Missouri Sierra Club 2018 Mid-Term Election Report

By Michael Berg, Organizer

The 2018 November election brought two huge statewide victories. Amendment 1 and Proposition B both passed by overwhelming margins. Amendment 1 brings necessary campaign donation reforms to Missouri elections and limits on lobbyist gifts. It also sets into place a fair method of state legislative redistricting. These reforms should make it easier for pro-environmental legislators and ideas to have a stronger voice in the Capitol. Proposition 2 gradually raises the minimum wage to $12 per an hour by 2023. In addition, in August voters defeated Proposition A (so called Right-to-Work). Missourians support workers’ rights and want real ethics reform.

At the candidate level, we did not make as much progress. There were some bright spots, including hard fought State House victories for Paula Brown in St. Louis and St. Charles County, Keri Ingle in Jackson County and Matt Sain in Platte County. However, the partisan balance in both the State Senate and State House did not change, so we can expect two more years of attacks on the environment.

The Sierra Club Missouri Chapter engaged in its largest campaign effort to date. We worked in coalition with other groups for an entire year to get Amendment 1 and Proposition B on the ballot, with over 200 Sierra Club volunteers collecting more than 11,000 signatures. In the fall, in order to support these ballot measures and our endorsed candidates, we contacted members and supporters by email, text, mail, phone call, and knocked on their doors. Thank you all who took the time to gather signatures, make phone calls and go door-to-door to talk with voters.


Energy Efficiency Victory in St. Louis - More to Come

By Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Assistant Chapter Director

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way we can reduce the fossil fuels we use. Building codes will help us get there.

In July, St. Louis City adopted the most up-to-date energy efficiency code, the 2018 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code.) By adopting the code, new homes will be more than 20% more efficient. We had the support of our allies, Mayor Lyda Krewson, President Lewis Reed, Alderman Terry Kennedy and the many Aldermen who voted in favor of this bill. Thank you to our dedicated Sierra Club members and our building professional allies who testified, talked to their aldermen, and showed up to watch the vote.

We aren’t done! Springfield is considering the 2018 IECC as well. Under the new code, homes will be 25% more energy efficient, saving more than $425/year in utility bills. Commercial buildings like apartments and school buildings will be 17% more energy efficient.

Our success is not guaranteed. The codes process could begin as soon as this December. To get involved or to learn more contact Kane Sheek at Kane.Sheek@SierraClub.org.
Chair’s Column

By Ross Hunt, Chapter Chair

The news is extraordinary. A World Wildlife Fund report found a 60% reduction in animal populations over the past 50 years. Oceanic phytoplankton populations fell 40% between 1950 and 2010, as published in the journal Nature. A study reported by the National Academy of Sciences indicates that there has been a fall off, as much as 60-fold, of the food web in tropical rainforests, with temps up 2.0- to 2.5°C over baseline. Coral reefs, essential to 30% of marine species, are bleaching or dying around the world, and a 2017 UNESCO report found that they may be gone by 2050.

Want to hear more? That’s the problem. Most people don’t. But there is much more about climate change and environmental degradation that we all need to face. With rare exceptions, the established media have failed to give the changing climate and other human impacts on the environment the attention required.

When you confront someone in deep trouble and equally deep denial, there is a point at which you are forced to pierce that denial, for their sake. We need to find ways to break through, and explain to people how much trouble we are in. Learn more and share.

We will continue to place little importance on the threats we face if we don’t hear about those threats in the first place. Find a way to spread the news. Find a way that works for you – social media, letters to the editor, lean out your window and bang a drum.

There is hope. Renewable energy is rapidly building momentum. The world, with one notable exception, is in the Paris Climate Agreement. Young people are listening. Avenues to a viable future are widening. It’s up to you. Find a way.

Chapter Executive Committee AT LARGE

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About the Sierran

The Missouri Sierran is published twice a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club, in early June and early December. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. If you wish to submit an article or photo, contact our Chapter Office via email at missouri.chapter@sierraclub.org or phone 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333 prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.

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Local leaders in St. Louis call for national action to combat extreme weather from climate change. 1 to R - Cindy Fizer (meterologist), Dr. John Kissel (Sierra Club), Dr. Jack Fishman (SLU), Paul Hartmann (UMSL, Sierra Club intern), Candace Da Silva (STL Resilience), Renee Al Lozi (WUSTL, SC intern). Photo by Gretchen Waddell Barwick.
Eleven Point River Marks Fifty Years as a Wild & Scenic River

By Jennifer Conner

The Eleven Point River is one of eight initial rivers designated as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1968. This October 2nd marked the 50th Anniversary of that Act. Missouri is lucky to be home to such a gem, but it didn’t happen overnight, and it didn’t come easy.

In 1938 the Water Valley Dam was proposed on the Eleven Point River. Had the dam been built, over 1500 people would have been displaced. Local residents rallied and fought for thirty years to save their land as the Army Corps of Engineers continued their relentless fight to tame this wildest of Missouri rivers. Charles Black Jr. a local farmer, fisherman, and hunter declared, “The Riparian Rebellion has begun!” Doc Stokely, a columnist for the St. Louis Post Dispatch and sentinel of the Eleven Point River, pointed out the intrigue between powerful special interests and Army of Corps of Engineers since damming the Eleven Point would have produced an insignificant amount of electricity.

The fight didn’t end with the designation. Today, we have our own threats to contend with. The Eleven Point River is on the list of impaired waterways in Missouri due to mercury contamination caused by coal-fired power plants. That means most folks should limit the amount of fish they eat from this wild and scenic river. Non-point source pollution (pollution resulting from many different sources), nutrient pollution and erosion all threaten the delicate balance of the river’s ecosystem.

Now, we have another opportunity to protect the Eleven Point. We can channel the spirit of folks like Doc Stokely and Charles Black Jr. by supporting the new Eleven Point State Park which encompasses 4,200 acres and over 6 miles of river frontage. This new park provides additional protection for the Eleven Point watershed, protecting and improving water quality. Once again, there are special interests trying to sell off our new state park. Time for us to do our part to protect this river!

Special Election for the Future of the Katy Trail

By Andy Heaslet, Organizer

On Oct 21, a “Special Election” was held along hiking and biking trails in St Charles County. At stake was the future of the Katy Trail, the Busch Greenway, and a scenic forest on the Missouri Bluffs that is home to century-old trees and a habitat for many species including the endangered Indiana and Northern long-eared bats.

This election was organized in response to the University of Missouri’s scheme to sell donated federal land along those wooded bluffs for a housing development. Although the St. Charles County Planning and Zoning Commission voted overwhelmingly against the original proposal, the St. Charles County Council approved the development. Volunteers from the Katy Land Trust, the Missouri Sierra Club, Trailnet, and Weldon Woods, set up polling places at trailheads, asking patrons: “Should St. Charles County allow a 250+ home subdivision to be built on the bluffs above the Katy Trail?”

More than 270 people participated in the election. All but one voted against building on the bluffs.

These results have been shared with those who still have the power to put the brakes on this decision: St. Charles County Council members, County Executive Steve Ehlmann, and University of Missouri President Mun Choi. Let’s hope they listen!

When a private developer seeks to profit off of public land, we should all have a say in the matter. The Sierra Club recommends that the University of Missouri System and the County Council stop plans for this subdivision and start talking to the public about the future of this site - and the future of the Katy Trail.

Andy Heaslet administering the special election on the Katy Trail. Photo by Jenn DeRose.
Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns are allowed on trips. Pets are only allowed on "pet friendly" outings as stated in the description of the outing. Use of audible electronics must be approved by the leader. Participants must sign a liability release. Outings Leaders are volunteers. Outings officially start at the trailhead or river access. Carpooling is encouraged but not the responsibility of the Leader. For more information contact the Leader of a particular Outing or for general information contact Doug Melville at (636)288-1055, or email him at douglas.k.melville@gmail.com. Check for outing additions at sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri and at meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Eastern-Missouri-Group-Outdoor-Activities.

Dec 7, Fri Day hike: Jolly old St Nicholas says "For more info on our weekly hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com".

Dec 8, Sat: Holiday party and potluck dinner. Bring your beverage and a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall, (636) 529-0477 barb_wall@sbcglobal.net, or Ann Eggebraecht, (314) 309-0725 ann.egggebraecht@att.net.

Dec 12, Wed: Rockpile Mountain Wilderness - Trail to Rockpile Mountain. This is the smallest Wilderness area in the Mark Twain Forest but it does make for some great views of the countryside in Madison County. Several Glades mark the trail to Rockpile Mountain which has a circular ring of granite rocks piled on the mountain summit, apparently made by a much earlier civilization. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Dec. 14, Fri. Day hike: Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for hike info.

Dec. 21, Fri Day hike: First day of winter. and we are ready to hike 6-9 miles. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or jleachross@hotmail.com.

Dec 26, Wed: Forest Park, St. Louis, MO. 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. 28, Fri Day hike: 2018 is almost over so lets get in one more hike.

Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or rickschweitzer2@gmail.com.

Jan 4, Fri Day hike: Another year another hike. For info contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Jan 9, Wed: Busch Hiking & Bike Trail. This will be a 3 mile hike on the longest of the trails at this conservation area. You will see bunkers used to store explosives used during World War II as well as several lakes on the property. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jan 11, Fri Day hike: A 7-8 mile winter hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Jan 18, Fri Day hike: For hike info contact jleachross@hotmail.com.

Jan 23, Wed: KATY Trail State Park - Gore (Mile 93.8) to Case (Mile 96.9). This will be a 3.1 mile hike from Gore to Case along the KATY Trail. By using several cars, we can make this one way trek an easy journey for all. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jan 25, Fri Day hike: Brrr! Bundle up and join us for a 6-8 mile hike. Contactthisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Jan 26-27, Sat-Sun: Winter Trip 1, 2019. Day hikes and camping. Two
day hikes with campground camping Sat. night. Hikes will be 4-8 miles each. First hike probably at Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area, (this may be an un-scouted hike) Sat. am with camping at Hawn SP Sat. night and a hike at Hawn on Sunday. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Feb 1, Fri Day hike: Hike with us before the groundhog sees his shadow. Contact jleachross@hotmail.com.

Feb 6, Wed: Cliff Cave Park - Sections of the Mississippi Greenway Trail. This will be a 3-4 mile hike along the new section of trail that is in the wooded section on the park with views from the Mississippi River Bluff. The trail was constructed by the Great Rivers Greenway in 2018. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Feb 8, Fri Day hike: For info on our 6-8 mile hike contact rickschweitzer2@gmail.com or thisissuzanne@yahoo.com.

Feb 9, Sat: Annual Sierra Club Sing-A-Long. A Unique Musical Experience. 7-9 pm at the Sierra Club Office, 2818 Sutton, Maplewood Mo. For more info or weather cancellation call George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Feb 15, Fri: Day hike: Midwinter 6-8 mile hike. For info contact jleachross@hotmail.com.


Feb 20, Wed: KATY Trail State Park- Case (Mile 96.9) to McKittrick (Mile 100.8). This will be a 3.9 mile hike from Case to McKittrick along the KATY Trail. By using several cars, we can make this one way trek an easy journey for all. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Feb 22, Fri Day hike: For info on hike contact rickarmstrongpi@gmail.com or jleachross@hotmail.com.

Thomas Hart Benton Group
http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/thomas-hart-benton/outings

For information on outings, visit:
meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/events/

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

No current outings scheduled.

White River Group
http://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/white-river

Jan 27, Sun: Stream Cleanup of South Creek, Springfield 1:30 pm. Contact Pam at dpshaver@rollanet.org or Marisa at Marisa_Frazier@yahoo.com to RSVP and hear more.

Feb 2, Sat: Busiek State Forest; day hike. Contact Pam at dpshaver@rollanet.org or Marisa at Marisa_Frazier@yahoo.com to RSVP and hear more.

April 6, Sat: Hercules Glades; day hike. Contact Pam at dpshaver@rollanet.org or Marisa at Marisa_Frazier@yahoo.com to RSVP and hear more.
### John Kissel

I am completing my first two-year term as a member of the Missouri Chapter Executive Committee. During the last two years, I have learned about the workings of the Club at the national and local levels. I have been impressed with the energy and commitment of Sierra Club staff and volunteers.

I feel the work of the Sierra Club and other private organizations is increasingly important as government agencies at the state and federal level retreat from their responsibility to protect public health and the environment. Increasingly sophisticated scientific studies indicate that current Environmental Protection Agency standards for air pollutants such as ozone and fine particulates are inadequate. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a new report calling for aggressive efforts to avoid a climate disaster. The Club has also expanded its role in issues of equity and inclusion at a time when national leadership on such issues is, at best, lacking. I would like to continue to promote the work of the Sierra Club as a member of the Executive Committee.

### John Maxwell

Since my training as a plant science major at the University of Missouri, I have been concerned about climate change. Applying my environmental awareness to politics, I have been involved in St. Louis and Missouri since 2000. As a Committeeman in the City’s Sixth Ward 2006 to 2012, I attended the Missouri Democratic Convention in 2012 and was subsequently selected as a Delegate to the 2012 National Democratic Convention representing Missouri. I have been educating politicians for 20 years about climate change issues and the myriad steps we can take, developing a personal relationship with many of our local elected officials that spans decades. A member of Sierra Club for some 20 years, three years ago I focused my attention with the Eastern Missouri Chapter political committee. There, I worked with the group in a successful effort to get a “Ready for 100” resolution passed in the City of St. Louis. I recruited all the candidates in the 2017 City mayoral race to participate in our Environmental Forum and most recently, successfully worked to get the City of St. Louis to adopt energy efficient building codes. I am still driving the first hybrid car sold in Missouri (2000 Honda Insight) and still gardening organically. I still believe climate change is humanity’s greatest threat but believe Sierra Club has the organization and critical mass to effect positive change. I want to be part of this solution and am honored to stand for this committee.

### Caitlin Zera

I have been passionate about environmental issues my whole life, and I have truly appreciated the opportunity to become more involved in local and national environmental issues through the Sierra Club. I have served on the Eastern Missouri Group Executive Committee for the past three years and have worked on numerous Sierra Club initiatives. I currently work for the Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region as their Program Manager, helping implement community field conservation programs as well as assisting with the organization’s communication, administrative, and advocacy work. I would love the opportunity to serve another term on the Executive Committee and further connect with Sierra Club members and supporters to work as a team to create real, lasting change in our community. I would be especially eager to continue working on the intersectionality of environmental and equity concerns, and I look forward to expanding my role on the Equity Team. I believe environmental justice education is integral to the success of environmental advocacy and activism in our region and beyond. As a member of the Executive Committee, I would look forward to empowering local constituencies, engaging members in Sierra Club programs to improve the environmental health of our region for all community members, and participating in initiatives to protect our ecosystems, our public health, and our public lands.

### Caroline Pufalt

If you are reading this, thanks for being interested in voting in the MO Chapter Executive Committee election. We need more involved members like you! I have been an active member of our chapter for a while and am seeking a second term on the "ExCom". My goals as an Excom member will include helping keep members informed and engaged. We face daunting challenges in being a voice for positive change in this country. Large problems, and some smaller ones, call for our attention. But I have seen our chapter pull together and do remarkable work this year in national, state and local campaigns and issues. We have made a difference, and if I am elected I will work to keep our chapter strong and members engaged.

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

**Missouri Sierran** 6  **December 2018**
Wes Korfe, Democracy Organizer

Wes is a Kirkwood High School and University of Alabama graduate. His professional background is in research, local elections, and grassroots organizing. Wes is excited to make a meaningful difference in conserving our environment for generations to come. He is also a black belt in Chinese Kenpo and teaches self defense classes on the weekends.

Marisa Frazier, Ozarks Public Lands Organizer

An Ozarks native, Marisa grew up in Nixa, MO and currently resides in Springfield. Much of her youth was spent on her grandparents’ farms in Ava and Billings, riding horses in the Mark Twain National Forest, swimming in the Bryant Creek, and running on the trails of Missouri’s public lands. She began volunteering with the Sierra Club in 2017 and became the Ozarks Public Lands Organizer in October 2018. In her free time, Marisa enjoys hiking, yoga, trail running, swimming, paddle boarding, and spending time with her three dogs and two cats.

Leah Clyburn, Missouri Beyond Coal Organizing Representative

Throughout her career, Leah has mobilized various communities across Missouri around social justice, labor, education, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, rights for women of color and the LGBTQ community, and Women’s Leadership. Leah has received training from Camp Wellstone, Groundswell Fund, SisterSong, Jobs with Justice, Gamaliel, and the CBC Institute. She is also Alumni of the New Leaders Council St. Louis Chapter. Leah feels honored to be working at Sierra Club and the opportunity to live out her values. She’s a total foodie, likes running to the river, family, friends, fashion, her dog BIGGIE (he likes the river too), toast masters, anime, not scary sci-fi, and fantasy kung fu.

Kane Sheek, Ready for 100 Organizer

Kane is dedicated to shaping a future that is run off of clean, renewable energy in Springfield. He graduated from Missouri State University with a bachelors degree in geography and a minor in sustainability. Kane led campaigns to save bees, lower the price of college education, alleviate hunger and homelessness, and transition college campuses to 100% renewable energy. He also directed a campaign office to help stop recent environmental rollbacks. Kane is glad to be back working in Missouri and helping make a difference here. When Kane isn't working he enjoys hiking and camping all around the Ozarks, and spending time with his new puppy!
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Fall Trail Building & Maintenance Event

By John Feldmann. Photo by Neal Humke. In October we completed a very successful eight day trail building expedition, based at the beautiful Current River State Park. Working with the Ozark Trail Association (OTA) and Park staff, Sierra Club volunteers accomplished a lot by making sure the Ozark Trail, Brushy Creek Trail and Laxton Hollow Connector Trail are blazed and walkable. We thank the L-A-D Foundation, which manages the Roger Pryor backcountry, for helping us throughout this large wild expanse. We hope you can join us for trail building next fall October 12th though 20th, 2019.

Sierra Club staff and volunteers Michael Berg, Sarah Willey, Leah Clyburn, Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Marian Miller and Andy Heaslet contact voters via text message as election day approaches. Did you get a text message? Photo by Leah Clyburn.

Columbia, Missouri Mayor Brian Treece and his wife Mary Hodgson speak to filmmaker Carl Gerhardt at the Osage PAC Fundraiser on August 4th. The Fundraiser was a great success and showcased Gerhardt's film Eagles Bluffs: Battle for a Wetland Treatment Center, the documentary about the successful 30 year fight for a wastewater treatment plant at Eagles Bluffs (tinyurl.com/EaglesBluffs). Photo by Carolyn Amparan.