The 2009 MO chapter reunion, held the weekend of October 16-18 at Caivre River State Park, in Lincoln County, was notable for a sharp increase in attendance over previous years. This year a total of eighty two people showed up to take part in the various activities. Sierra Club members from around the state gathered with their families to spend the weekend, sleeping in cabins at night, and, during the day, exploring scenic trails, fishing, looking for wildlife, and generally relaxing. Saturday night's activities included toasting marshmallows around a bonfire, playing board games, and renewing old acquaintance with Sierrans from other parts of the state.

The campers found at Caivre River State Park, with its many miles of hiking trails of different levels of difficulty, is an excellent area in which to introduce children to the delights of outdoor life. On Saturday morning, Norma Dean Jaruslak led a bike around Lake Lincoln. That afternoon, Bruce Schulte, a state park naturalist as well as Sierra Club member, led campers on a walk along the Blazing Star Trail, as they explored an area aptly described as “one of the last, best remaining prairies in Eastern Missouri”. And on Sunday morning John Christensen led a comfortably paced nature walk, emphasizing environmental features of the area which might easily be overlooked.

For the John Christensen family, spending an annual weekend at the Sierra Club reunion is a tradition that goes back to the early 1990’s. In those years, John and Emily Christensen were active participants in EMG activities, both serving on the EMG EndCom.

As the 2009 reunion came to a close, campers were overheated talking about what a satisfying weekend they had just experienced, and asking each other whether they would be coming to next year’s reunion. For many, the answer was definitely in the affirmative!

Climate and Congress

By Mary Robertson, Energy Chair

On October 24, I went down to the Gateway Arch to be part of the Climate Day of Action, an international event spearheaded by Bill McKibben and 350.org to show world and national leaders that there’s popular demand for action on global warming. I met a dozen Sierra Club members I know amid a crowd of 500 or 600, not the mass turnout we wanted to see but far from a contemptible crowd.

Last summer I seceded into an “Energy Citizens” rally in a downtown hotel. The Energy Citizens are a classic Astroturf movement - fake grassroots. It was put on by the American Petroleum Institute, whose name was not in evidence: They based people in, fed them lunch, gave them yellow t-shirts with slogans like “$4 a gallon gas” (sorry, folks, but you’ll see $4 gas again even without climate legislation), and treated them to a program of propaganda. The basic message was, “Sure, we all want to protect the environment BUT...” But immediate concern for jobs and income dictates that we stick with the status quo.

We are forewarned. The fossil fuel industries will deploy the same kind of Tea Party tactics that held up health care reform to try and stop climate legislation. By the time you get this, Copenhagen will be upon us, and we already know there will be no treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, and there will be no bill coming out of Congress this year.

Crop and trade

The House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES, or Waxman-Markey) 219-212. Now the Senate has before it the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (Kerry-Boxer). Both are comprehensive, but their centerpiece is cap and trade - put a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and let industry trade pollution allowances, creating market incentives to reduce emissions so as to be able to sell, not have to buy, allowances. Hold your nose, for there’s not a lot not to like about these bills. We won’t get everything we want, we have to stop the fossil fuel interests from getting everything they want.

For one thing, the value of cap and trade depends on an auction of pollution permits.

Climate

continued on page 5

Tell Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood not to fund MoDOT’s proposal for Truck-Only Lanes along I-70

By Michael Boyd and Megan Hurvitz

MoDOT meets this as the beginning of a larger project of Truck-Only Lanes from Kansas City to St. Louis that could cost over $6 billion to build.

This proposal is based on projecting past trends of increasing truck traffic. It’s not based on future probabilities. The past trends were based on cheap oil prices, low fuel taxes and fees for heavy trucks (especially in Missouri compared to surrounding states), and significant subsidies to motorized vehicles, including their “externalized economic costs.” Energy

Truck Lanes

continued on page 7

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Find our outings on the web:
Eastern Missouri Group
missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx
Osage Group
missouri.sierraclub.org/osage
Thomas Hart Benton Group
missouri.sierraclub.org/thb/outings

Missouri Sierra Club
December 2009

One Earth
One Chance
...

Next issue will be June 2010
For the latest updates, visit us on the web: http://missouri.sierraclub.org

Climate and Congress

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Missouri Sierra Club
December 2009
Missouri Chapter Executive Committee elections

There are many ways to participate in your local Sierra Club chapter, so take an interest in and vote in the election of local officers. The Sierra Club in Missouri is organized in a semiannual chapter, and anyone with an address in Missouri is eligible to vote. The chapter is managed by an executive committee, a group of individuals who are elected at large - meaning chosen in an election - in which members across the state can participate. Each group can also send a member to the executive committee.

The executive committee makes important decisions for the Missouri chapter about financial and conservation issues. The chapter also has a conservation focus and deliberates on conservation topics and determines some priorities and strategies. But when the executive committee considers taking an important position on a new issue, that position must be approved by the executive committee.

We face a lot of important environmental challenges in MO. Within the last year we have been involved in promoting better transportation policies in MO, commenting on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways management plan, encouraging cities to reduce greenhouse emissions, promoting energy efficiency in utility service, proposing new wilderness areas in MO, and reducing our state's dependence on coal. Those are just a few of the issues we have been involved in. Some of our efforts on those topics include organizing public work in Missouri's state legislature, other times ballot issues are our focus and we are always trying to educate our members and participate and enroll new active members.

How do we manage all this with a limited budget, too busy volunteers and very minimal staff? Those are some of the issues the chapter's executive committee must consider. It's a challenging and rewarding job - done by volunteers. A volunteer term is for 2 years, but members may run for another term. Terms are staggered so that each year there are some new and some experienced members.

The executive committee has traditionally met 6 times a year. In 2009 the committee started conducting some of these meetings conference calls. This cuts back on time, travel and on travel and on energy use. See http://missouri.sierraclub.org and click on committees to see more about the executive committees.

Please review the enclosed ballot and ballots and make your choice for new members of the MO chapter executive committee for 2010.

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Missouri Chapter Executive Committee elections

Chapter Executive Committee

Ginger Harris, Chair
gingerharris@comcast.net, (314) 966-7110
Henry Robertson, Vice Chair
henryrobertson@att.net, (314) 567-9403
James Warner, Secretary/Treasurer
James.Warner@semo.edu, (688) 655-2625
Cheryl Henson, Webmaster
cherylhenson@comcast.net, (314) 270-4914
David Mitchell, Director of Missouri@sierraclub.org, (314) 210-4054

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Eastern Missouri: Betsy Zeller
betsyzeller@semo.edu, (573) 660-0451
Teresa Guellich
teresaguellich@suddenlink.net, (573) 334-9883
White River Group: Cynthia Andre
cynthiaandre@att.net, (417) 516-8318

CHAPTER OFFICE

Sierra Club Missouri, 7164 Maple Avenue
Maplewood, MO 63143
(314) 644-1011
Fax: (314) 688-5333
Missouri@sierraclub.org

Michael Berg, Electronic Organizer
Sue King, Administrative Assistant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Large Donations
Deborah Jones
Deferred Gifts Officer, Legal Chair: Roger Hensley
roger.hensley@comcast.net, (610) 844-2246
Membership Chair: Bedney Deney
bedney@comcast.net, (610) 411-3344
Newsletter Editor: Open
Treasurer: Chapter Executive Committee
(800) 388-6333
Sierra Club Missouri
Transportation Committee: Cheryl Hensley
cherylhenson@comcast.net, (314) 270-4914
National Policy Committee:
Thomas K. Wachtel, (660) 832-5977

Ballot instructions:
1. Vote for up to five people (five names allowed on the same ballot)
2. If you are a joint membership, (two members may vote, each in their own column)
3. Cut out the box surrounding your ballot and ballot instructions. It should include your ballot on one side and your return address label on the other side.
4. In the return address space of your mailing envelope, write your 8 digit membership number from your return address label of this newsletter.
5. Insert ballot into the envelope and address to:

Elections Committee
106 Carolina
7303 Delmar Blvd.
MO 63109-3399
Mail it to arrive by December 30, 2009.

For questions including date, time and place of counting, please call
(314) 644-0890 or (800) 628-5333

Missouri Chapter ExCom Ballot

I vote for ...

(see personal profiles on page 3)

1st 2nd member

( ) Deb Geno
( ) John Hickey
( ) Renee Payton
( ) Henry Robertson
( ) Jim Turner

Truck Lanes —…….continued from page 2

dependence and climate change are global factors that already call for shifting freight movement to the more energy-efficient modes, such as rail. Alternative proposals that could be funded with the 200 million dollars would promote rail travel and urban public transportation.

Tell United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood that we want to invest in the future and not the past. Tell him not to give McDOT $200 million for Truck-Only Lanes.

Write to him:
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Send email to:
call him at 202-366-4000
or send him email through the DOT website
http://dot.ca.gov/erb/res/clip.htm

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or send him email through the DOT website
http://dot.ca.gov/erb/res/clip.htm

DOT proposals will not be adequate and will not prevent the complete loss of any of an increasing rail capacity instead of new truck lanes.

TOLs are inconsistent with the concepts likely to be written into the next federal surface transportation bill - concepts like “when the modes work well together, plan,” and increased “inter-modalization.”

DOT’s proposed project would double the capacity on the Mississippi Highway 70 (70) that already has the least capacity

Even if TOLs are a good idea, they are a good enough idea that the nation — while $10+ trillion in debt — can afford to build them.

The nation’s infrastructure needs are so great that we can ill afford this quarter-billion dollar expenditure.

Climate —…….continued from page 6

burning coal. Wallowing in the slagheap of coal is the real punishment. We need to get beyond coal or well get left behind. Remember that 66% of the state’s electorate voted for clean energy with Proposition C last year, carrying every county but one.

Contact her at 202-224-6154,
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-717
Washington, DC, 20510

Like all competitive gangs, in the long term the County Council and the state legislature lose and lose. Unfortunately, when these gangs lose, there are no winners. We all lose. Fortunately, for the Missourian Mississippi confluence, while the area has been rezoned, no development has yet been built. We need to show these politicians that not only is rezoning our development is good development. We need to stop this case.

Contact the Sierra Club office if you’d like to help us:
(314) 644-1011 or (800) 628-5333
Email: missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org

Missouri Sierra Club December 2009

YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION MEANS A LOT TO US BY SUPPORTING OUR E-NEWSLETTER!!

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our e-newsletter, you are ensuring that we can continue to bring you the latest news and updates of our chapter and the Sierra Club. If you want to your name, please visit: shield logon.jpg

Mail your contribution to Missouri Sierra Club
7164 Maple Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63143

Thank you for your support!

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Missouri Sierra Club December 2009

Legislative —…….continued from page 5

way serve all users of motorized vehicles to provide additional funding for public transit and for state parks, improved and better funded regulation of toxic emissions; incentives to recycle materials, and improvements to sand & gravel mining rules. If bills are introduced to allow companies that pollute excessively to evade regulation and fines by “self-auditing” but not disclosing their emissions to their workers or the public, our lobbying alliance will oppose such bills. Likewise, if bills are introduced to forbid county health departments from regulating the health impacts of “factory farms” (CAFOs), we will work to keep such bills from passing.

The 3 broadly environmental organizations (Sierra Club, MCC, RVC-MVC) are sponsoring Environmental Lobby Day in the Capitol on February 3, 2010. If you would like to consider attending this event, please contact us at capitol@sierraclub.org, we will contact you with the details as soon as we know them.

If you would like to join our Legislative Committee or our legislative alert system to keep abreast of current legislation, please email your email address and phone number to Missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org.
Climate

That way, polluters will have to pay, and the
proceeds can go back to consumers, or to fund
research on clean technologies, job training
and other ways of adapting to climate change.
Kerry-Boxer wants to use the proceeds of
allowances. The rest will be given away to util-
ities and other ratepayers to help them
make a new line of business - profiting from the
markets in carbon, the latest commodity.

The environmental community is divided
cap W. Many people would prefer a straightforward carbon tax. Slap a tax on fossil
fuels near the point of origin (wellhead or
refinery, for example). It will be passed on to us
buyers, allowing us to set carbon prices.

The carbon tax isn't perfect either. It won't
carve out funds for clean energy from
public projects like an auction of emission
rights. The carbon tax makes it easier for the
industry lobbying efforts to weaken bills like
Kerry-Boxer, and it wouldn't create the new
financial market in allowances that many justi-
ably fear will result in the same shenanigans
that got us into the economic crisis. For now,
however, cap and trade is the best that's out.

This poses a dilemma. Do we take what
Congress offers, however flawed, or hold out
for something better? Personally, I'm prepared
to swallow a lot of compromises before I jump
all in to fear that nothing will pass. Congress,
the issue will be dead for years - you can't win
this battle. The future of climate change
rests on setting moderate pollution limits and
imposing technological fixes on the industrial processes
that generate those pollutants.

Unfortunately, there aren't any effective
technological fixes for carbon dioxide. The
coal interests are relying on carbon capture and
storage (CCS). This means capturing the CO2
before it goes out the stack, liquefying it,
piping it to a suitable geologic formation,
and pumping it underground. It works in theory,
or at least for a long time. CCS is still in
the experimental stage, and it's very expensive.
It also creates what's called a "pump dead load."
A parasitic load is the portion of a power
plant's output that's needed to run the plant itself.
With CCS, depending on which technology you
use, it takes 40% of the plant's output just
to capture the carbon capture equipment.
That's a lot of extra coal you have to burn to
generate the energy to move the CO2 from the coal you
were burning in the first place.

Kerry-Boxer is another formidable attempt to
preserve the fossil fuel way of doing business. It's
another form of denial. Like nuclear, it would
direct resources from the true solutions. We'd be
doing more to move beyond it.

One Annual Missouri Chapter
Sierra Club Ballot

Deb Geno — Hi, I recently received the honor of being nominated to the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club
Missouri Chapter. I take this honor seriously and if elected, will fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability. I
have been an active member of the Sierra Club since 2001, and prior to that I was an avid supporter. I am active in
environmental issues, writing my congressmen/women regularly and writing letters to the editor of my local newspaper and
other publications. I believe my views and ideas can make a difference. I am a Certifed Missouri Master Naturalist and
I am interested much about the wildlife and environment of Missouri, as well as other environmental issues. I do volunteer work
with the Missouri Department of Conservation and Shaw Nature Reserve.

I am very concerned about global warming and climate change and hope that by some help to educate other Sierra Club
members, family, friends and my church community. I have been an avid ex user and recycler for years and have taught my family
to do its work. I work on the Board of Directors, Care Team of my church and hope to educate members, as well as their children
of environmental issues and the need to save our environment. I recently retired from a major corporation where I worked for 30 years, so I now have more time to devote to Sierra Club, Greenpeace and
my other environmental responsibilities.

I look forward to the privilege of working with the Executive Committee of the Missouri Chapter, if I am elected.

Thank you for your time.

John Hickey — I have been a long-time member of the Sierra Club, because I support the mission of the club to protect
wild places and fight for a healthy environment. With the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States, we have
an opportunity to pass meaningful climate change legislation in Congress. The Sierra Club must be a key part of this effort.
As a U.S. Senator from Oregon, I've been an advocate for clean energy, efficient transportation, smarter mass transit,
and renewable energy. Our country needs to move away from a dependence on coal and oil, and we must do so responsibly,
so that we can build a clean energy economy that will create good jobs and keep our air and water clean.

I believe that global warming is real, and that we need to act now to reduce our carbon footprint and make our
energy system more sustainable. The Sierra Club has been a leader in promoting clean energy and fighting for a healthy
environment, and I am proud to be a member of the organization.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Sierra Club and the other members of the Executive Committee to
fight for a healthy environment and a sustainable future.
If you held the fate of one of Missouri’s greatest natural treasures in your hands, what would you do with this power? Would you preserve the area for future generations? Or would you decide that it would be better to pave it so that a few people didn’t have to drive as far in order to put their money in a parking lot? On Tuesday, November 3, the St. Louis County Council had to decide whether to rezone 375 acres adjacent to the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area to allow developers to build a casino, create 8,000 parking spaces. This is in the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, a unique ecosystem of significant size and shape. In a 23-hour debate, the council listened to citizens speak for and against the proposal. They heard well reasoned arguments in opposition from every angle imaginable. People explained how the proposal would be an ecological disaster by damaging wildlife and increasing area flooding. It would increase the pressures in the water intake system for the City of St. Louis. It would kill and scare area birds that use the area for nesting and as a part of their migration route. They reminded the council that no environmental impact study of what the development would do has been conducted. Others explained how the development proposal would harm small businesses, while creating long-term economic development for the region. They pointed out the area’s potential for eco-tourism at a natural, well preserved location. The economic impact for the 21st century, national parks need to assume even more important func-

An expanded role for our national parks

By John Disney, chair, Sierra Club National Parks and Massmedia Taskforce

National Park System has expanded in size but also in scope. Initially designed to protect areas of unique natural qualities, it has expanded to set aside areas that represent significant historical events, and to provide recreational opportunities for many areas of the country. In the 21st century, national parks need to assume even more important func-

Many of our national parks were established to protect species or are responses to changes creat-

By monitoring the natural ecosystems found in national parks we can identify how natu-

Not even half the natural areas of the United States are currently represented in the National Park System. Further, most of our national parks are located in the West, not e-

The Sierra Club opposes national parks to represent each of the rest of the country’s bioregions. Time is running out for these parks to have to travel long distances to experience and enjoy our national parks. By expanding our system of national parks we can an ecological footprint and reduce our carbon footprint.

For example, how about establishing a tail-

Much of this development has been in flood-

In order to preserve a sampling of a vanishing and neglected-

They will also deposit a variety of waste in the area, and reorder the ecological threats to it.

National parks should also be models of environmental stewardship and harmony with our natural world. Facilities in national parks should be designed using electricity, water, and (properly designed and located) wind to produce the energy the parks need.

People should be able to experience the wonders of national parks that do not generate climate-changing gases. National parks are also excellent places to learn about the natural world. In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the 2,500 known species and 2,000,000 known plants that live there are an example of many species are responses to changes creat-

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