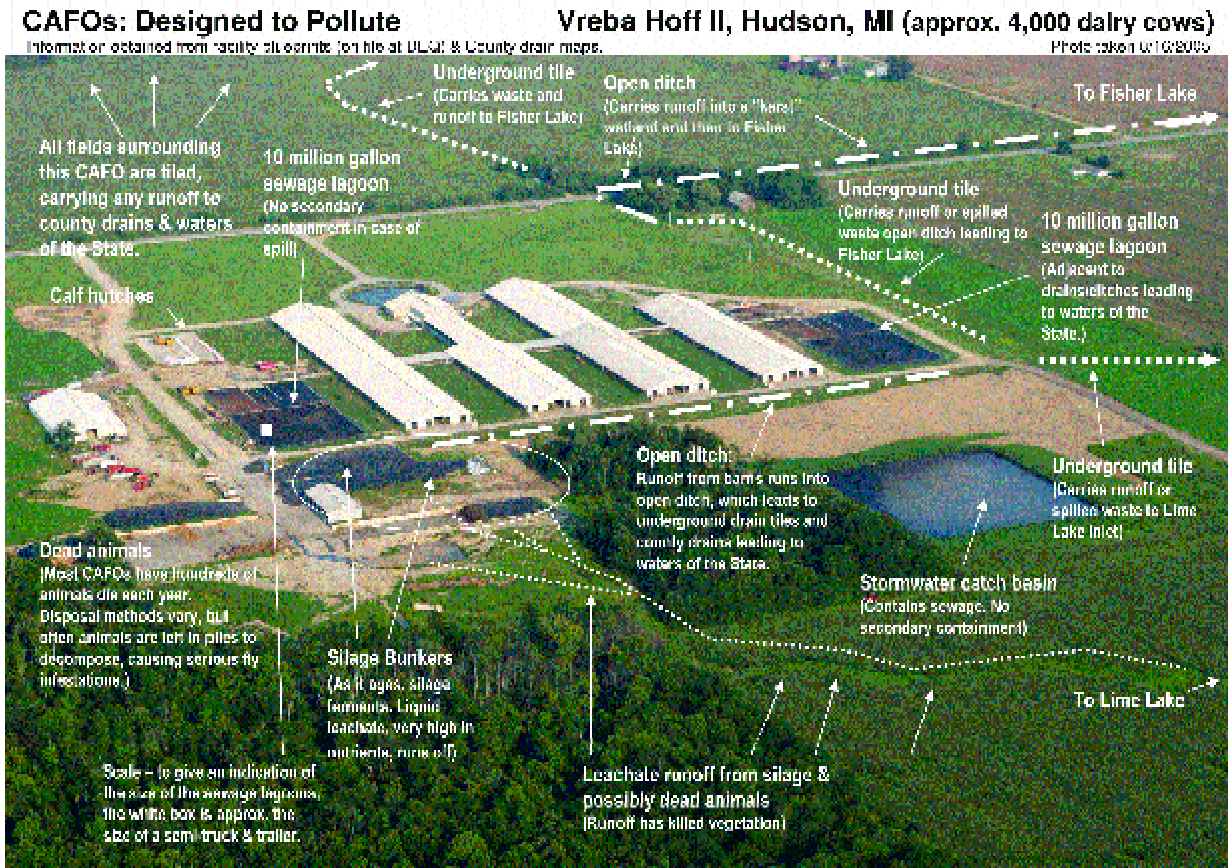
CAFOs are non-sustainable forms of agriculture that externalize pollution costs to the environment and local communities. The claims that huge farms are necessary to make farming profitable seem to fall apart when you consider the heavy subsidies for industrialized agriculture. Since 1991, subsidies for the countries' largest farms have nearly tripled, while small family farms have not received subsidy increases. According to USDA, sixty percent of all farmers and ranchers do not qualify for subsidy programs. Large farms collect nearly all the subsidy funds. This cycle supports cheap food but hides the real costs of environmental degradation and threats to human health.

For more information visit Environmental Working Groups Farm Subsidy Database <http://www.ewg.org/farm/addrsearch>

Join Family Farmers Fighting Back

You may remember our major victory last session, working with family farmers and coalition groups to beat back corporate agriculture's attempts to out law local control and county health ordinances. County health ordinances are the only tool to provide communities additional protections from CAFOs. The Sierra Club helped to organize "Missourians for Local Control" a network of organizations and individuals who believe that decisions about our communities should be made at the most local level possible — the level at which the very people who are impacted can best participate. Together we have continued our work over the interim to educate rural Missourians about what is at stake. We have helped local communities that are being inundated by new CAFO facilities and armed them with facts to fight back.

This is a fight we can't afford to loose. We know that industrialized farming is non-sustainable, it threatens our food supply contaminates our air and water and is destroying rural communities. The actions we take today will determine the future of Missouri agriculture. We can continue the tradition of healthy sustainable family farms by keeping local control of our communities. ☞



The Facts about CAFOs and Health Ordinances

by Carla Klein, Ozark Chapter Program Director

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are operations with over one thousand "animal units" concentrated at one place at one time. The following are

Livestock	Class 1A	Class 1B	Class 1C
Beef Cows	7,000 +	3,000-6,999	1,000-2,999
Hogs	17,500 +	7,500-17,499	2,500-7,499
Broiler Chickens	700,000+	300,000-699,999	100,000-299,999

CAFO size definitions:

Current state standards allow up to 17,499 hogs, 7,000 beef cattle, or 700,000 chickens within **2000 feet of a residence**. Standards allow an unlimited number of animals to be located 3000 feet from a residence. This means that an industrial livestock operation that generates as *much waste as the city of St. Louis* can be located within 3,000 feet of a residence in **your county**.

Enacting county health ordinances is currently the only mechanism for protecting citizens from the potential negative impacts associated with CAFOs. Missouri courts have upheld a county's authority to enact these health ordinances. Twelve Missouri counties have enacted health ordinances since 1997. Three additional counties are in the process of enacting similar ordinances. According to the Missouri Supreme Court, CAFO buildings and farm structures, including lagoons, are exempt from planning and zoning. Any class of county can put a health ordinance in place (planning and zoning is not required.)

A Class 1A CAFO creates as much manure as a city of more than 70,000 people, which is then kept in open-pit lagoons.

According to The University of Missouri, CAFOS can decrease property values up to 50% for neighboring property owners.

Of Missouri's 106,000 farming operations, only 451 (less than 0.5 percent) are CAFOs.

Some legislators and industry lobbyists have pledged, once again, to propose legislation in the 2006 session that would weaken local control for counties. Missouri's legislative session begins January 4, 2006. With Cargill planning a major CAFO expansion into Missouri, now is the time to act! Please sign up for the legislative LISTSERV today and help protect Missouri's rural communities.

[This should be near article on MO Agriculture and CAFOs](#)
[How do you spell capital or capitol?](#)

Missouri Sierra Club's Legislative Program

Did you know that the Missouri Sierra Club is the only environmental organization with a full-time lobbyist at the state capital? Our Chapter Director, Carla Klein, is your lone representative among hundreds of industry lobbyists pedaling their influence to roll back laws that protect the health and safety of your community. In 2005, with her leadership, "Big Pig" was defeated once again! She organized Sierra Club volunteers, folks from coalition organizations, and community representatives to narrowly defeat passage of a new state law that would have overridden County health ordinances that provide limits on polluting Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

Defeating "Big Pig" in 2005 was made possible by placing advertisements in key legislative districts that told constituents what their legislators were up to. That same battle will need to be fought again in 2006.

Your support makes a difference!

Financial support for the Missouri Chapter's lobbying activities are not tax deductible, therefore only non-tax deductible gifts help to support our legislative programs. To provide financial support for Missouri's Ozark Chapter, send your contribution to Ozark Chapter Sierra Club, 1007 N. College, Ste 3, Columbia, MO 65201.

Please make your check payable to "**Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter**". Contributions and gifts to the Ozark Chapter Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. This type of gift provides maximum flexibility for the Club. If you prefer to make a tax deductible gift, please make your contribution payable to "**Sierra Club Foundation, Ozark Chapter**". Contributions and gifts to The Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

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For questions contact Melissa Blakley, Chapter Development Associate, Melissa.blakley@sierraclub.org, 573-999-7388.

NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB RECOGNIZES MISSOURI ORGANIZER

by Terri Folsom with input from Derek Brockbank

We have a National Sierra Club Award winner living right here in Missouri!!

Student Sierra Club leader Charlie Fredrick was awarded the Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award at the 2005 Sierra Summit. This award recognizes a Sierra Club member under the age of 30 for environmental activism and leadership. Charlie has helped to organize a network of environmental activists in the Midwest for the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), the student run arm of the Sierra Club.

Charlie Frederick has been the SSC Midwest regional coordinator for the past year, and has been on the Executive Committee since June. As Regional coordinator, he has developed new activists, new leaders and new SSC groups across the Midwest. In addition he has brought coordination to the region, and allowed student activists in Missouri and across the region to network with each other — getting new ideas and learning new skills from their correspondence. While he has worked on number of issues, and helped connect students to issues that they want to work on, he has focused on the "Victoria's Dirty Secret" campaign. This campaign,

started by Forest Ethics (with whom Charlie now works), is working to make Victoria's Secret — arguably the country's most famous catalog — stop using paper from endangered Canadian boreal forest. Corporate campaigns, while infrequent for the Sierra Club, are a staple of student organizing as it allows youth to leverage their power as a highly targeted consumer market and often has fun, "sexy" campaign actions. They are some of the few campaigns that we have actually seen real progressive victories in the past five years.

Early this past November Charlie spoke at one of the many press conferences he organized around the country in Columbia, Missouri. He is shown in this picture speaking shortly after the "21 Thong Salute" was launched in Speaker's Circle on the University of Missouri campus. The campus publication, *The MANEATER*, published a great story

as well as *THE JOPLIN INDEPENDENT*, an on-line publication. ☺



Environmental Protection: a Conservative AND Liberal Value?

by Alan Journet, Conservation Chair, Trail of Tears Group

Most folks who are concerned about the future, live cautiously and prudently. They do not easily or without serious thought for the potential consequences, risk squandering either what they have, or the future for themselves or their children and grandchildren.

Maybe you think parachuting out of aircraft just for the fun of it is crazy because there's always a chance that the parachute will not open; maybe you avoid bungee jumping from bridges into the deep yet picturesque valleys below lest the chord break. If so, you are living the Precautionary Principle. This principle argues that if the consequences of a course of action may be catastrophic, it is better to avoid that course of action even if you lack absolute certainty that the worst will happen but merely suspect that it is possible. In everyday terms, it can best be stated in terms of the well-known phrase: "I'd rather be safe than sorry!"

Given a choice between drinking water from a lake that may (but probably does not) contain intestinal parasites, or from a bottle brought with them, most hunters, hikers, and campers would drink from the bottle. Usually we would rather be safe than sorry.

If you avoid burning the scrub around your house or farm in a high wind for fear that the fire might escape your control and burn down the house, you are living the Precautionary Principle. If your doctor suggests that it might be prudent to undertake some tests even though there is probably nothing seriously wrong, you probably do it even if the tests will cost a few dollars. We would rather spend a few dollars to be on the safe side than risk suffering a serious undiagnosed medical condition. When we receive warnings about the possible consequences of continuing business as usual we consider it reasonable to act cautiously and take precautions rather than continue blindly and in ignorance. We usually consider that avoiding serious or dangerous consequences is the prudent course of action. Whether we consider it the 'Conservative' or the 'Liberal' approach, many of us live by the Precautionary Principle in daily decision making. In scientific and political terms it means that if we have reason to suspect some chemical is toxic we should regulate it; if we suspect human activity is causing serious environmental problems, we should stop that activity.

When it comes to protecting the air we breathe or the water we drink from poisonous chemicals with serious but low frequency health risks, most of us think public policies should also be based on the Precautionary Principle rather than a accepting the blind cowboy optimism that says because there is only a small risk that a few people will suffer and it will probably be someone else. "Don't worry, everything will be ok" just does not seem reasonable advice. That's what the tobacco companies told us about nicotine, and drug companies told us about those drugs that we now find are life-threatening. We usually prefer to be protected even if this involves federal or state regulations and even if there is an economic cost associated with funding agencies charged with public health protection. For most of us, health (our own, our families, or our children and grandchildren), if not completely priceless, is — at least — worth a great deal. The Precautionary Principle urges protection from pollution because the costs of the alternative are so serious.

When we consider the potential consequences of global climate change this rather conservative precautionary principle should be considered again. If we suffer an average planetary temperature increase of the kind meteorologists, atmospheric scientists, and weather researchers predict, the consequences could be catastrophic.

We already have powerful evidence that a planetary climate change is occurring. Indeed, there is so much evidence that almost all scientists involved in relevant research are convinced not only that it is happening but also that there is a high probability — if not a near certainty — that human activities are causing it. Indeed, researchers seeking publications in 2004 that suggest anything different found none. The editor of the internationally respected journal *Science* which has published many research articles on the issue reported that during the same period, not one article refuting the consensus view was even submitted. The voices of denial are almost entirely those of individuals employed or funded by the energy industry, or political commentators lacking expertise who are committed to positions that demand there is no global climate change regardless of the evidence. These professional deniers will deny until the planet is a charred lifeless ball; nothing will convince them!

Measurements of atmospheric and oceanic temperatures provide convincing evidence of the problem. The well-researched and well-publicized evidence that polar and alpine glaciers are receding, and that icebergs, ice flows, and frozen soils (permafrost) in Polar Regions are melting all combine to provide sufficiently convincing evidence that no informed analyst of the evidence has any doubt that the planet is warming up. Furthermore, as researchers explore predictions of the consequences of climate change, we find that these predictions are consistently coming to pass.

One well-reported prediction is that warming oceans increase the frequency of severe weather patterns (such as hurricanes). In the past 50 years oceans have warmed one degree (Fahrenheit). Meanwhile, the frequency of catastrophic hurricanes has doubled in the last 35 years and major storms in the Atlantic and Pacific have increased 50% since the 1970s. Though unlikely, it is true that these patterns may be coincidental, and may not be a consequence of global climate change, but if they are, the problem will only get worse unless we address what seems to be the cause — i.e. greenhouse gasses released by human activity. Katrina and Rita are exactly what these predictions foretold; they are probably harbingers of our future if we fail to heed the warnings. Those who bury their heads in the sand and suggest that we should do nothing to minimize the threat of future catastrophic events are not living the Precautionary Principle.


Another prediction borne out by the evidence is that as regional temperatures increase, the range of species of wild plants and animals will shift — either up mountains or towards the poles. A host of studies have revealed this happening in many species of wildlife in the U.S. and throughout the world including butterflies, alpine plants, birds, marine invertebrates and mosquitoes. One predicted outcome is that arctic species, such as the polar bear, will join the ranks of the extinct species no longer living outside zoos (and ultimately, no longer living anywhere). The increasing frequency of tropical and subtropical diseases in the United States is another example.

Americans living in rural communities would be wise to think about the consequences of global climate change for the plants (whether crops or forests) that are their livelihood. We know the two main elements make regions of the country suitable for the vegetation that they support are soils and climate. If the soils deteriorate or the climate changes substantially, the trees and crops that currently grow in Missouri may no longer be successful and thus may prove no longer economically viable. The consequence for farmers, the timber industry, and the communities that they support should not be underestimated.

There may be a cost associated with reducing the

human impact on climate change — though many economic studies suggest there would be an overall net economic benefit — but even if this is the case, we should balance this against the cost of the alternative of inaction. What if the agricultural and forestry systems of Missouri are devastated? What would the cost be then? Organizations, insurance companies (such as the Farm Bureau Insurance), and State and Federal representatives who pretend that there is no global climate change or that the cost is too great to counter it even if it is happening, are not serving the long term best interests of Americans, particularly of rural Americans. Rather, they are serving the short term economic interests of those who contribute to their coffers, their profits, or their election campaigns — namely agribusiness and energy corporations.

Would you rather apply the precautionary principle and reduce the production of gases implicated in climate change, or would you continue business as usual, ignore the evidence, and risk the consequences? The Sierra Club prefers caution and the application of the Precautionary Principle — for our families, for our future. This is either both a conservative and a liberal issue, or it is neither. John McCain (R-AZ) has cooperated with cosponsors Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and Barack Obama (D-IL) to introduce Senate Bill 1151 The Climate Stewardship Act which recognizes the problem, and proposes reasonable measure to combat it. Since the Bush Administration rejected the only worthwhile international agreement on controlling climate change gases (the Kyoto Protocol), despite its endorsement by every other economically advanced nation on the planet, Senators McCain and Lieberman have been trying to persuade their fellow representatives in the Senate to live by the Precautionary Principle and act to reverse the trend.

If you wish to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem contact Senators Bond and Talent today, and urge them to join as cosponsors and supporters of this bill. 

Outings Continued

contact Jim Fox canoeist3@msn.com

Jan 8 (Sun) Dayhike, Trolley Track Trail, KCMO. Join us at 2 p.m. at the Brookside Market (63rd and Brookside) for a winter day hike along the Trolley Track Trail. \$5 donation requested. Ellen Brenneman (816) 213-2415 ebrenn1@yahoo.com

Jan 15 (Sun) Dayhike, Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, Blue Springs, MO. Cure your cabin fever with a hike. \$5 donation requested. Dave Patton (816) 461-6091 dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Jan 21 (Sat) Dayhike, Settle's Ford Conservation Area, Montrose, MO. This winter day (all day) hike along the South Grand River will offer an excellent opportunity for wildlife viewing and test your mettle against the elements. Falling temperatures won't stop us but hazardous driving conditions will. \$5 donation requested. Contact via email preferred. Bob Wilshire (913) 384-6645 rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Jan 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Camping, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Kaiser, MO. We might get a yurt, we might get a cabin, but if we have to tent camp, we're gonna go there just the same. \$10 donation requested. Contact via email preferred. Bob Wilshire (913) 384-6645 rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Feb 5 (Sun) Dayhike, Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs, MO. Enjoy the crisp winter air as we hike and explore some off trail ravines and woodlands. Bring your lunch, and we'll provide the hot chocolate. \$5 donation requested Paul Gross (816) 228-6563 paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Feb 11 (Sat) Maintenance Perry Lake Trail, Perry, KS. We'll install mile markers on the Perry Lake Trail using a GPS receiver to find their proper location. Steve Hassler (913) 707-3296 steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

backpacking basics. We'll cover equipment, a section on low budget options, places to go and more \$5 donation requested. See also: Backpacking 101 Lab Feb 25-26. Paul or Melody Gross (816) 228-6563 paul.gross@missouri.sierraclub.org

Feb 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking 101 Lab, Hercules Glades Wilderness Forsyth, MO. Take the knowledge you gained in the Backpacking 101 classroom and apply it to the out doors. \$5 donation requested. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 214-7875, pbandj14@comcast.net

Mar 4 (Sat) Maintenance Perry Lake Trail, Perry, KS. Help us prepare the trail for the spring hiking season. We'll remove fallen obstacles and cut back overgrowth. Steve Hassler (913) 707-3296 steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org

Mar 5 (Sun) Dayhike, Weston Bend State Park, Weston, MO. Join us at 2 p.m. at the bike trail at Weston Bend State Park for a day hike. Length: About 3 miles. \$5 donation requested. Ellen Brenneman (816) 213-2415 ebrenn1@yahoo.com

Mar 9-12 (Thu-Sun) Backpacking, Ozark Highlands Trail, AR. We'll hike about a 30 mile stretch of the OHT. \$10 donation requested. Dave Patton (816) 461-6091 dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar 18 (Sat) Dayhike, Mill Creek Streamway Trail, Johnson County, KS. Celebrate the coming of Spring on a day hike along the Mill Creek Streamway Trail in Shawnee Mission Park. \$5 donation requested. Contact via email preferred- Anne McDonald (913) 384-6645 pamcdonald@kc.rr.com or Bob Wilshire rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Mar 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Car Camping, Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Camdenton, MO. We'll explore many of the natural features Ha Ha Tonka has to offer. We'll stay at a nearby private campground. Deadline for signup on this trip is March 10. \$10 donation requested. Dave & Kathy Patton (816) 461-6091 dave.patton@missouri.sierraclub.org

Apr 1 (Sat) Dayhike, Perry Lake Trail, Perry, KS. The Kanza Group maintains this trail, so let's get out and enjoy it. No work, I promise (no fooling). \$5 donation requested. Contact via email preferred- Bob Wilshire (913) 384-6645 rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Apr 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Beginner's Backpack, Clinton Lake, KS. This short 4.5 mile loop passes through wooded hills and fields with good views of the lake. \$10 donation requested. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823

Trail of Tears Group

None submitted.

White River Group

None submitted.



photo/James Dopman

NPS Celebrates 90 years!

The National Park Service (NPS) was created in 1916 under President Wilson with the support of the Sierra Club. Today, the NPS helps to manage over 84 million acres of federal lands (that's roughly the total size of Arizona!). Help us continue to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.

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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

Eastern Missouri Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx>

All winter Cross-country skiing and sledding will be organized on short notice when mother nature offers the opportunity. Call now for more information. Jim Nyberg (314) 725-0767.

Jan 6 (Fri) Hike the Ozark Trail from Taum Sauk Mountain to Highway 21. Approx. seven miles. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan 7-8 (Sat-Sun) On our annual winter backpack this year we will hike to the "Wall" on Wildcat Mountain where there is a magnificent view of the Taum Sauk Creek valley. This trip is for experienced cold weather hikers only. Although in past years we have had temperatures of 70 degrees we have also had temperatures of 12 degrees on previous trips. Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Jan 7-8 (Sat-Sun) Glade Restoration at Washington State Park. Start out the new year with some satisfaction. Help preserve and restore the most biologically diverse niches in North America, explore Missouri's hidden and unique landscape treasures, and escape the dredges of winter confinement. Glades are openings in the forest with rocky habitats composed of limestone and dolomite on south- and west- facing slopes. 415 species of plants have been found on Missouri glades. However, due to fire suppression, red cedars are encroaching on these forest openings and eliminating the flora. Lug those logs and toss that timber onto bonfires. Make your limbs firm and limber. Come one day or both. Spend Sat. night in a cabin in the park. Contact Nathan Zenser, (314) 973-4280, (nzenser@sial.com), or Leslie Lihou, (leslielihou@hotmail.com).

Jan 13 (Fri) Castlewood State Park has great views of the Meramec River on our six-eight mile hike. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan 14 (Sat) Highway cleanup. You know the red-tailed hawks like to look down on a clean roadway. May be canceled if snow fleas are present. Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.

Jan 14 (Sat) Wilderness First Aid Certification/Remote Area Rescue. This is a 14-hour highly intensive class in Wilderness Medicine and basic rescue procedures. Students will receive instruction in assessment procedures as well as information on medical issues that are commonplace in backcountry travel. Cost approx. \$60. Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 725-1560, or Richard Spener and Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072.

Jan 19 (Thu) Tour the Alberici corporate headquarters in Overland, MO, an award-winning "green" building.

In order to participate on 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 prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests 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.

Afternoon talk and walking tour. Superb demonstration of sustainable building and landscaping practices. Diane DuBois, (314) 721-0594.

Jan 20 (Fri) Eagle watching at Pere Marquette State Park on our 6-mile hike along the river.

Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan 22 (Sun) Day hike at West Tyson County Park. We will hike five-six miles at a moderate pace over hilly terrain. Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072.

Jan 27 (Fri) Stay close to home for our six-eight mile hike at Rockwoods Reservation. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Jan 27-29 (Fri-Sun) Blair Creek maintenance weekend co-hosted by the Ozark Trail Association (OTA), LAD Foundation, and the National Parks Service (NPS). The NPS will provide us with lodging and optional camping at the Powder Mill Research building, and LAD Foundation will be providing some logistical advice and moral support. The OTA will provide all meals, tools, and logistical support. The OTA and the Sierra Club will hopefully get enough volunteers signed up to make this a great outing. Signup on the web at <http://www.ozarktrail.com/WorkParties.asp>.

Jan 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. We will start at the North box and work our way South clipping, signing and removing wind falls. Common commissary for dinner Saturday evening. Bring a musical instrument if you would like to play for us. Meet at the commuter parking lot at Gravois and 270 at 7:30 am Saturday morning. We will car pool down to Himont with a pit stop at Hardees in Park Hills. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb 3 (Fri) A short but pretty hike around Perryville Lake. Possible stop at Mastodon State Park for additional hike on the way home. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb 4 (Sat) Stroll through southwest St. Louis County and explore new or little known hiking trails. We will visit Minnehaha City Park (Sunset Hills) along the Meramec River, MDC (Claire somebody; never can remember the name) trail along Sappington Road, and check out the new extensions of the Meramec Greenway near Fenton City Park. Lunch (optional) afterwards in beautiful downtown Fenton; Mexican, Italian, or Chinese?? 10:00am to.....mid-afternoon. Ice or snow; no go. Contact Joe and Lois Walsh, (636) 343-6875.

Feb 5 (Sun) Noon hike at Weldon Spring. We will cover some of the Katy Trail and some of the Lost Valley Trail to work off those pounds we gained on Groundhog's Day. About five miles. Wayne Miller, (314) 628-9084, or millwy@aol.com.

Feb 10 (Fri) Hike Fenton Park to George Winter Park, approx. six miles. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Two day backpack to Hawn State Park. We will hike the South Loop and camp somewhere near River Aux Vases. No fires are allowed so bring a candle to create a cheery glow around our camp. Paul

Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Feb 17 (Fri) Creve Coeur Lake is beautiful. Join us on a six mile hike to see old-growth trees and water birds. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb 18-19 (Sat-Sun) Glade Restoration at Washington State Park. Start out the new year with some satisfaction. Help preserve and restore the most biologically diverse niches in North America, explore Missouri's hidden and unique landscape treasures, and escape the dredges of winter confinement. Glades are openings in the forest with rocky habitats composed of limestone and dolomite on south- and west- facing slopes. 415 species of plants have been found on Missouri glades. However, due to fire suppression, red cedars are encroaching on these forest openings and eliminating the flora. Lug those logs and toss that timber onto bonfires. Make your limbs firm and limber. Come one day or both. Spend Sat. night in a cabin in the park. Contact Nathan Zenser, (314) 973-4280, (nzenser@sial.com), or Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, (lonebuffalo@earthlink.net).

Feb 24 (Fri) Call for hike information. Suzanne Smith, (618) 281-4762.

Feb 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail in the Pioneer Forest. We will start where we left off in January working our way South along the Blair Creek section and return to camp via the beautiful Laxton Hollow Trail. Common commissary for dinner Saturday night. We will meet at the commuter parking lot at Gravois and 270 at 7:30 Saturday morning and car pool down to Himont with a stop at Hardees in Park Hills. Paul Stupperich, (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net, or Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net.

Osage Group

Jan 2 (Mon) New Year's Hike in the Gans Creek Wild Area of Rock Bridge State Park starting at 1 p.m. Contact Greg Leonard at (573) 443-8263 or greg.leonard@missouri.sierraclub.org.

Jan 28 (Sat) MKT Hike & Potluck. Join us to hike on the MKT Trail followed by a potluck at the home of Julie and Ken Midkiff, 1005 Belleview Court in Columbia (take Planter Road off Stadium Blvd — between Forum and West — an immediate right onto White Oak and an immediate left onto Belleview). For more information, call (573) 442-5570.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

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

Jan-Apr Maintenance, Hidden Valley Park KCMO. Get on our list if you are interested in being contacted to help lop the invasive honeysuckle at Hidden Valley in our ongoing efforts. Doris Sherrick (816) 779-6708 dsherrick@missouri.sierraclub.org

Mar-Jun Canoeing, Kaw River KS All day canoe floats up above Lawrence on the Kaw River. For specific information check our web site, call your outings chair or