Preserving Public Lands in Missouri

*By John Hickey, Chapter Director*

**State Parks**

Under our previous Governor, Jay Nixon, four new Missouri State Parks were purchased: Eleven Point State Park (SP) in Oregon County; Ozark Mountain SP in Taney County; Jay Nixon SP in Reynolds County and Bryant Creek SP in Douglas County.

Now, the new Governor, Eric Greitens, along with some GOP legislators, are threatening to sell off these parks. The Sierra Club is committed to saving these parks which protect critical Ozark habitats. For example, Eleven Point State Park includes six miles of river frontage on the Wild & Scenic portion of this river. The picture to the left shows some of the Sierra Club members who floated this section in August in order to see the new park, and speak to local small business owners that want to see the park opened.

The good news is that the people of Missouri are on our side – in fact, in November 2016, 80% of voters cast a ballot in favor of funding our state parks. We need you to show your support for the state parks by attending one of the public hearings that will be held in December (dates and times had not been announced by press time) to speak out in favor of saving our parks. For details about these public meetings, contact Jennifer Conner at jennifer.conner@sierraclub.org, or call the office at (314) 644-1011.

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways**

The National Park Service just released its draft Roads and Trails Management Plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which includes the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers. We need a strong plan that will close the illegal roads and trails that allow ATVs and trucks to drive onto the gravel bars, and bring large horse parties through the rivers.

Sierra Club members can help by submitting a comment to the Park Service by the December 15 deadline. The Club will send out an email with instructions on how to submit your comment. If you do not currently get emails from the Club, call the office at (314) 644-1011, to learn how you can submit a comment, and how you can review the options being proposed by the Park Service.

St. Louis Ready for 100% Renewable Energy

*By Trisha Boyle, Beyond Coal Organizer*

On October 27th St. Louisans took local action toward addressing climate change when the St. Louis Board of Aldermen unanimously passed Resolution 124, which establishes a goal to move the City to 100% clean energy by 2035.

The Sierra Club led the coalition effort to pass this resolution, in conjunction with similar actions in cities throughout the United States. We succeeded due to the persistence of Sierra Club members and volunteers writing letters to the Board, as well as other collaborating local organizations who advocated with the Board and collected petition signatures.

Given that St. Louis is home to Peabody and Arch coal companies, this historic moment made headlines across the country. The City now embarks on a stakeholder process to plan this clean energy transition. It will be up to us to ensure the City meets this 100% clean energy goal.

Representatives of the Sierra Club, Show me $15, League of Women Voters, Washington University, Organizing for Action, Climate Reality and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment meet with St. Louis Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed and supporting Alderpeople Megan Green, Heather Navarro, Dan Guenter and Brandon Bosley.
Chair’s Column
By Sarah Willey, Chapter Chair

It’s hard to believe it has now been a year since the current administrations at the state and federal level were elected. I remember how crushed I felt while I watched the results come in, knowing that the next four years would be difficult and we would likely lose some crucial battles in the fight for a healthy natural and human environment.

Despite the relentless attempts of both administrations to roll back legal protections that keep our air and water clean, to prioritize corporate profits over human health, enact discriminatory policies harming people of color, the LGBTQ community, women, and other marginalized groups, and disregard the veracity and seriousness of climate change, the Sierra Club and its members have stood firm and worked harder than ever to protect what matters.

The membership in Missouri has reached record levels - thank you. For the first time the Missouri Chapter has over 10,000 members, up from 7400 one year ago. The more members we have, the more closely our elected officials will listen when we speak. We have also engaged new volunteers, and invite anyone who has not volunteered in the past to call our office and ask how to get involved.

It’s been a long year, and we have 3 more ahead - but I am proud of what we’ve accomplished in 2017 and look forward to another year of strong Sierra Club action in 2018.
By Natalie Lucas

The United Nations Climate Talks in Bonn, Germany wrapped up on Nov 17. The United States’ intention of pulling out of the Paris Agreement loomed over the conference, but at the same time the world has worked to move forward to reinforce the spirit of the Paris Agreement. This includes the American people. The United States has citizens, city and state representatives, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations that came together in Bonn to show the world that the American people are still in and ready to take action on climate change through the “We Are Still In” pavilion.

Fiji was the President of this conference and set an ambitious agenda to get people to have an open dialogue about the implementation of the Paris Agreement called Talanoa. The Talanoa spirit thrived at this conference as we were continuously reminded that these negotiations are in many ways life and death for the Pacific Islands that were represented in Bonn. Action needs to happen now in order to prevent catastrophic warming.

The United Nations Environmental Program released the 2017 Emissions Gap Report prior to the conference. According to the report, with current country commitments we only reduce emissions by a third of what we need to in order to stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming on average. This year sets the stage for countries to ratchet up their ambition in order to close this emissions gap.

“By the time the conference ends in 2018, the world needs to know where we stand and what we need to do in order to get to where we need to be,” states Natalie Lucas a Sierra Club Board Member and UN Delegate. For Youth and Future Generations Day, Lucas, and other youth from around the world asked countries to step up so that future generations can have a stable climate and avoid being at risk of losing the place they call home.

“Given that the federal government of the United States does not want to step up, it will be up to the American people to do so,” continues Lucas. “Cities, states, businesses and people literally have the opportunity to save the world.”

St. Louis and other cities in Missouri recently committed to the goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2035. Steps like these are critical for closing the emissions gap, and cities around the United States have the power to make this happen.

Donate Your Old Vehicle

Donate your vehicle to support the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter. Call (844) 674-3772 or visit scfch.careasy.org (choose Missouri Chapter from the drop down list) and a friendly representative will help you get started.

Donate Your Vehicle

“A great program! I was able to get this old car out of my driveway and support the Sierra Club at the same time!”
- John Hickey & Family

Missouri Sierra Club member and member of the national board Natalie Lucas represents the Sierra Club at the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, Germany.

Kevin Grooms and Sara Campbell represent the Sierra Club at a B52s concert in Kansas City. Photo by Jim Turner

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Stay in touch with other Sierrans in your area. Like our local Facebook pages:

Missouri:
https://www.facebook.com/MissouriSierraClub

Columbia:
https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubosagegroup

Kansas City:
https://www.facebook.com/THBSierraClub

St. Louis:
https://www.facebook.com/EMGConnector

Springfield:
https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubWhiteRiverGroup
Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns or pets are allowed on trips. Use of audible electronics must be approved by the leader. Participants must sign a liability release. Outings Leaders are volunteers. Outings officially start at the trailhead or river access. Carpooling is encouraged but not the responsibility of the Leader. For more information contact the Leader of a particular Outing or for general information contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com. All are encouraged to check for recent outing additions on our EMG website, sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri eastern-missouri/outings

Dec 8 (Fri) Day hike. For info on our weekly hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Dec 9-10 (Sat-Sun) Overnight Backpack Trip Location To Be Determined...maybe Bell Mountain or Hawn State Park...less than 8 miles / day. With fair weather, we will do a relatively easy backpack at a location to be determined, but less than 3-hour drive from St. Louis Metro. Trip may be suitable for fit beginners with weather appropriate / light weight gear. Participation requires approval by trip leader. Call (or text) Del Kelso (636) 288-5721, or e-mail delkelso@fastmail.fm

Dec 13 (Wed) Cliff Cave County Park (3-mile loop). This is a walk through the woods with a good overlook of the Mississippi River and several ponds and sink holes along the trail. The trail has been modified by the Great Rivers Greenway so we can check out their modifications. If the weather is bad there is a 5-mile loop along the Mississippi River that is paved and an easy walk. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Dec 15 (Fri) Day hike. Join our great group of hikers for another weekly adventure. Contact jleachross@hotmail.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Dec 22 (Fri) Day hike. Get in shape for the holidays and those cookies by hiking with us 7-9 miles. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Dec 27 (Wed) This week we can take a walk in Forest Park before bringing in the New Year. We will be starting at the Visitor and Education Center and hike around the circumference of the park ending with lunch at the Boat House restaurant. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Dec 29 (Fri) Day hike. Walk off those extra calories before a new year starts up. For info on our weekly hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or d.p.east@gmail.com

Jan 5 (Fri) Day hike. Join our weekly group to hike about 7-9 miles. For info contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Jan 12 (Fri) Day hike. Winter hike. The usual 7-9 miles. For more info contact rickschweitzer2@gmail.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Feb 2 (Fri) Day hike. Lets see what the groundhog predicts 7-9 mile hike. For info contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Feb 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Day hikes and camping. Two one day hikes with campground camping Sat. Night. Hikes will be 6-8 miles each. Destination will be within 110 miles of St. Louis, probably in the St. Francis Mts. area. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Feb 9 (Fri) Day hike. For info on our weekly hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Feb 16 (Fri) Day hike. Join our great group of hikers for another weekly adventure. Contact jleachross@hotmail.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Feb 23 (Fri) Day hike. Get in shape for spring by hiking with us 7-9 miles. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Jan 10 (Wed) Queeny Park in West St. Louis County. This time we will be trekking the 4.25 mile Hawk Ridge Trail. This time of year, you can see more of the park and surrounding countryside. We will be starting our hike at the Dog Cemetery. Destination will be within 110 miles of St. Louis County. Contact George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Jan 26 (Fri) Day hike. Never sure of the location until close to hike time but contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for info.

Jan 29 (Fri) Day hike. Walk off those New years calories on our long weekly hike. For info contact jleachross@hotmail.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com

Feb 7 (Wed) Creve Coeur Lake County Park. This time we will hike the Bootleggers Run Trail that winds around the forest on

To participate in one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before the outing, please see: http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or call 415-977-5528.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40
the upper part of the park. The trees all thought bare of foliage will act as a wind break and keep the temperatures at a comfortable level to hike this 4.2 mile trail. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Feb 21 (Wed) Don Robinson State Park. Before the leaves start to bud out, we will be hiking the trails Don Robinson State Park. The park just opened in 2017 and has become a popular spot to have an outing. The views of the surrounding valleys should be spectacular before the forest comes back to life. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Outings are usually listed on Meetup.com, search for “Kansas City Area Sierra Club Outings”. For more details you can also check http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/osage

We have Sierra Club volunteers who are working on getting an outings program started for the White River Group! Stay tuned and we will let you know about our first foray into exploring and enjoying the outdoors.

Osage Group
http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/osage

The Osage Group presently has no outings planned. Check the website for outings that will be planned in the future.

**Eastern Missouri Group**

Monthly meetings are normally at 7 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Missouri Sierra Club Office (2818 Sutton Blvd., Maplewood, MO 63143). There will be no monthly meeting in December but there will be a holiday party (see below)

Dec 9 (Sat) Holiday party and potluck dinner. Bring your beverage and a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall, (636) 529-0477, or Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 309-0725.

**Osage Group**

Dec 8 (Fri) Osage Group Holiday Party
We’ll begin the festivities at 6:30ish. It is a pot-luck, so bring a side dish or a holiday treat. You’ll also need to bring your own adult beverage if you wish to indulge. And calendars! We’ll have calendars for sale! Always a fun party, with wonderful food and great people. Hope to see some of you newbies there! The party is at the home of Gabriel and Carolyn Amparan, 4804 Shale Oaks Avenue, Columbia, MO 65203

**Thomas Hart Benton Group**

Beginning February 2018 monthly meetings will be at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Dec 6 (Wed) Thomas Hart Benton Group Holiday Party
Join us for some fun and delicious food. This is a great opportunity meet other Sierra Club members in the area and meet our leaders. The holiday party will take place at Eden Alley (707 West 47th Street Kansas City, MO 64112 in the lower level of Unity Temple.

For more information contact Eileen McManus at 816-523-7823 or eileen4250@sbcglobal.net.

THB Group Meetings can be found here: www.meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club

**White River Group**

The White River Group holds meetings on the second Monday of every month at 5:30 pm. This is the executive committee meeting but all are welcome. Our meeting place is the Midtown branch of the Public Library (397 E Central St, Springfield, MO 65802) on the top floor. There are some exceptions based on the library schedule for holidays. Write to Judy Dasovich jdaso@aol.com with questions.

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Trailbuilding at Current River State Park. Photo by Michael Berg
Annual Missouri Chapter Sierra Club Ballot
Executive Committee Ballot Profiles

Marisa Frazier
I graduated from Missouri State University last December with a degree in Exercise Science. I am working in the fitness industry as a personal trainer and swim coach, but I also have a strong passion for nature and the environment. After graduation I took a month-long solo backpacking trip to Patagonia, Chile and knew that I needed to join the fight to preserve our natural lands. I have been brainstorming ways to combine my passions (fitness and environmentalism), which led me to the Sierra Club to begin leading outings. I hope to help others get outside and enjoy nature so they begin to value it too and want to help protect it. I hope to become more involved with the Sierra Club to be make a greater impact in protecting the planet.

James Radke
I have been working with the White River Group of the Missouri Sierra Club for the last couple of years. The Sierra Club’s mission of Beyond Coal is one of the most important missions for the protecting the health of our state. Actively lobbying on the local, state, and national level, will help ensure the protection of our land, air, and water sources. This is the main reason that I am a member of the Missouri Sierra Club. Personally I want to protect, enjoy and share the majesty of the Ozarks.

Henry Robertson
I’m running for my 7th term on Excom. I serve as Chapter Energy Chair due to my day job as an attorney with Great Rivers Environmental Law Center in St. Louis, where I fight the uphill battle of getting our electric utilities to do more energy efficiency programs for their customers and more renewable energy.

Thanks to our Chapter director and a growing staff provided by the Chapter and the national Beyond Coal Campaign, we have become more visible and active around the state. This is a great opportunity to accomplish things on an unprecedented scale.

Jim Turner
I’m active in work of our Thomas Hart Benton Group – our Executive, Program, and Political Committees. I also help lead coalition work relevant to Sierra Club’s Democracy Initiative – countering the vote-suppression impact of Missouri’s new statute that requires certain photo IDs; and, Clean Missouri’s campaign to improve our legislative redistricting process. I’m a member of Missouri Chapter’s Beyond Coal coordination team. My roof has solar panels, and I drive a Nissan Leaf, extensively using KCPL’s system for car charging.

I’m an active member of Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Committee, now focused on NAFTA renegotiation possibilities. I worked locally to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership – it would have encouraged fossil fuel exports and increased the ability of international corporations like TransCanada to make large claims, forcing cancellation of laws protecting our environment. I have helped organize bus trips to oppose the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

Sarah Willey
My name is Sarah Willey, and I am running for re-election to the Missouri Executive Committee. Over the past two years I have served as both Fundraising Chair and Council of Club Leaders (CCL) Delegate. I have enjoyed being a part of our Chapter’s leadership, and representing us at National. I also currently serve on the National Chapter Capacity team and was recently elected to the CCL ExCom. As a member of the Missouri ExCom, I will continue to work hard to promote our state, and to help us grow. My priorities for the next few years include increasing our membership and diversity and (re)establishing a state awards program. Outside of the Sierra Club, I am finishing my master’s degree in Nonprofit Management at Washington University and working at the Siteman Cancer Center. In my free time I enjoy reading, yoga, running, hiking, and trying out different outdoor sports.
Trisha Boyle, Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer

Trisha Boyle has been a part of Sierra Club staff for four months now. Her second Master’s Degree was earned at Webster University in International Relations this past spring, her first Master’s was earned from Lindenwood University in Healthcare Administration at the age of 22. She has also worked on a plethora of political campaigns with various candidates both on a national and local scale which has contributed to her transitioning career interest in Environmental Justice. While Trisha isn’t working on environmental justice issues, she’s enjoying time with her beautiful two year old daughter Sophia, painting, playing acoustic guitar, hanging out with friends, or traveling. Trisha’s hope is to see the pursuit of environmental justice become more diverse and inclusive to communities throughout Saint Louis. We are happy to have her on the team!

Hilliard Hicks, Community Outreach Coordinator

Hilliard grew up in Great Falls, VA, a small town just outside of Washington D.C.. After earning his B.S. in Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University he backpacked South America for several months working on farms, teaching English and constructing artificial reef systems. Upon his return he worked for about a year before joining the Peace Corps. He served in South Africa as a primary school educator. After his service he backpacked South East Asia for several months. He lived and worked in the rainforests of Borneo working on reforestation and conservation projects. Hilliard believes that we all need to work together and put our differences aside in the name of conservation.

In his free time Hilliard enjoys; hiking, scuba diving, traveling, volunteering, and going out with friends.

Andy Heaslet, Missouri Chapter Organizer

Andy is excited and proud to be an organizer with the MO Sierra Club. He’ll be primarily working with the Eastern Missouri and Osage Groups, although folks in the White River Group may see him around as he loves floating southern Missouri’s wild rivers and hiking among her dolomite outcrops.

Andy comes to the Sierra Club with professional experience writing, promoting car-free commuting, founding a bike-based restaurant delivery service, directing the Peace Economy Project, volunteering with the Peace Corps in Paraguay (with fellow SC staffer, Michael Berg), and performing as a professional mascot.

Andy loves biking (he's car-free), playing the drums, volunteering at KDHX, and cooking.
John Bohney: Champion for Missouri Democracy
Sierra Club Member John Bohney is a hero for Missouri democracy (pictured here on the right, during a training). John has collected over 1300 signatures for the CLEAN initiative petition campaign, a truly remarkable feat. CLEAN is a Sierra Club endorsed statewide effort to create fairer legislative districts, reign in lobbyist and campaign spending and make state government more transparent. If this proposed constitutional change makes the ballot, we will vote on the measure in November of 2018.

Also pictured are Sierra Club members and prolific CLEAN signature gatherers Marion Miller, Johnathan Lehmann and Rachel Speed.
To find out more or attend a training call the Sierra Club office at (314) 644-1011, or send an email to Hilliard.Hicks@sierraclub.org

NEWSPAPER
DATED MATERIAL

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