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**Voice of the Kansas Sierra Club**

## Fired Kansas Health and Environment Official Speaks for First Time

**Press Release from Earth Justice - Feb. 11**

Rod Bremby says he didn't resign, but was removed; acknowledges "abuses" were involved in Sunflower coal plant permitting process

Rod Bremby, the former head of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, spoke out yesterday for the first time about his removal from KDHE and the highly controversial proposed Sunflower coal plant at a public event at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

In October 2007, KDHE Secretary Bremby became the first public official to block a coal plant proposal due to global warming and public health concerns when he denied the air permit for the Sunflower coal-fired power plant expansion near Holcomb, KS.

At the event, Bremby discussed the "staggering" amount of lobbying dollars spent to force approval of the Sunflower coal plant, confirmed that he was, in fact, unwillfully removed from KDHE, and that the Sunflower permitting process was not proper. "The [Sunflower permitting] process was not a benign, pristine, routine bureaucratic process. Unfortunately, there were abuses," Bremby said yesterday.

During the recent permitting process, the Associated Press reported on a leaked email sent by a Sunflower employee to legislators and executive officials that accused Bremby of delaying the permit and requested help in swaying KDHE to limit public participation and to expedite the process.

Any so-called delays wouldn't matter anyway because there is no need for the coal plant, according to Sunflower and Tri-State's own resource plans, and reports indicate Tri-State, the primary owner of the project, does not plan to start construction on the project until 2016 at the earliest.

Rather than delaying things, then Sec. Bremby was only attempting to ensure the public had a fair chance to comment on the permit, but he was suspiciously removed from KDHE on Election Day, and the permit was hastily issued soon after his removal and before federal greenhouse gas regulations went into effect.

### **Bremby Takes the High Road**

Despite years of public criticism from coal plant supporters and a disrespectful dismissal from his post, Bremby took the high road and declined to dish out any criticisms at his talk yesterday. Although, he did take the opportunity to respond to misinformation involving the proposed Sunflower coal plant, such as claims it would be the "cleanest coal plant in the country," that natural gas from foreign countries would need to be imported as a result of the initial permit denial, and that transmission lines needed for wind wouldn't get built unless the coal plant was built.

**See Bremby on page 6**



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Apr - May 2011

# Nothing Lasts Forever: Why Converting to Renewable Energy Will Save Us from Ourselves.

By Toby Grotz

My grandmother understood that nothing lasts forever. That's why she mended broken dishes, darned socks, and saved everything. She raised a family during the Great Depression and World War II when essential supplies were rationed.

Now we have three and a half times more people on planet Earth due to an exponential growth in population fueled by easy access to cheap energy in the form of fossil fuels. When the first oil well was drilled in 1859 there were just over a billion people on Earth. Population growth had remained flat for thousands of years. Coincident with widespread use of fossil fuels, first coal and then oil and natural gas, the population exploded and now, only 150 years later, approaches 7 billion. The amount of energy, water, food, and raw materials required to sustain 7 billion people is enormous and is described as our ecological footprint.

Some of what sustains us is renewable and is regenerated over time by normal biological and geophysical cycles. These renewable resources include aquifers, topsoil, forests, and ocean fish populations. The ability of the Earth to supply these resources is defined as the biocapacity of the Earth. In some instances the regeneration may take thousands of years as in the case of aquifers that are pumped dry or deserts created by deforestation and over grazing. Some of the resources we depend upon are not renewable such as metals, coal and oil. Once they are extracted and consumed they are not regenerated. Towards the end of the last century our ecological footprint began to exceed the biocapacity of the planet. We are now in a situation where demand exceeds supply by 25 percent. This translates as a continued crisis as water, food, and energy become scarcer and more costly for all of us.

Nowhere are the challenges as great as in the arena of energy use and consumption. Nothing lasts forever pertains especially to energy supplies. Petroleum geologists, geophysicists, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the US Department of Energy Information Agency (EIA), the Department of Defense, and oil companies recognize that oil production has or is about to peak and that recoverable reserves left in the ground are about 1.2 trillion barrels. At current usage that amounts to a 30-year supply. Coal production in terms of energy content (BTU/pound) has already peaked and evaluations of remaining worldwide reserves by the German Parliament Energy Watch Group and the recent report from Patzek and Croft, Department of Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering, titled, "A global coal production forecast with multi-Hubbert cycle analysis," placed peak coal production in the year 2011.

So, Nothing Lasts Forever. Now here is the kicker. Unless we build a system that uses renewable energy, when we run out of exhaustible,

**See Forever on page 11**

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Apr - May 2011

# Better Bulbs For Business

By Doug Stecklein

One year ago, in the February 2010 issue of Planet Kansas, I wrote about my experience in a local Perkins Restaurant. My family and I were eating our breakfast when I noticed that all of the light fixtures in the store were filled with incandescent light bulbs. I decided to count the number of bulbs in the store to figure out how much energy and money this restaurant could be saving by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). To my surprise they had the potential to save over \$4000.00 every year.

I was so inspired by this discovery that I spent the next four months telling as many business owners as I could about their potential opportunity. Over the course of this campaign I visited and left lighting evaluations for over 50 businesses, many of which were unplanned instances where I noticed incandescent bulbs at a restaurant or business I was visiting. I created documents that allowed me to quickly calculate a business's potential savings and leave the manager with an easily understandable lighting evaluation of their store. My hope was that the huge financial savings would be too enticing for business owners to pass up. There were many disappointing moments during this campaign that made me feel like quitting and occasional victories that motivated me to carry on.

A couple of my victories were with Cheri Esmond, the owner of 5 Perkin's Restaurants and Ruth Green, the owner of My Favorite Things in Overland Park. Cheri had already switched a majority of her bulbs, but fast tracked the process when she heard about the huge energy savings. She also informed her district and regional managers, who took the information all the way to the Vice President of Perkins Restaurants. Ruth allowed me to replace every bulb in her store with CFLs. Her initial cost was only \$217 with electricity savings of \$2700/year.

While in the process of writing this article I stumbled upon two victories I had no idea existed. They were both instances where my family and I were eating at a restaurant and I decided to give the manager a quick lighting evaluation. The first surprise victory was at Fritz's Railroad Restaurant in Shawnee. The store switched about 50 bulbs that were on for 15 hours/day. They should now be saving about 22,000 kWh and \$2200 per year. According to Susan Brown of Brightergy.com, formerly The Energy Savings Store, "It would take about 75 solar panels, or a 15 kW photovoltaic system, to provide



Doug Stecklein installs bulbs in the store



CFLs are readily available in stores



this same amount of power, and a system this size would cost about \$90,000 before government incentives.” Fritz’s Railroad Restaurant achieved this amount of power savings by spending only \$100 on CFL light bulbs. The second surprise victory was La Hacienda, a local restaurant my wife and I frequent. I had given the manager a lighting evaluation early last year for their 15 exterior lights. Over the course of the next year I noticed that not a single bulb had been changed. A few days ago my wife and I pulled up to the restaurant and noticed that all 15 lights had been switched to CFLs. Because the lights are left on for 24 hours/day they are now saving an estimated \$1048/year with an initial investment of only \$30.


To put this into perspective, a few years ago I decided to spend \$4500 to upgrade to a more efficient heating and cooling system. This project reduced my electricity consumption by about 3000 kWh/year and had a reasonable 10-15 year payback period. By spending only \$30 to change 15 light bulbs, La Hacienda reduced their electricity consumption by 10,500 kWh/year and had only a 10-15 day payback period. It is also worth noting that 10,500 kWh is the entire annual electricity consumption of the average U.S. home. I challenge anyone to find another technology that can reduce a household worth of electricity consumption for only \$30.

These seemingly unbelievable statistics have been the inspiration and motivation behind all of the time and effort I have spent on this campaign. Rather than fuss over every last watt in my own home, I have decided my time would be better spent spreading this compelling information and educating others to the huge positive impact that CFLs can have on our environment.

So why, with CFLs able to make such a remarkable impact is there so much negativity directed towards them? Things like quality of light, delayed startup, higher initial cost, and bulb appearance plagued CFLs in their early years, although they have come under the most scrutiny with the environmental community for the 4-5 mg. of mercury that is contained inside each bulb. Mercury is a highly toxic substance and its presence in CFLs should not be ignored, but when taking into account the fact that mercury is released into the air from burning coal for electricity, incandescent bulbs release far more mercury than CFLs. According to the My LED Lighting Guide, “coal plants emit between 0.027 to 0.093 milligrams of mercury per kWh of electricity produced. If we use the average of these two figures we can calculate that by switching to CFLs, La Hacienda, the restaurant mentioned above, is preventing 630 mg of mercury from being released into the air every year. The 15 CFLs they are now using only contain 60-75 mg of mercury combined & it can and should all be recycled.

While CFLs are not a perfect solution, they have their place in our struggle to become a more sustainable society. Would our environment be a better place today if we had said no to the first wind turbines because they killed birds or were too noisy? Would we be better off today if environmentalists in the 1950s shunned solar panels because they were too expensive, or

because they consumed too much energy and raw materials to produce? I think the obvious answer to these questions is no. We are going to have to weigh the good and the bad of any new green technologies and realize that very few solutions to our environmental problems, if any, are going to be perfect.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining or learning more about this campaign, come visit us at <http://connect.sierraclub.org>, click on the teams tab, and search for “Better Bulbs For Business“. Help us reach our goal of conserving 100 households of energy. 


## National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club’s election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail. 



## Bremby, continued from cover

None of these claims are even remotely true. Bremby encouraged the audience to investigate claims before accepting them as factual. In addition, he took the time to educate the crowd on global warming, sustainability, and opportunities for Kansas to harness its clean energy resources.

### Report: Sunflower is Not the Cleanest Coal Plant—Not Even Close

GPACE released a report this week that completely disproves claims that the new Sunflower coal-fired power plant will be the “cleanest in the country,” which was a claim made by numerous coal plant supporters. Among the report’s findings:

- 669 coal-fired power generating units have lower emissions of particulate (soot) air pollution
- 321 coal-fired units have lower emissions of mercury
- 53 emit lower rates of sulfur dioxide, and
- 18 emit lower rates of nitrogen oxides

Politicians and business leaders who advocated for Sunflower told the KC Star they took the company’s word that the project would be the “cleanest in the country,” apparently without independent sources of information to inform their claims.

### A Drawn-Out Struggle to Protect Public Health and the Climate

Earthjustice and Sierra Club have been raising issues about the Sunflower coal plant for years.

Among the issues raised are the fact that U.S. taxpayers are the lenders on much of the debt that Sunflower currently owes, even as it attempts to take on another larger and riskier coal plant project.

After then Governor Parkinson negotiated a backroom deal with Sunflower that couldn’t have been a weaker deal for the state, Earthjustice and Sierra Club argued for re-permitting of the project and public hearings. Shortly after, EPA echoed our arguments and required a re-permitting process.

More recently, EPA questioned the adequacy of KDHE’s air-quality permit issued in December, which we have argued is dreadfully inadequate.


Earthjustice attorney Amanda Goodin said, “This EPA letter points out serious failings in the permit that the people of Kansas should be very worried about. Clean air and the health of Kansans are just too important to let a flawed and inadequate permit slide through.”

Earthjustice and Sierra Club are chal-

lenging the new rushed-through permit.

#### Contact:

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Stephanie Cole, Sierra Club, (402) 984-1122



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Apr - May 2011

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## Book Review:

### **Climate War: True Believers, Power Brokers, and the Fight to Save the Earth** by Eric Pooley

**(Hyperion, New York, New York, 2010),  
496 pp.**

**By Mike Miller**

This excellent account of the “war” on proposed Congressional legislation on global warming was written by a former national editor for Time. It covers the failure of the 2007 Lieberman-Warner Senate Bill, passage of the 2009 House Waxman-Markey Bill, and progress of the Senate Kerry-Lieberman-Graham Bill through February 2010.

The book describes activities of the major participants in the “war” starting with the early days of the environmental movement in the 1960’s. Of great interest to hard-core “enviros” is the history of various environmental groups and their leading personalities. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) gets the most coverage followed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, the World Resources Institute, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.. The EDF played the leading role in the “cap and trade” approach to CO2 emissions reduction based on its successful advocacy for Acid Rain legislation

that cost-effectively reduced emissions by 50%.

Important strategies used by “our troops” included “calling out” poorly informed reporters for their “balance as bias” approach to coverage. “Clean energy jobs” were used as the mantra to sell cap and trade. In fact, the argument was made that “cap and trade” was essential to US leadership in developing green energy because the cap forced American utilities to make timely investments in clean power that they were unwilling to make in the current regulatory framework. Without a cap, China would assume the leadership role since its central government mandates and subsidizes investment in wind power, electric cars, and high speed rail.

The account of the opposition groups is also of interest. These include the Heartland Institute of Fred Singer, the Global Climate Coalition funded by Exxon, the Competitive Enterprise Institute of the notorious “spin-meister” Myron Ebell, the Climate Depot of Marc Morano (previously associated with Rush Limbaugh and the infamous “Swift boat veterans for truth”) and the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity. The section on the slick public relations campaign of the Competitive Enterprise Institute is particularly informative. Their strategic slogans included “victory is when the average citizen understands the uncertainty” of climate change, cap and trade is “another term for tax,” “climate change” (their euphemism for global warming) “exists but it is small and

**See Book Review on page 8**



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## Book Review, continued from page 7

we can go slow,” and “cap and trade is energy rationing - the goal of the environmental elite.”

The author also throws in fascinating tidbits. One is about an Edward Bernays, a nephew of Sigmund Freud, who worked for the American Tobacco Company. He is credited with using his uncle's psychological insights to shift American society from one based on need to one based on desire. Another, drawn from Rolling Stone magazine, is a pithy description of Goldman Sachs as “a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money.” But I digress.

Of course, the activities of Al Gore and his Alliance for Climate Protection from Inconvenient Truth to the “we can solve it” advertising campaign put together by the Martin Agency (creator of the GEICO gecko) are described. The role of James Hansen, the scientist who brought global warming to the attention of Congress in 1988, is another thread in the narrative. The activities of the EDF and Jeff Immelt of General Electric in putting together the US Climate Action Partnership of environmental groups (EDF, NRDC, NWF, and WRI but not the Sierra Club) and Fortune 500 companies (including GE, Siemens, BP, Conoco Phillips, Caterpillar, Alcoa, Dupont, Pacific Gas and Electric, Florida Power and Light and Duke Energy) also receive a lot of coverage.

The roles of EDF and Jim Rogers of Duke Energy were critical to the passage of the House bill. An examination of the critical issue of how to distribute and price tradable CO2 allowances is the main focus of the book. Industry would not sign on for the gradually decreasing cap (from a 14-20% reduction from 2005 levels by 2020 to an 80% reduction by 2050) unless coal burning utilities received 35% of the allocations (free for a transitional period). The free allowances, allotted according to the carbon intensity of each utility, would have allowed them to finance the transition away from coal while avoiding rate increase to coal state voters. This compromise allowed the House bill to pass their climate bill 219-212 on June 26, 2009. Representative Waxman (D-California) and the EDF argued - convincingly to the author and this reviewer - that getting the cap right was far more important than the temporarily free allocations. Unfortunately, in the face of anti-tax rhetoric from the so-called “tea-party” activists and “climate-gate” in the fall of 2009 and a White House distracted by the health care debate, the Kerry-Lieberman-Graham Senate bill stalled in 2010.

This is an excellent book. Members may want to skip ahead to page 250 (after Obama clinched the nomination in June 2008), but they will miss the flavor of the historical developments leading up to the “war.” (For a detailed

account of how the “battle” for the Senate Bill was lost, see the article “As the World Burns” by Ryan Lizza in the October 11, 2010 of the New Yorker).



Apr - May 2011

# “Last of the Polar Bears?”

Kanza Silent Auction – April 30, 2011

By Elaine Giessel

Is *Ursus maritimus* bearing up or going with the floes? The great “sea bear,” the largest land carnivore on the planet, is having serious trouble with unusual sea-ice patterns in the Arctic Ocean.

As blizzards roared across the U.S. last winter, unseasonably warm arctic temperatures led to the lowest sea-ice extent for January since satellite records began in 1979. The thin ice that did form made it difficult for bears to hunt seals, their main prey, and to find mates. Due to warming air temperatures, ice-floe breakup in some areas occurred early, further reducing the length of the polar bear feeding season.

Deadly consequences were documented. A female polar bear, fitted with a satellite collar, swam nonstop through near freezing waters for over nine days, covering a distance of 426 miles in search of the late forming sea-ice. During the exhausting swim, her yearling cub perished; she lost 22% of her own body weight.

Longer ice-free seasons can have a direct impact on pregnant female polar bears, who may fail to give birth if their fat stores are inadequate. Some populations of polar bears may be unable to reproduce at the level needed to maintain their numbers if current warming trends continue.

While most pronounced at the poles, global warming has links to the Heartland. Just follow the carbon footprints. We each contribute to climate change, creating carbon dioxide by burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil. Arctic sea-ice patterns, polar bears and Kansas – they are all connected.

The name “arctic” comes from the Greek word for bear, so the iconic “ice bear” will be featured at the Kanza Group 2011 Silent Auction. In her presentation “The Last Polar Bears?,” Debra Ryder, Director of Education for the Kansas City Zoo, will focus on the future of the wildlife of the Arctic region in the face of global climate change. She will share her recent adventures as an Arctic Ambassador for Polar Bears International in Manitoba, Canada, and update us on the zoo's new polar bear exhibit, featuring 4 year old Nikita.

As Debra often shares with her audiences, “Whether and how we address global warming is not a question of science; it is a question of values.” Please join us for this entertaining and enlightening event. The future of the polar bear is very much at stake!





# Last of the Polar Bears?

Join us for this year's  
**silent auction**

**Saturday • April 30**  
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**Lenexa Conference Center,**  
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*Debra Ryder, Director of Education for the Kansas City Zoo, will discuss what lies in store for the Arctic wildlife in the face of global climate change, as well as her adventures as an Arctic Ambassador for Polar Bears International in Manitoba, Canada.*

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*Talk to businesses working to reduce our carbon footprint.*

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**[www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/)**

Policy makers continue to be slow to take serious action to limit the effects of Climate Change. Nuclear and coal disasters provide ample warning that our species is making dangerous choices. Will we as planetary citizens heed these warnings? Will we, as citizens, make meaningful change? Join us as we learn how to make our voices heard, change ourselves, and increase our effectiveness.

**Now, you can help make a difference.**

**Support Sierra Club's Work. See you on April 30th**

## You can help make our Silent Auction a success

**We need your help on the Auction Committee to call members, ask for quality donations from merchants, and help with details of the event.**

**Interested?**

**Contact Craig Wolfe**

**913-299-4474 or**

**[info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)**



*Apr - May 2011*

# Missing Dirt and Dirty Deeds

## Eating as Though the Earth Matters column

by Judy Carman

As environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts we are all keenly aware that the Earth does indeed matter—and not just to each of us but to everyone and all those who will live here after us. We are also painfully aware of what “civilization,” empire building, and runaway greed has done to our precious planet.

Yet caught somewhere in the shadows is another fearsome force that seems to have two faces. It is agriculture. This 10,000 year old invention has, on the one hand, the aura of love and care. It carries with it the pastoral images of farmers planting seeds and watching the miracle of food, flowers, pollen, and green leaves germinating from each tiny seed. It also brings with it our very survival since that is what the majority of people depend on in order to eat and stay alive. On the other hand, it carries with it a picture we don't really like to face. Both animal agriculture and plowing to grow food are among the primary factors which have brought this planet nearly to the brink of disaster.

In order to take action, of course, we have to bear witness to this and fully understand what has been happening gradually over the centuries that has brought us, the earth, and the animals into this crisis.

In this article, let's take a look at one aspect of the destructive face of agriculture—soil erosion and desertification. As we know, this is happening all over the world right now. As William Kotke explains in his book *The Final Empire: The Collapse of Civilization and the Seed of the Future*, desertification occurs as follows:

1. Too many confined animals overgrazing their limited space, deforestation (often done to provide more grazing land for more animals), and plowing land for grain to feed animals strip the native vegetation. That vegetation was kept intact and nourished for centuries by wild herbivores, but domesticated grazing animals cannot roam freely, choose their favorite grasses, and move on before doing any damage.
2. Once stripped, the land begins to erode, and the topsoil leaves a more or less impermeable layer of soil with less vegetation behind. This layer does not absorb water as well and so begins to wash away as well. In addition the water tends to run downhill instead of being absorbed into the soil to work its magic there and to replenish the water table.
3. This begins a spiral of more and more erosion as less water is absorbed and instead races downhill causing floods followed by droughts. Springs and creeks dry up,

and rivers run muddy and full of the many toxic products that come from upstream, including farmed animal urine, feces, pesticides, herbicides, and animal pharmaceuticals.

4. According to Kotke, the floods carry huge amounts of sand and gravel that then bury the fertile floodplains downstream. He states, “This is the history of civilization from China, to India, to the Caucasus of Central Asia, to Europe, and now to the whole world. Civilization equals aridity.” He calls soil erosion “one of the most life-threatening problems on the planet.”
5. As the ability of soil to retain moisture is lost, rainfall decreases.
6. The end result is desertification. We have seen this happen in the span of our own lifetimes, for example, where rainforests have been clearcut in order to provide grazing land for cattle.
7. It's important to also face the fact that this desertification alters the ecosystems. So not only do wild, native animals suffer from loss of habitat, but ranchers kill them by the millions in order to maintain their domesticated herds.

A permaculture book entitled *Forest Farming* points out that land dedicated to animal herds can produce only an average of 200 pounds of food per acre, compared to 1 ½ tons of cereal grain or 7 tons of apples. According to Kotke, domesticated herds are grazing 70 percent of the land in 11 western states.

I love deserts and semi-arid ecosystems, but that is not what is being created here. A healthy natural desert provides homes for many animals and plants, and life flourishes. But deserts that have come into being as the result of human manipulation and destruction support very little life.

Animal agriculture is an immense and overwhelming factor in this devastation to the earth. However, the very, very good news is—we don't need legislation to change this. We don't need to change the minds of ranchers. We need simply to stop supporting this destructive industry by ending our consumption of animal products. One of our greatest powers as people is the boycott. And as I have said before in this column—the Mother of All Boycotts is to go vegan. When we adopt a vegan lifestyle, which is essentially a commitment to nonviolence to the earth and all life, we no longer purchase animal products and, thus, end the demand for the destruction that such purchases cause.

As human beings dedicated to bringing our beloved, miraculous earth back to health; restore ecosystems for our wild cousins; show compassion for all animals; and repair the enormous damage caused by our species, we need to show the power elite that we do not depend on them to tell us what to eat or how to treat the earth.

The meat and dairy industry is heavily subsidized by the federal government. Otherwise, those animal products would be much more expensive than they are. Out of all federal agricultural subsidies, vegetables and fruit receive .37% of the take; nuts and legumes, 1.91%; sugar, oil, starch, and alcohol, 10.69%; grains, 13.23%; while meat and dairy receive a whopping 73.80%. (Source: <http://www.pcrm.org/magazine/>)



gm07autumn/health\_pork.html) And remember—the vast majority of the grains are fed to farmed animals. Powerful, special interest lobbies, good old boy networks and our own complicity have caused this dysfunction. We have the power to choose not to support them.

“I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.” Frederick Douglass, abolitionist (1818-1895)

As if it weren't fun enough to say “we don't need you” to the power elite, here are some vegan recipes to make life even more fun. (Use as many organic and fair trade ingredients as possible.)

### Vegan Mac and Cheese from vegweb.com

#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds pasta, preferably macaroni
- “Cheese” Sauce:
  - 1 1/2 cups unsweetened nondairy milk
  - 1 1/2 cups nutritional yeast
  - 1 cup canola or vegetable oil
  - 1 cup water
  - 1/3 cup tamari or soy sauce or Braggs Aminos
  - 1/4 (12 ounce) block firm (not silken) tofu
  - 1 tablespoon garlic powder
  - 1 tablespoon paprika
  - 1 tablespoon vegesal or salt
  - 1 dollop mustard, optional

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Boil water in a big pot and cook pasta according to package directions.
- Add all of the “cheese” sauce ingredients in a blender and process until smooth. Once pasta is cooked, drain and put it in the baking pan (about the size of a brownie pan). Pour the “cheese” sauce over the pasta.
- Bake until the top of the pasta looks slightly browned and crispy, about 15 minutes.

### Julie's Amazing Cole Slaw

- In a food processor, finely shred
  - One head of purple cabbage
  - Or 1/2 head purple and 1/2 head green cabbage
- In a separate bowl mix
  - 2/3 of a large jar of Vegenaise
  - 2/3 cup apple cider vinegar
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon sugar
  - Pepper
- Adjust seasonings to taste
- Toss in cabbage and mix together.

Submitted by Judy Carman, M.A., Author of Peace to All Beings, co-author of The Missing Peace: The Hidden Power of our Kinship with Animals, and owner of a truck powered by used veggie oil. [circleofcompassion.org](http://circleofcompassion.org), [peacetoallbeings.com](http://peacetoallbeings.com)



# Defending the Wakarusa Wetlands

## Photos from the Wakarusa Group Forum

Speakers included are Bob Eye, Mike Caron, Dan Wildcat, Patrick Freeland, and Joe Collins. 60 people attended the forum.



### Forever, continued from page 3

non renewable energy supplies we will return to a preindustrial lifestyle. Can we all agree that we need to build a renewable energy system and that we need to start now before it's too late?

*Toby Grotz has worked on both sides of the energy industry as an instrument engineer and seismologist prospecting for oil in the north Atlantic, off the coast of Florida and in Mexico and has worked for the utility industry in operation, maintenance and design in coal, gas, and nuclear power plants. He also worked as an aerospace test engineer designing solar and thermal vacuum tests for space flight hardware including Space Shuttle and Hubble Telescope sub systems.*

*Reprinted with permission from Greenability Magazine March/April 2011, [www.greenabilitymagazine.com/](http://www.greenabilitymagazine.com/)*



# Chapter & Group Leaders

*Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter*

Chapter Executive Committee

Officers, Committee Chairs

\*Elected ExCom member; \*\*Appointed ExCom member,

\*\*\*Group Representative to Chapter, \*\*\*\*Officer/Committee Chair

**Yvonne Cather\***, Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 522-4741,  
yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Craig Lubow\***, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Global Warming  
Chair (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Elaine Giessel\***, Environmental Justice Chair, Water Quality Chair,  
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**Bob Sommer\***, Political Chair, (913) 681-5211, rsommer@kc.rr.com

**Joe Spease\***, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862,  
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**Jim Tuhscherer\*\*\***, Topeka Group Rep, (785) 272 5633, jimtuch@  
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**Craig Volland\*\*\*\***, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air  
Quality Chair, (913) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**Joe Spease\***, Legislative Chair, Energy Chair, (913) 492-2862,  
spease4kc@everestkc.net

**Doug Stecklein\***, ExCom Member, 913-393-3934,  
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**Craig Wolfe\***, Auction Chair, Communications Chair, Program Chair,  
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**Bob Fritsch\*\*\*\***, Outings Chair, (913) 906-9728,  
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paulpost@paulpost.com

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**Phil Morse\*\*\*\***, Political Chair, Energy Chair, (785) 273-3613,  
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**Melissa Rogers\***, Environmental Education Chair, Chapter Group Rep,  
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**George Brenner\*\*\*\***, Conservation Chair, Water Quality Chair,  
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**Larry Erikson\***, Conservation Chair, (913) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu

**Virginia Hagin\***, Outings Chair, (757) 508-5765,  
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**Mike Miller\***, Membership Chair, Air Quality  
Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.



Apr - May 2011

# General Meetings

**General public is welcome to attend**

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## **Kanza Group (Kansas City)**

**April 12. 6:30 pm.**

### **New Kansas Energy Efficiency Programs**

**6:30 pm** - Come early, and we will have goodies, along with good conversation followed by our program. Bring your own mug for drinks and for the Ugly Mug Contest.

**7:00 pm** - Rob Jones of Green Cat Services will tell us about current and new opportunities for getting energy retrofit services for our homes. New programs have finally arrived for folks to take advantage of, which will make it easier than ever to get our homes more energy efficient. Rob Jones runs an energy retrofit services company as well as a training center for energy auditors and energy retrofit contractors.

**Where** - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side. Directions at [www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm)

**Contact** - Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Kanza Group (Kansas City)**

**April 30. 7:00 pm.**

### **Silent Auction: Last of the Polar Bears?**

Great Bargains. Fine Wine & Cheese Tasting. Environmental Awards. Business Exhibitors. Special presentation by Debra Ryder, Director of Education for the Kansas City Zoo, will discuss what lies in store for the Arctic wildlife in the face of global climate change, as well as her adventures as an Arctic Ambassador for Polar Bears International in Manitoba, Canada. Admission \$20 Advance Registration. \$25 at door. \$45 per couple. Lenexa Conference Center, 11184 Lackman Road, Lenexa, KS.

More Info and advance registration at [www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/).

Contact Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Southwind Group (Wichita)**

**May 13. 6:30 pm.**

### **Wichita Life Changing Trails**

**6:30 pm** - Food & Conversation

**7:30 pm** - Our presenter will be Richard Schodorf with a program entitled: "How The Addition of Eleven New Themed Walking Trails In Wichita Can Change Your Exercise Habits, Your Entertainment Options and Your Knowledge Of People Who Made Incredible Contributions to Our State"..

**Where** - Great Plains Nature Center, 29th N at Woodlawn.

**Contact** - Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)

## **Topeka Group**

**April 26. 6:00 pm.**

### **Scott Alisoglu, Topeka Sustainability & Energy Efficiency**

**6:00 pm** - "Coffee, Food and Conversation"

**7:00 pm** - Scott Alisoglu, Funding Analyst/Sustainability Coordinator, City of Topeka. Scott will explain his role as Sustainability Coordinator as well as Topeka's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, 2009 International Energy Efficiency Code inclusion in the city's Building Code and Efficiency Kansas: Westar's Simple Savings Program. Come and learn about Topeka's plans and direction and how they will impact you. Guests are always welcome. Come join us for an educational evening.

**Where** - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4775 SW 21st Street.

**Contact** - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; [gjanderson1963@hotmail.com](mailto:gjanderson1963@hotmail.com)

## **Topeka Group**

**May 24. 6:00 pm.**

### **Lynn Smith, Executive Director, Pioneer Bluffs, Chase County**

**6:00 pm** - "Coffee, Food and Conversation"

**7:00 pm** - Lynn will talk about the past, present and future of Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green and how it is carrying on the legacy of land stewardship with a mission of history, community and sustainability. This stunning property, homesteaded in 1859, features three beautiful barns built between 1872 and 1915, several outbuildings and the 1908 home of Charles Rogler's son Henry and his wife Maud Sauble Rogler and is a National Register Historic District on our Kansas tallgrass prairie. Everyone welcome..

**Where** - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4775 SW 21st Street.

**Contact** - Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; [gjanderson1963@hotmail.com](mailto:gjanderson1963@hotmail.com)

## **Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)**

### **General Information**

Contact Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, [LynatePettengill@yahoo.com](mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com)

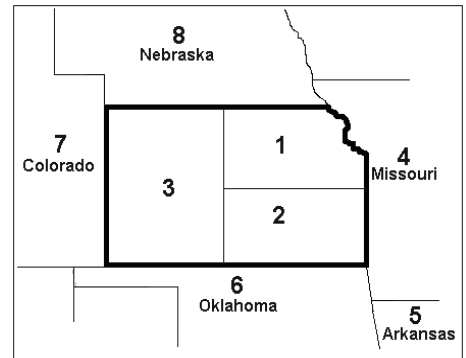


*Apr - May 2011*

# Sierra Club Outings

**General public is welcome to participate**

Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. The number in [brackets] indicates the area of the outing as shown on the map. Please contact the outing leader listed after the description by phone or e-mail before attending any of these activities. For trips requiring physical exertion, leaders need to know your ability and condition. Sierra Club policy also requires participants to sign a liability waiver or acknowledgement of risk prior to departing the trailhead.



## [1] Apr 11. 10:00 am. Wakarusa Wetlands

### Hike

Guided hike on the Wakarusa Wetlands which we've worked 25+ years to defend! Kid/family-friendly, everyone welcome. Wakarusa. Melissa Rogers. (785) 764-0826. mmrogers816@gmail.com

## [2] Apr 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town

Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [2] Apr 15. 6:30 pm. Southwind Banquet & Bucket Auction

Southwind Banquet & Bucket Auction at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of College Hill United Methodist Church, 2930 East 1st Street in Wichita. Our keynote speaker will be Bob Gress, Director of the Great Plains Nature Center. Ticket deadline: April 1. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, stuart.bolt@cox.net

## [4] Apr 15-17. Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve, MO

Join us as we hike the beautiful Whispering Pine Trail, enjoy the lofty pines, wild azaleas, sandstone barrens and cliffs, and sandy-bottomed streams. . Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, pbandj14@comcast.net

## [1] Apr 19. 10:00 am. Lawrence Earth Day Parade.

Join the Sierra Club group and march in the Earth Day parade! Wear a Sierra Club t-shirt, or green t-shirt. Kid/family-friendly, everyone welcome. Meet at Buford Park (train park) -- look for the Sierra Club banner. Family Friendly Event. Contact: Steve Lopes, Slopes3688@aol.com, (785) 842-7137.



Apr - May 2011

## [4] Apr 30-May 1. Ozark Canoe Trip

Bypass the crowds and explore a quiet Ozark stream on our laid-back canoe/kayak float trip. Catch the sunset and see the stars

Saturday night from our sandbar campsite; share your stories around the campfire. \$5 donation requested. . Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

## [4] Apr 30. Eddy & Ballentine Trail, Kansas City, Mo

Hike with Bill Eddy and Dick Ballentine, authors of Hiking Kansas City, on their namesake trail near Swope Park. The 3-mile trail has been partially re-routed and extended due to a land swap. Bring your lunch and we will sit on some limestone outcroppings overlooking the valley below. \$5 dollar donation requested. . Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

## [1] May 7. 6:00 pm. Field Station and Ecological Reserves & Pot Luck

Visit the University of Kansas Field Station and Ecological Reserves, starting with a potluck supper at the Fitch Natural History Reservation followed by a short hike on a paved, handicapped-accessible trail from the Rockefeller Prairie Overlook to the Wakarusa Valley Overlook. The evening will conclude with viewing of Spring constellations and galaxies at a dark site on the prairie. Longer hikes are available as an option. No pets, alcoholic beverages, or open fires are permitted. Wakarusa. Kid/family friendly.. Wakarusa. George Brenner, (785) 393-3828, gbrenner@sunflower.com

## [2] May 9. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town

Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

## [4] May 21. Ozark Springs Tour, Eminence, MO

Enjoy the most beautiful spots in Missouri. We'll take a full day to go to "Alley", Two Rivers, the bluest Blue Springs, Rocky Falls, and Big Springs. \$10 donation requested. . Kanza. Patty Brown, (816) 737-2804, pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net

# Committee Meetings

## Kanza Group (Kansas City)

### Executive Committee

**Apr 28, May 26 - 7:00 pm,**  
Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211  
rsommer@kc.rr.com

### Joint Action Committee

**Apr 28, May 26 - 7:00 pm,**  
Conservation, legislative, and political  
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,  
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

## Southwind Group (Wichita)

### Executive and Fundraising Committee

**Apr 3, May 1 - 6:00 pm**  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,  
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

### Conservation Committee

**May 2 - 6:30 pm**  
2731 North Pershing Court, Bruce  
Fueling, bfuelling@cox.net or Kent  
Thomas kthomas101@cox.net

## Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

### Executive Committee Planning

Islamic Center, 1919 Naismith.  
Lynate Pettengill, (785) 331-0625,  
Lynate@sbcglobal.net

### Conservation Committee

George Brenner, (785) 393-3828,  
GBrenner@sunflower.com.

**Topeka Group, ExCom meets quarterly, TBA.** Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@ksbroadband.net  
**Energy Committee, TBA,** Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

### **Kansas Chapter: (State), Executive Committee**

Yvonne Cather\*, Chair, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

### [1] Jun 4. 9:00 am. Canoeing on the Kaw

We'll be canoeing approximately 4 hours with Friends of the Kaw from DeSoto to Cedar Creek. Kid/family-friendly, everyone welcome. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, LynatePettengill@yahoo.com

### [5] Jun 9-12. Blanchard Springs, Car Camping, Mountain View, AR

Join us at this Bluegrass music mecca nestled in the Ozark mountains. We'll camp next to Sylamore Creek at Blanchard Springs Caverns Recreation Area, tour the incredible cave and visit the Ozark Folk Center State Park. \$10 donation requested.. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, randri@kc.rr.com

### [4] Jun 25. Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO

Join us for this 25-mile ride of rolling hills and rural settings, as we ride from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will reward ourselves to a delicious lunch buffet at Café Thyme. Followed by a hike through the gardens with all its' flowers and foliage. For the return trip a trailer for bikes and car rides will be available. \$5 donation requested. . Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

## Would your business like to advertise in the Planet Kansas?



**Contact Lynate Pettengill, Development  
Director for more information.**

**Lynate@sbcglobal.net  
(785) 331-0625**



Apr - May 2011



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# Calendar of Events

## Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 9, Outings page 10, and Committee Meetings page 11. For the latest update on events, go to [www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm](http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm).

- Out Apr. TBA. Wakarusa Wetlands. Wakarusa. Melissa Rogers. (785) 764-0826. [mmrogers816@gmail.com](mailto:mmrogers816@gmail.com)
- CM Apr 3. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Apr 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Apr 11. 10:00 am. Wakarusa Wetlands Hike. Wakarusa. Melissa Rogers. (785) 764-0826. [mmrogers816@gmail.com](mailto:mmrogers816@gmail.com)
- GM Apr 12. 6:30 pm. New Kansas Energy Efficiency Programs. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Apr 15–17. Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve, MO. Kanza. Bryan Ohrman, (816) 215-3376, [pbandj14@comcast.net](mailto:pbandj14@comcast.net)
- Out Apr 15. 6:30 pm. Southwind Banquet & Bucket Auction. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 682-4722, [stuart.bolt@cox.net](mailto:stuart.bolt@cox.net)
- Out Apr 19. 10:00 am. Lawrence Earth Day Parade. Steve Lopes, [Slopes3688@aol.com](mailto:Slopes3688@aol.com), (785) 842-7137
- GM Apr 26. 6:00 pm. Scott Alisoglu, Topeka Sustainability & Energy Efficiency. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; [gjanderson1963@hotmail.com](mailto:gjanderson1963@hotmail.com)
- CM Apr 28. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, [rsommer@kc.rr.com](mailto:rsommer@kc.rr.com)
- CM Apr 28. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, [craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Apr 30-May 1. Ozark Canoe Trip. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, [theerustbucket@aol.com](mailto:theerustbucket@aol.com)
- GM Apr 30. 6:30 pm. Kanza Silent Auction: Last of the Polar Bears?. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, [info@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:info@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out Apr 30. Eddy & Ballentine Trail, Kansas City, Mo. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, [eileen4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net)
- CM May 1. Wakarusa ExCom Meeting. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, [LynatePettengill@yahoo.com](mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com)
- CM May 1. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- CM May 2. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee Meeting. Southwind. Bruce Fueling, [bfueling@cox.net](mailto:bfueling@cox.net) or Kent Thomas [kthomas101@cox.net](mailto:kthomas101@cox.net)
- Out May 7. 6:00 pm. Field Station and Ecological Reserves & Pot Luck. Wakarusa. George Brenner, (785) 393-3828, [gbrenner@sunflower.com](mailto:gbrenner@sunflower.com)
- Out May 9. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- GM May 13. 6:30 pm. Wichita Life Changing Trails. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, [david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- Out May 21. Ozark Springs Tour, Eminence, MO. Kanza. Patty Brown, (816) 737-2804, [pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net)
- GM May 24. 6:00 pm. Pioneer Bluffs in Chase County. Topeka. Gary Anderson, (785) 246-3229; [gjanderson1963@hotmail.com](mailto:gjanderson1963@hotmail.com)
- CM May 26. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, [craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org](mailto:craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org)
- CM May 26. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Bob Sommer, (913) 681-5211, [rsommer@kc.rr.com](mailto:rsommer@kc.rr.com)
- Out Jun 4. 9:00 am. Canoeing on the Kaw. Wakarusa. Lynate Pettengill (785) 331-0625, [LynatePettengill@yahoo.com](mailto:LynatePettengill@yahoo.com)
- Out Jun 9–12. Blanchard Springs, Car Camping, Mountain View, AR. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 488-4445, [randri@kc.rr.com](mailto:randri@kc.rr.com)
- Out Jun 25. Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Kanza. Paul Gross, (816) 228-6563, [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com)