Resist, Recruit, Train, and Sustain

By Michael Brune, Executive Director of Sierra Club

November 18, 2017. Over the past ten days, we've had to accept a tough reality. But although it's definitely going to happen, a Trump administration will never seem normal, nor should it. We already know that the corrupt, cynical, and racist values that he and his inner circle bring to the White House will challenge everything we stand for.

As we move forward with a new Congress and this new administration, here are some early thoughts on how the Sierra Club will confront the reality of President-elect Trump.

First, though, let's acknowledge that although a lot of progress was made under President Obama on many of the issues that we care about, our nation's challenges run much deeper than any one president. By itself, kicking Trump out of office won't solve the racism, misogyny, and xenophobia that existed before his rise. It won't eliminate the hatred in our public discourse and in our communities. It won't magically create a 100 percent clean energy economy, nor will it alleviate the economic pressures that millions of families face in their daily lives. I'm proud of how the Sierra Club has begun to address the intersection of climate with inequality, race, class and gender, and I guarantee that we'll go even deeper.

Second, in the remaining weeks of the Obama administration, we'll pursue every opportunity to secure as much as we can and prepare for the fights ahead. Our legal program is hatching plans to shine a light on corruption and prevent sweetheart deals between the next administration and big polluters. And our lands team will continue to keep one eye on securing permanent protections and the other on what it will take to defend those wins. Those are just a couple of examples of what's already underway.

As for 2017 and beyond, our priorities, challenges, and opportunities fall into four areas:

1. Resist – We will draw on the talents and experience of our staff and volunteers to fight Trump, Congress, and the growing number of anti-environmental governors, every step of the way. This defensive work will play out in the courts, in Congress, in statehouses, in the marketplace, and in the streets -- and it will involve nearly every part of the Sierra Club. Part of this resistance will include standing strongly with our allies.

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With your help we can protect the wolf
Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature's balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians.

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

Click anywhere on the above membership application to join Kansas Sierra Club!!
A View From The Bridge

By Paul Post - Kansas Chapter Chair

If you woke up on November 9 feeling like you had a bad hangover, you were not alone. Donald Trump was the president-elect. Never mind that Hillary Clinton, like Al Gore in 2000, won the popular vote. The archaic Electoral College has gone about its business of voting for Trump on the “first Monday after the second Tuesday” in December. I could write a piece on this 18th Century throw-back, noting as MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell said that we are the only democracy in the world that refers to the “popular vote” rather than just “the vote.” I will save that thought for another day.

Nor will I engage in hand-wringing at this juncture over the coming Trump presidency. “We get the government we deserve” said Alexis de Tocqueville in his study of “Democracy in America” in 1835. While the majority of us voted for Hillary, the fact of the matter is that when voters were faced with what the media called “two flawed candidates,” enough voters in the right “battle-ground” states voted for Trump to ensure his victory. But again, perhaps another piece on a different day as to whether a “flawed” Hillary was really a meme created by the media itself.

When a climate change denier is to be nominated as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, we know that we have a mountain to climb. But isn’t that the foundation of the Sierra Club – climbing mountains? As our founder John Muir said: “Going to the mountains is going home.” That is the task that we Sierrans should be about. In fact, as Sierrans in Kansas, we have weathered the Brownback regime and now see some changes on the horizon. While the national election results were not good news to many of us, Kansas fared a bit better. A more moderate legislature will likely convene in January, and the leadership there appears to want nothing to do with worn out Brownback ideas. As many there have apparently figured out, we embarked down a road to ruin in 2012 by enacting Brownback’s tax plan and his “March to Zero” on income taxes. The Kansas Chapter membership is thus poised to help our sisters and brothers in other states understand that as far as Trump is concerned, “This too shall pass.”

One observation of mine about Mr. Trump – he claims to be a successful businessman. Presumably, he listens to other “smart” business leaders. Importantly, the business bottom line is being directly impacted by climate disruption. As one example, the insurance

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Sierra Club Calls for New Burn Plan for the Flint Hills

KDHE’s 2010 Smoke Management Plan has failed to reduce pollution

By Craig Volland - Air Quality Chair


The Sierra Club has requested that the Administrator of EPA Region 7 order KDHE to prepare a plan to mitigate continuing bad air quality associated with the seasonal burning of grassland in the Kansas Flint Hills. The regional administrator can act under precedent set by US EPA in new regulations defining when excess emissions of ozone and fine particles can be exempted from calculations demonstrating a violation of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

In order to obtain earlier exemptions, KDHE issued a Smoke Management Plan (SMP) in December of 2010. In the five years since the SMP went into effect, seasonal burning in the Flint Hills has caused 28 exceedances of the NAAQS compared to 17 in the five-year period before the Plan. Thus the existing SMP has failed to reduce harmful air quality impacts.

The new rules allow KDHE to use the existing SMP as a template for a Mitigation Plan, but the Sierra Club notes it does not measure up to what is required. “The current Smoke Management Plan allows business as usual, while citizens as far downwind as Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, suffer from bad air,” says Craig Volland, Chair of the Kansas Chapter’s Air Quality Committee. “It’s time to update & improve the Plan with some new thinking.”

The full text of the Chapter’s letter to the EPA Region 7 Administrator, and a list of air quality standard exceedances since 2002 attributable to the Flint Hills burning, can be found at: http://kansas.sierraclub.org/press-release-sierra-club-calls-for-new-burn-plan-for-the-flint-hills/.

For more information call Craig Volland at 913-334-0556 or email: hartwood2@kc.rr.com.

Note. Exposure to ozone or fine particulate matter generated from this burning, both in the area of the burn and downwind, could pose a health risk, particularly among any adults or children with preexisting asthma or other pulmonary or cardiovascular conditions.

Big Hopes for the 2017 Legislature

By Zack Pistora, Kansas Chapter State Lobbyist

While Kansans will work to fulfill their resolutions in the New Year, the new Kansas legislature will work to fulfill their campaign promises and duties to Kansans in the 2017 legislative session. While I assume most will be paying close attention toward the new President, Donald Trump, I urge Kansans to follow our state matters just as close because it likely be just as exciting.

While much of the country became more conservative, Kansas bucked the trend, sending more moderate Republicans and new Democrats to the Kansas Statehouse following a popular backlash to Governor Brownback's failed economic policies. For easy scorekeeping, the Kansas House now sits at roughly a third Brownback Republicans, a third Moderate Republicans, and a third Democrats following Democrats pick-up of 12 seats. In the Senate, Democrats added only one seat, stacking their side to 9-31, but can perhaps entice enough Moderate Republican allies to form a winning majority depending on the issue. It’s also important to point out that about a third of Kansas lawmakers are entirely brand new. Thus, expect a strong appetite for many lawmakers to be stamping their political identity on key votes midway through the session.

What’s on the plate for the new legislature? Undoubtedly, the biggest task at-hand for Kansas lawmakers is fixing the budget crisis, which is likely to get worse as our current $350 million fiscal deficit grows over time. In fact, this issue was perhaps the biggest reason why there was so much backlash against Governor Brownback and his allies this election. The picture of Kansas is pretty grim financially speaking. Our state agencies and programs have faced several rounds of budget cuts already, over $2 billion has been swept from funding for Kansas roads and bridges, and our credit rating has been downgraded three times, putting us in the bottom five of all states. Furthermore, legislators have a deeper problem with adequately funding Kansas schools as we expect an upcoming Kansas Supreme Court Decision on the school finance formula. These two challenges will likely consume most of the focus and time for the traditional 90 days.

However, that doesn’t mean there isn’t room for progress to be made on several environmental issues in the 2017 session. Let’s start by fully funding the State Water Plan Fund. This fund, which is typically guaranteed by law to include a $6
The Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club is entering its fifth year of making grants to Kansas K-12 teachers who are educating students about climate change and the environment. Grants of up to $1,000 may be used to attend conferences, prepare special lessons and experiments, and purchase materials for lessons and projects that address the climate crisis. Licensed K-12 teachers in accredited Kansas schools in any field of study may apply.

The Sierra Club Environmental Grants for Kansas Primary and Secondary Educators program was uniquely created by the Kansas Chapter, the first program of its kind in the national Sierra Club. Over $18,000 in grants have been awarded to Kansas teachers since the program’s inception five years ago.

These grants aide teachers in educating students about the nature of climate change and exploring solutions. Applications are encouraged from teachers across the academic spectrum, from liberal arts and humanities to science and engineering. Teachers in minority and indigenous communities are especially encouraged to apply.

The deadline for applications is April 3, 2017. Awards will be announced in early May. Teachers do not need to be Sierra Club members to apply.

For more information and to download an application and flyer, visit the Kansas Chapter website: Kansas.SierraClub.org (click the Projects tab).

Five years of support for teachers by the Kansas Sierra Club!
To Change Everything, It Takes Everyone

By Elaine Giessel - Conservation Chair

Take heart! There is encouraging news – the results of the November election have propelled the Sierra Club to a pivotal point in its evolution, perhaps the most critical ever.

Over the last century, the Club has survived many transitions, from a small hiking group in the Sierra Nevada in 1892 to a lobbying force in statehouses and in Congress beginning in the ’60s. Now the oldest, largest (still growing!) and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the nation, the Club is in an ideal position to lead on building a movement that is global in scale.

The three elements of our mission statement reflect this evolution:
• To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;
• To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources;
• To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

In his recent blog post (cover story of this issue) National Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune provides us with four areas for action: Resist, Recruit, Train, and Sustain. And Brune commits to “…defensive work (that) will play out in the courts, in Congress, in statehouses, in the marketplace, and in the streets.”

You know that part of the mission about “to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives?” The Board is now reconsidering using civil disobedience as a broader tool, as circumstances dictate, based in part on the results of a survey of the Club leaders last year. Watch for examples at the April 29, 2017, People’s Climate Mobilization in D.C. Mark your calendars; you can RSVP now at https://sierraclub.tfaforms.net/126.

With input from a consulting firm, our national volunteer Board suggests the following planning guidelines for Chapters: consider shorter cycles of goals, articulate guiding principles, create forums to discuss new developments and adapt accordingly, and keep an eye on financial strength. And finally, focus more on local, winnable campaigns. With our recent gains in Topeka, we can do this.

Club leaders know that our movement will be stronger and healthier when we put people first. Three principles will be incorporated into every aspect of our work and will guide our journey: Equity, Justice and Inclusion. Look for more on our equity efforts later; view details now at https://sierraclub.org/equity.

The Sierra Club will focus on the core elements of all movement building:
• a unifying narrative that moves people from fear to hope,
• local victories that empower people,
• movement moments – taking advantage of external opportunities that can impact decision-makers,
• leadership development to increase our effectiveness, and
• partnerships to share resources and strengthen our impact.

Sierra Club has the organizational depth, the flexibility to adapt, and a strong legacy to build on. We have been protecting the environment for 125 years; we are not going away.

But to change everything, we will need everyone. If not you, then who will do it?

Become an active participant in what may be viewed historically as our most critical transformation to date. We will engage, mentor, educate, and train new leaders who can make real contributions, locally, nationally, and globally.

Be part of the movement. Contribute your passion and your personal skills. And donate funds to underwrite our efforts. Contact a Group or Chapter leader or email me directly. We will gladly point you in the right direction.

Elaine.Giessel@Kansas.SierraClub.org

Go Digital

See the Planet Kansas in Full Color
Save Trees. Save Us Money.

It’s the Smart Thing To Do!!
Send us your email to info@Kansas.SierraClub.org. Tell us you’re Going Digital.

We’ll send you the Planet Kansas online!!
save the date! rsvp today!

Southwind Group Sierra Club
7th Annual Fragile Earth Banquet & Bucket Auction

Friday, March 10, 6-9pm
University Congregational Church
9209 E 29th, Wichita 67226

Special guest Craig Wolfe will present
“The Climate Emergency.”
Craig was trained by Al Gore and his Climate Reality Project, and will use Gore’s slides and music from his group Soular.

Tickets $25 each
Includes: Live music, Sumptuous 5 Course Catered Vegetarian Meal, Meat “garnish” $2.50 each additional.

RSVP to Yvonne Cather at:
yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Donations graciously accepted of earth/nature themed auction items
For more info: dsgafvert@gmail.com

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industry is in the business of “risk management,” but that only works when risks can be predicted in some logical fashion. The management model is “backward looking,” i.e., actuaries and others working for insurance companies attempt to predict the likelihood (or not) of future catastrophes based upon their past rate of occurrence. “Managing risk” as it is called. But if the actuarial retrospective is based upon the normal and rather benign climate that we humans have experienced for the last 10,000 years or so, and that climate is changing rapidly, risks cannot be managed effectively. This, in turn, affects the bottom line of any insurance business. Shareholders do not appreciate continued business losses and vote with their feet. Business tycoons know this and will not much longer be willing to suffer the presence of “climate changer deniers.” As Mark Twain said, “Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.” Big Oil and Big others have known the facts on climate change since the 1950’s and have spent the last 60 years distorting them. I think that is soon to change, and it will happened when CEO’s of large companies start to realize that their bottom line is shrinking and will continue to shrink on account of climate disruption.

Other business leaders have been getting on board. On November 16, 360 American investors and multinationals sent a “Business Backs Low-Carbon USA” letter to Donald Trump and Congress. The letter clearly stated that mitigating and adapting to climate change is essential for a prosperous and resilient US economy: “Failure to build a low-carbon economy puts American prosperity at risk, but the right action now will create jobs and boost US competitiveness.” The corporate signatories “pledge to do our part, in our own operations and beyond, to realize the Paris Agreement’s commitment of a global economy that limits global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius.” In early December, nearly two dozen of the world’s most successful business leaders, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists announced that they will invest up to $1 billion in a fund led by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero by financing emerging clean energy technology. The Breakthrough Energy Ventures Fund includes John Doerr, chairman of venture firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Alibaba founder Jack Ma, Khosla Ventures founder Vinod Khosla, the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, co-chair and former energy hedge fund manager John Arnold, Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, and SAP co-founder Hasso Plattner.

While news such as this is encouraging to some degree, environmentalists cannot rest on the hope that someone else – whether it be big business or big government – will solve the problem of climate disruption. Thanks in large measure to Sierra Club efforts, dirty coal plants are being shut down. In 2015, 94 coal-fired power plants closed, with the combined net capacity of 13,556 megawatts, according

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Movie Review: “Before The Flood”

By Paul Post – Chapter Chair

Do our leaders really lead us or do they follow? While not the central thesis of the recent National Geographic movie, “Before the Flood,” is it a point that producer Leonardo DiCaprio makes as he interviews world leaders, including President Obama and Pope Francis. He notes that Obama was opposed to gay marriage until the tide of public opinion turned. He is now in favor of it.

Before the flood may be the latest version of “An Inconvenient Truth,” but without the charts and lectures. But unlike Al Gore’s movie from a decade ago, “Before the Flood” is not intended to convince its audience of the reality of climate disruption – it is a given fact, as shown repeatedly in each of the places across the planet visited by DeCaprio. The Greenland ice sheet is melting rapidly right before the viewer’s eyes as torrents of rushing melt-water carve out a network of gorges and ravines on the surface of the ice. Miami is spending 400 million dollars to raise streets, build dikes, and install pumps to forestall rising sea levels that cause “sunny day flooding” -- an effort that may buy the city 30 or 40 years before completely flooded. This, even though Florida governor Rick Scott orders his cabinet and staff never to use the words “climate change” in public.

Farmers in India show DiCaprio their flooded fields until the tide of public opinion turned. He is now in favor of it.

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Farmers in India show DiCaprio their flooded fields and ruined crops. Sumatran forests are literally on fire as they are cleared for palm oil plantations. And as seen from the air, there are views of the desolation of broad swaths of land in Canada, the result of tar sands oil production – land that was once covered by an ancient boreal forest.

But this isn’t a movie about tales of woe. Yes, climate change is happening, and it’s terrifying. But what is there to do about it? That’s one of the central questions of the documentary, which was directed by Oscar-winner Fisher Stevens (“The Cove”) and produced by DiCaprio. In the film, DiCaprio interviews a number of scientists and leaders who discuss the problems and offer solutions. Worldwide, and particularly in the U.S., lifestyle choices are damaging these carbon-absorbing habitats. One of the scientists he interviews, Gidon Eishel, a professor of environmental science and physics at Bard College in New York, proposes a solution that can be quickly implemented: quit eating beef. Eishel was the lead author of a study published in 2014 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It made headlines around the world and found that beef is about 10 times more damaging to the environment than any other form of livestock. According to Eishel:

“Of all the reasons for tropical deforestation, the foremost is beef. Beef is one of the most inefficient use of resources on the planet. In the U.S., 47 percent of land is used for food production, and of that, the lion’s share is just to grow feed for cattle. The things that we actually eat—fruit, vegetables, nuts—it’s one percent. Most importantly, cows produce methane. And methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. About 10-12 percent of total U.S. emissions is due to beef. It’s staggering … Maybe not everyone is ready to eat tofu 24/7. I get that. But even if you just have to have some flesh between your teeth, if you switch to chicken, you will have eliminated 80 percent of what you emit, depending on where you are coming from.”

DiCaprio also interviews Elon Musk, the founder of the automobile company, Tesla. Musk is promoting the building of “gigafactories” – each of which would produce batteries/cells equal to 85 GWh/yr. Musk believes that 100 of these factories, built throughout the world, would transition the planet to sustainable energy.

Finally, DiCaprio meets with former astronaut, Dr. Piers Sellers, himself having been diagnosed with fatal pancreatic cancer, who despite that, remains an optimist:

“There’s hope … I’m basically an optimistic person. I really do have faith in people. And I think once people come out of the fog of confusion on this issue and the uncertainty on this issue and realistically appreciate it on some level as a threat, and are informed on some level on what the best action is to do to deal with it, they’ll get on and do it and what seemed almost impossible to deal with becomes possible.

The film opens with a scene of Hieronymus Bosch’s Garden of Earthly Delights, which was painted more than 500 years ago, but it speaks to today, DiCaprio says, with its “twisted, decayed, burnt landscape.” The movie is named after the middle panel —Humankind before the Flood—which, he said, acts as an allegorical warning to the world of what could come next if it fails to act on climate change. DiCaprio said the triptych’s final panel shows a “paradise that’s been degraded and destroyed.”

Even though the movie was filmed before the presidential election, with DiCaprio stating in the opening scene that the then-upcoming election was so important to the future of the world – the election results do not detract from this movie, and if anything, make it even more relevant.

I was privileged to see the movie and act as moderator of a recent panel discussion of climate scientists, which was hosted by Washburn University. (Note: the discussion of several of the scenes in this film relied on information provided by EcoWatch at http://www.ecowatch.com/leonardo-dicaprio-before-the-flood-205707140.html, and Collider.com at http://collider.com/before-the-flood-review-leonardo-dicaprio/#documentary.) Google “watch before the flood online” to find ways to watch for $2.99.
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particularly communities of color, and continuing to speak out against racism, xenophobia, sexism, bigotry, and hate.

2. Recruit – In the past ten days, we have seen an outpouring of support from the public in the form of donations, memberships, volunteer recruitment, and social media posts. We will continue to aggressively recruit new activists, new volunteers, and new donors. Our grassroots are the foundation of our strength, and we will work to engage and activate a new generation of Sierra Club leaders.

3. Train – Having a larger membership and a deeper pool of activists will help, but how we develop those resources is just as important. In 2017, we will invest more deeply in staff and volunteer training than we have ever done before. For example, every staff member and the lead volunteers from every chapter will get training on equity and inclusion as we accelerate our anti-racism work.

4. Sustain – We have tough fights ahead, but we refuse to be in a defensive crouch for years to come. We will continue to make clean-energy progress in cities, in the private sector, with public utility commissions, and internationally, and we will increase our investments in those areas where we can stay on the offensive. We must be relentless in our fight against fossil fuels and for clean energy and smart transportation policies at the city and state levels.

Over the past week, I’ve been in touch with the leaders of many of our progressive allies. In addition to what I’ve outlined above, the Sierra Club will be looking for opportunities to join forces with other organizations on specific fights where we can unite disparate parts of our movement, learn from one another, and put up some early wins.

One last thing: Donald Trump may be president for the next several years, but the Sierra Club has been doing this work for nearly 125 years. We’ll still be here when he is gone, and our movement will be bigger, stronger, and more innovative than ever for having opposed him. For many of us, these will be the biggest environmental fights of our lives, but they’ll also be the most meaningful. We’re ready to give it everything we’ve got.

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million transfer from the State General Fund, has been purposely shortchanged by Governor Brownback and the Kansas legislature for the past several years. Yet, this year, with the appointment of a strong environmental advocate Tom Sloan as chair of House’s newly formed ‘Water and Environment’ committee, and Dan Kerschen as Chairman of the Senate’s Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, I expect a strong discussion of funding options for our state’s most precious natural resource. Funding ideas include a portion of our state’s sales tax to be dedicated to our State Water Plan Fund, as well as taxing sodas. Of course, because around 80% of Kansas water is used by 20% of our state’s farmers, the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club supports stronger fees for our state’s largest water users, Kansas irrigators.

Another important environmental topic is the issue of earthquakes and fracking. Because of the dramatic increase in disposal of toxic wastewater from fracking operations in recent years, Kansas has seen a number of man-made earthquake events that have caused significant damage and distress to families and communities across the state. In the last 4 years alone, Kansas has seen 392 earthquakes over a 2.5+ magnitude, whereas the previous 100 years (1912-2012) we’ve seen only 27 similar seismic events. The time has come for the Kansas legislature to hold its first public hearing on earthquake damages involving not only those people and communities who have been affected by these new manmade earthquakes, but also the real estate and insurance companies, as well as the at-fault oil and gas industry for a full discussion of the issue.

Finally, we hope that the leadership of Kansas will take time to institute new ways Kansans can benefit economically, as well as environmentally. We hope legislators will take on the issue of energy efficiency, and help many Kansans upgrade their homes and businesses with no-cost or low-cost financing options for energy efficiency. We also hope the Kansas legislators will adopt new policies and programs to renew Kansas agriculture by supporting local food and farms. Currently Kansas imports 96% of our fruits and vegetables we all consume, which doesn’t make any sense for an agriculture state. Our economy would do much better if our consumers paid our friends and neighbors for our food, not Californians or out-of-country suppliers. Finally, Kansas would greatly benefit economically by taking a lead on climate change and carbon pollution. Combining our background and talents for innovation and engineering with our state’s natural resources and tendency for energy conservation, Kansas could be a model state for America when it comes to energy and energy storage.

The Kansas legislative session begins January 9th.
We Held An Election; Twitter Won

Gail Shafton - Kanza Group Executive Committee

One hundred and forty characters at a time. That’s how you win the hearts and minds of the media, activists, and the most highly engaged people in America. Fake news, partisan Internet news sites, Facebook …they helped disseminate the message. @realDonaldTrump triumphed. #socialmediamatters. @realDonaldTrump is 70 years old.

Where were you? Watching network news? Writing letters to the editor? Reading the newspaper? And where was everyone else?

Some statistics:
- 68% of all American adults (including those who are not online) use Facebook. And most of them check in daily.
- 62% of online adult users who are age 65 and older use Facebook.
- 83% of female and 75% of male internet users are on Facebook.
- A majority of Americans use social media to get their news; half of the people who searched for presidential election news turned to social media sites to get it.
- Twitter users are more likely to be between the ages of 18-29 (Millennials). Just 10% of 65+ online adults use it.

“Social Media Update 2016”, Pew Research Center, November 11, 2016

Some lessons:
Today, news and opinion are driven by social media. News organizations heavily use social media sites to promote their articles. While Twitter’s viability is at risk, the 2016 election demonstrated that short, media-savvy messaging engaged activists and set agendas. The #hashtag will live on. Punchy, in-the-moment messages, especially for younger audiences and social activists, are key organizing tools. Is there anyone who doesn’t know about #BlackLivesMatter? Or #ImWithHer?

A case study:
Consider this: Women are increasingly activated as a result of the misogyny and social injustices that were exposed in the 2016 election cycle. In November 2015, a few women started a private group on Facebook to provide shelter for women, mostly Hillary supporters, who wanted to share their personal stories without being attacked online. It became a haven. Within one month it had 3.7 million members, primarily women, from all over the country. I am one of them. The metro Kansas City group grew in a matter of weeks to over 13,000 members and has already met face-to-face twice, established neighborhood groups, live-streamed their events on Facebook, and connected people who have never been activists before. My neighborhood has almost 300 members. My legislators attend our meetings and comment online. I volunteered to coordinate information and action on environmental issues. NONE of the people who have begun to reach out to me have been active in the environmental movement before. This is the power of social media.

The mandate:
Getting connected is no longer optional, if you care. If you want to engage people who are willing to effect change, social media is your friend. If you need to find like-minded people who can offer support, Facebook is the new water cooler and coffee shop.

I’m on the Executive Committee of the Kanza Group. And I’m leading the initiative to develop a local communications strategy and restructure our communications activities. We are gathering a group of people, both new members and old hands, who recognize that we can’t just write checks. We have to organize. And a lot of them have told me, “I want to learn how to use social media.”

Mike Brune set our goals: Resist, Recruit, Train and Sustain. So here’s what we are going to do:
- Put up a Kanza Group Facebook page, start a local digital newsletter, and exploit visual media like photos and live video to extend our reach and “get local”.
- Provide classes on digital literacy where we will TRAIN online activists.
- Demonstrate how to engage with groups of activists who are outside the environmental movement so we can build new relationships and RECRUIT new allies.
- We’re working on an entirely new Group-based communications strategy to engage our local community and build a corps of Kanza communicators. They will spread the word digitally and door-to-door when action is needed so we can SUSTAIN our ability to effect change at the grassroots level.
- We’re going to build new ties to media and politicians with well-honed messages so we can effectively RESIST. We are not going to be left behind. Resistance is not futile. We will weave our own web of people who care enough to act because #theclockisticking. There is too much at stake to let fear of technology stop us. We will pick up our smartphones, open our laptops, grab our tablets and organize. Why? Because we can’t afford to opt out. Because no 70-year old can beat us. Social media? We got this.
The Gyp Hills Hike Saw Great Vistas and Shared Lots of Geology and History

A View, continued from page 7

to data from the Energy Information Administration. To put that in context, the country lost roughly the same total capacity of all of Kentucky’s electric sector coal plants that year. Another 41 coal plants were scheduled to close in 2016, with a combined net capacity of 5,326.5 megawatts. In our state, the Kansas Chapter has been at the forefront of educating the public on the link between the use of fracking by the oil industry and the resulting rise in the number and severity of earthquakes. Rulings by the Kansas Corporation Commission and its Oklahoma counterpart designed to limit the use of salt water injection wells, which dispose of the by-products of fracking, have significantly reduced seismicity on areas where fracking has occurred. The Kansas Chapter has long promoted wind energy, which now represents more than 23 percent of electricity produced in the state and a total investment of about $10 billion. About 45 percent of the power is exported. In 2015 Kansas lagged behind only Iowa (31.3 percent) and South Dakota (25.5 percent) for wind’s share of electricity generation.

There are many signs of hope, if we only pause to look – and to act as well. My wish for the New Year as that we Sierrans take the time to do both.

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UnTrue Democracy

By Bill Cather, Southwind Group

Three million votes counted – but not counted – elected a “democrat” and just won’t count! The antique mechanism of the “republic” elects the U.S. President. The Slaves 3/5 Compromise rules us. History rules us from its grave and it is not democratic. Our Democracy is not “one man one vote.” It is left over from our republican past when even white men did NOT have universal suffrage.

In the “good old days” only landowners could vote. The deist-founding fathers were liberals, revolutionaries who admired the French Revolution. However, they were unable to fix the moral sinfulness of slavery and embrace “one man one vote.” This is the historic root and last vestige of our compromise with slavery in the late 1700’s. It was immoral but necessary then to unify the colonies.

It is obvious to thinkers that the Electoral College (and state control of the Federal Elections) is immoral and should be reformed. However, it is not obvious to those who “feel” they are losing their heritage. Those who embrace the Electoral College and state control of Federal Elections “know” that they are morally correct and are traditionalists-conservative.

Someone said it is not what you know that will hurt you, and of course that is true. It is what you damned well “do know but just ain’t so!” Mark Twain plagiarized this truth from someone else.

The historical legacy of the nation is the necessity of confronting this last vestige of the sin of slavery enshrined in the American Constitution. It is vital that we live up to our true heritage and our religious obligations to reform the constitution to comport with the 21st Century ideals of fairness, equality of votes, racism and slavery. Amend the constitution sooner or later, but it is a moral problem.

Bewildered and Left Silently Still

By Yvonne Cather, Southwind Group

I’m sure I am in good company when I say I am bewildered and silent. I feel betrayed by our country’s politics and the way our media tends to rate everything for its entertainment value. I’m learning a lot about the Electoral College and the history behind it though. I can’t believe we haven’t already changed the Constitution by now to reflect “one man one vote.”

I feel cheated a future that I have worked towards for the past eight years. I’ve been working hard as an environmental activist to fight the fossil fuel giants and just when we think we have made some very good ground, the citizens of the United States elect Trump. I’m beside myself, left in the corner to sulk in silence and to write my apology letter to my grandchildren and my great grandchildren.

I just don’t want to believe this election comes down to color! I read the analysis in the media that president elect won by two-thirds (67%) of non-college whites and by 4 points won whites with a college degree 49% to 45%. In my mind I want to rationalize the issue that was hard fought was targeting jobs. Jobs that president elect claims he can deliver. I want to think that jobs can help heal this nation by offering clean energy jobs with programs that are designed to retrain and retool workers in our community along with incentives for companies to build wind turbines and solar panels and batteries locally. Farmers could go back to work growing alternative crops such as industrial hemp to make, T-shirts, rope, and vehicle parts to help push back climate change and bring us into the 21st Century.

Keeping fossil fuels in the ground is critical. There is no need or demand for coal, Sierra Club has successfully fought hard to retire 247 coal plants leaving only 277 to retire. We halted one of the largest proposed coal plant expansions here in Kansas.

The demand for oil is gluten and proves to be perceived to be above the law, but our fight here in Kansas against the K-XL, Enbridge and now against the Dakota Access pipelines have helped to halt progress. Sierra Club is standing up to Big Oil! Our goal is to revoke the oil industry’s license to operate above the law.

The demand for natural gas has proven to be very dangerous to everyone and everything. Our homes and businesses are being destroyed here in Kansas causing earthquakes that shatters our dreams. We’ve been successful at getting limits put on the volume of wastewater and the rate at which the wastewater is injected into the injection wells in Kansas, but that has not stopped the oil and gas companies from fracking in or around Kansas. Kansas does not have adequate protection to protect our citizens and landscape.

We will transition to a clean-energy future, but when? Together, we can move America beyond fossil fuels, but right now it seems president elect is about to put a wrench in all the work I’ve been doing these past eight years. I stand with you in silence, but I’m not done working for the environment. My hope is that we can convince president elect that clean energy jobs need to be part of the mix of putting American citizens back to work!
Kansas People’s Agenda 2017 Rally
By Darnell Hunt

On January 11, 2016, a coalition of diverse groups from across Kansas are planning a rally at the Capitol Building in Topeka to introduce “The Kansas People’s Agenda 2017” (KPA) to an expected crowd of 1000+ supporters and Kansas Legislators. Please arrive at 9:30 a.m. The rally starts at 10:15 am. There are 15 issues the rally will focus on:

- Racial & Indigenous Justice
- Economic Justice
- Adequate & Equitable Public Education
- Healthcare Access
- Anti-Corruption Policy
- Environmental Stewardship & Sustainable Agriculture
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Gender Equity
- Responsible Gun Policy
- LGBT Rights
- Voting Rights
- Immigrant Rights
- Infrastructure Investment
- Children Protection
- Religious Freedom

The KPA rally was organized in response to the ongoing Kansas financial crisis and to more recent concerns about the direction the country will take under a Trump administration. This is a Call To Action for groups and individuals across the state to come together in solidarity in support of issues and to collectively voice their concerns to legislators.

During the rally, speakers will address the 15 agenda items. There will be musicians and singers performing inspirational songs to support the 15 issues. At the end of the rally, individuals and groups will visit the offices of our legislators, and will personally present a copy of the Kansas People’s Legislative Agenda for 2017. Those who can’t attend may participate by either emailing or phoning their legislators to discuss the Agenda and to ask for their support. More information will be provided regarding the email/phone effort at a later date.

Please visit the link below to RSVP for the event. Also, invite everyone you know to participate by either attending or emailing/phoning. https://goo.gl/forms/Gf1uCMLkwa-z1Zc5s1

You can contact one of the KPA members of the organizing team by emailing: kspeoplesagenda@gmail.com

Ban Plastic Bags in Wichita!!

Lori Lawrence, Chapter ExCom and Southwind Group ExCom member, is starting a campaign to Ban Plastic Bags in Wichita. If you have ideas on how to make this a success please contact her at lawrencelorid@gmail.com.

You may also check out her Facebook page for this at https://www.facebook.com/BantheBagWichita/ to see all the details.
Lawrence Stands With Standing Rock

Intro by Karin Pagel-Meiners of Reverend Thad Holcombe Speech

A rally for Standing Rock at the South Park Gazebo, in Lawrence, Kansas, Saturday, November 12, 2016

This rally was in response to the shocking violence perpetrated against indigenous people and their allies by law enforcement officers at the construction site of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) on Thursday, October 27th, and was in support of the sovereign people of the Standing Rock Tribe in their struggle to defend their land and water and sacred burial sites pursuant to the treaties of 1851 and 1868. Oil pipelines are notorious for catching fire, as well as poisoning water through leakage. In addition, the oil intended to be pumped through the DAPL represents a vast quantity of carbon pollution contributing to our already serious climate crisis.

The rally was sponsored by LCPJ (Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice), LETUS (Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability), WATR (“We Are The Revolution,” formerly the “Douglas County Coalition for Bernie Sanders”), as well as other co-sponsoring groups including the Sierra Club Wakarusa Group.

Here is the text of the comments of one of the speakers, the Reverend Thad Holcombe:

I would be remiss if I did not include a context for this afternoon’s “Lawrence Stands With Standing Rock.”

Many of us come to this gathering with anger, fear, and disillusionment given the election. This is understandable, especially when we care for the earth and learn of President-Elect Trump’s first 100 day contract with America. Hear these statements in that contract:

-Removing the restrictions on the production of $50 trillion of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas, and clean coal.
-Lifting of the Obama-Clinton roadblocks, allowing vital energy infrastructure projects, like the Keystone Pipeline, to move forward.
-Canceling the billions in pledges to the U.N. Climate Change programs, and that money will be used to fix America’s water and environmental infrastructure.

In the midst of this is the Standing Rock resistance to a pipeline with its threat to water, as well as to the integrity of the Sioux in North Dakota and to all Native Americans and indigenous people. We come here is solidarity with the water guardians in North Dakota and the Native Americans and indigenous peoples everywhere.

Let us not be naive. The reality may well be that the flow of oil through North Dakota will occur, but it does not need to be in the route now proposed. The issue is one of injustice—so deep that it begins with the founding of this nation.

To be a good, patriotic American is to neglect, if not deny, the genocide of the native and indigenous peoples as well as the enslavement of African-Americans. This is a narrative, a story of the founding of America that is a part of our DNA for many white Americans. What occurred to me, a person of mostly English descent, is unfortunately typical. I was raised on a cattle ranch in Oklahoma, in the Osage Nation. The Osage were pushed into boundaries, called reserves, in Kansas in the 1830’s. They were harassed and exploited, and stereotyped. (Read Little House On the Prairie.) The settlers came assuming it was their land, a pattern they learned from being a part of Manifest Destiny and legislation of the Homestead Act. The Osage then went to land purchased from the Cherokee to a region now known as the Osage Nation, the largest county in Oklahoma. The Osage were not protected in Kansas, nor respected, except, interestingly enough, by the Catholic Jesuits. The Osage moved south and arrived in what is now Osage County in 1871.

I went to grade school and high school in Pawhuska, the Osage capital. My white perspective through privileged eyes prevented me from seeing something I had been living with for close to 50 years. Even though I had gone to school with classmates who were Osage, Cherokee, and Ponca—my classmates had names like Big Heart, Red Corn, Mashunkashey, Labadie, Fronkier, Moon—the list goes on, but I did not really know them. I, along with my classmates, never had a curriculum on Native American history, including the Osage. What a missed opportunity! This was systemic racism, and as
a result, I was robbed of the possibility of relating to my Native American friends in a more complete sense.

It was years later that I was awakened to see justice needed and justice denied.

My eyes and ears and hopefully my heart have been opened over the years to know that the erosion of Native American treaty rights began with the founding of America. This disregard continued, especially in the 1850’s and 60’s. An attorney, Peter Capossela, who has represented the Standing Rock Tribe in the past stated: “The war against the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is the longest war in American history, and the pipeline is a new front.”

Reports describe that the pipeline being contested was originally to go north of Bismarck. If not proposed initially, it is still an option. But why was it not initially routed outside of the Sioux sacred space? It is the same story, one we are familiar with in Lawrence when one reviews the struggle to reroute the highway through the Haskell/Baker Wetlands. Going on an alternative route would have meant purchasing land of those who lived south of the Wakarusa River. It was not convenient. Instead, the Wetlands, considered a sacred space and a vanishing ecosystem, was to be the route of the South Lawrence Trafficway, and today in the Lawrence Journal-World the trafficway was touted for being a much quicker route for getting across the city.

It was convenient again and less expensive to go through the Wetlands than south of the Wakarusa. (Definition of “convenient:” A situation that makes something easy or useful for someone, serves one’s comfort or interest. Reduces work or time required to do something. It makes you comfortable.) So, denial of our national history is convenient. Denial of the diversity of the citizens is convenient. Continued denial of the rights and integrity of Native Americans and indigenous peoples is convenient.

How is it that over and over again, the dominant culture sets the agenda? It is convenient. And this word “convenient” is one that denotes something we do that is comfortable and serves our individual interest.

I want to share with you an analogy. Some of you will find yourselves being defensive. I do. Convenience and profit fit with our purchase of water bottled in plastic. When we purchase bottled water, we are exercising a privilege that is addictive to the earth and profitable to many—it is convenient to use a container that is often not recycled and drink water that is no purer than out of the faucet. It is our wanting convenience that sustains our continuing to purchase water in a plastic bottle.

The current route of the pipeline in Standing Rock is convenient. It is less expensive and does not have the opposition it might receive if rerouted. It is less expensive to build on that route. Systematic racism will continue until we recognize it for what it is, it is convenient. Like using bottled water. We will continue to reap the rewards of convenience rather than change our habitual acting out of our misinformed national story of origin.

We are all living in a society that has and continues to believe that Manifest Destiny was the right call. As good Americans, we therefore deny the effect of cultural trauma experienced by the native and indigenous population, as well as African-Americans. We continue to buy our bottled water. It is convenient. The advertising tells us so. If we cannot stop buying bottled water, how are we going to acknowledge our need to re-write the history of this nation through our schools, including our universities? How are we going to find the discipline (what I call a spiritual discipline) to read and educate ourselves so we can challenge the values of dollars over the integrity of Native American and indigenous people? We have homework to do.

I propose that many of you have been doing your homework. In my faith tradition, we have the word, “repent.” Do not confine that word to a preconceived notion that it is only connected to a conversion so one can be saved for the next life. Contrary to some who do know it only for that connotation, it is a word for turning around—making a U-turn. We need to be making that U-turn even when prohibited by the dominant culture and rewrite our personal identity. The U-turn is not to a life after death but to the very depth of our living, including the suffering in this society and the disruption of the web of life.

We cannot do that rewriting and abstaining from the convenience of believing the old narrative of our nation’s beginning if we do not admit we are addicted to the old story. We need others to help us on our journey to get off our addiction. If we do this on as a task, we will open ourselves up to practicing compassion in new ways—and once you empathize and are willing to be in solidarity with those who you did not wholly appreciate before, you will be drawn into a call for justice.

To join with others in this call for justice is not easy. We are a people who have increasingly been seduced by the individualism of our day in contrast to a nurturing of the common good. We pride ourselves in our uniqueness as individuals, thinking that if we are in any community we lose any uniqueness. Actually, it is in community
when we share ourselves with one another that we enhance our uniqueness through trusting others and learning to listen. We can listen to others and ourselves. In so many ways, we have been enthralled with being so unique as individuals that we have not realized how we are complicit in what is happening in North Dakota.

Coming here tonight is an opportunity for me and you to recognize our complicity and make the U-turn by being in solidarity with the guardians in North Dakota. We can join in rewriting our national and personal narrative. The result will be a willingness to listen to others and appreciate the uniqueness of our differences as a way to be advocates for restorative justice.

In my tradition, we have the words of Micah, a prophet who spoke out in a society of the very rich and very poor. It was also a society where oppression was perpetuated in a false story of privilege to the wealthy. His words, often quoted by Martin Luther King, Jr., ring true today. It is a question, a question that begs an answer.

“The Holy has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Is that so? Does our time in the context we are living in today not invite us to be in solidarity with those who are being marginalized because of their religion, sexual orientation, race, or economic status? The answer is you being here this evening. You have chosen to be a community of individuals willing to be in solidarity with Standing Rock, the Sioux Nation, and all Native American and indigenous people. Many of you have made the U-turn and are listening to yourself and to others.

May we walk humbly and acknowledge that we are all interconnected in the web of life. May we continue to become the leaven in society so needed today to practice compassion. May we become so addicted to that practice that we become advocates of justice in North Dakota and in Lawrence, Kansas.

So be it. So be it!

The Reverend Thad Holcombe is a retired chaplain of the Ecumenical Campus Ministries and chairs the Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability (LETUS), an interfaith endeavor of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faith communities. He is a member of the Sierra Club Wakarusa Group.

In regard to these comments he states: “It was important for me to write [this address] since it helped me formulate some of my concerns, many of which I have had for a while. Jim Wallis’ book, “America’s Original Sin: Racism,” helped me as well as a book by George Tinker, an Osage, who will be the 2017 Visiting Scholar in Religion in Lawrence, “Missionary Conquest: The Gospel and Native American Cultural Genocide.” I am also digging a bit deeper into my white privilege on Sunday mornings as prompted by the book, “Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race,” by Debby White.

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Sierra Club (and Beer!) with the Southwind Group

By Lori Lawrence

We've had so much fun visiting breweries and learning how beer is made using real honey that came from a Southwind Speaker, Britt Hopper. We even got to taste some Honey Rye made with his honey!

We toured the brewhouse at River City Brewery in Wichita and learned the tricks of the trade from Ryan and Britt in September.

In November we went to Wichita Brewing Company and had their great pizza then went to their brew house to tour and learn from local rancher Bill Requa how he disposes of their spent grains by giving them to his livestock and replenishing his pasture in the process! We also learned that they can and make 6 packs using plastic holders that are recyclable and made of 96% recycled plastic. A truly environmental operation!

On January 25th we will be visiting one of the newer breweries in town, Aero Plains Brewing. We plan to eat inside but order food from the Funky Monkey Munchies food truck when we go in! The program for the night has not been decided yet but the title may be Chicks & Beer. Check the Southwind facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/SouthwindGroup/

Greensburg, Kansas Trip, Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Ride with Southwind Group to the 10th anniversary commemorating the tornado that wiped out Greensburg, Kansas. We will leave in the morning by bus, tickets will be only $20 per seat, and spend the day in Greensburg to help them remember the past and celebrate the future.

We will take tours teaching us about how they are now using renewable energy to power the city and even go to their World's Largest Hand-Dug Well museum to learn the history of the disaster and to see how they made their city “green” during its rebirth.

For updates please log in to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SouthwindGroup and check here for more information in the next Planet Kansas.
Eating as Though the Earth Matters

As Trump prepares to take on the presidency, people all over the country are realizing—now, more than ever before—it really is up to us! How many times must we see our legislative victories for the earth and for justice lose traction under the shenanigans of politicians? Now it is possible that coal, oil, Keystone XL, and a nightmare of ecological terrors could escalate. Nil Zacharias writes in the online “One Green Planet,” an article he titled, “Here’s how you can shape our environmental future with Trump as president.”

Zacharias writes, “With Donald Trump as President, huge questions loom about the future of the fight to preserve our natural ecosystems…” He notes that the EPA could possibly be abolished, or at least lose significant funds; that there could be increased subsidies for animal agriculture; and many policies to push for more coal and oil instead of alternative energy. We all agree with him when he says “The fight is not over,” but what does that fight look like now. Of course, we cannot ignore what tricks the new administration will be playing. But, more than ever, we must turn toward each other and “be the change” as Gandhi famously advised. And not just “be the change” but also help others to be that as well. As Zacharias writes, “if we care about our environment and the future of humanity, we have to start practicing change in our daily lives.”

Captain Paul Watson, vegan activist and Founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, in his November 15 “Huffington Post” article, “Why fighting Donald trump is a waste of time,” acknowledges the threats posed by a Trump administration. But he also points out that it is up to us. The keys to our survival include “Individual passion. Individual imagination. Individual initiative. Individual courage.” Depending on a politician to solve any of these problems is like depending on an oil executive to promote solar energy. It is simply not in their interest or as Bill Clinton once put it, “It’s the economy stupid.” Trump, he points out, is no better or worse than “the rest of these so-called leaders, whose agenda is to serve the corporations and to enrich themselves.”

Love, Numbers, and Consumption

Time is short. We have to use our activist time wisely. There is so much we can do individually as people who care about our earth. It is time to create the world we want and heal the human-caused damage, whether or not politicians and corporations cooperate. Our power as people is enormously greater than that of governments. That power lies in three primary areas: Love, Numbers, and Consumption.

Love—for the earth, for the wilderness, for the trees and animals, for each other and for the children of the future—that is what motivates us to keep going as we continue to stand in solidarity. The lust for power that is causing so much destruction is intimidating, but we must always remember that lust is fueled by fear. It can never match the strength of people emboldened by compassion, love, empathy, and care for all the living.

Numbers?—well, there are a lot of us, and with this election, there is evidence that our numbers just grew exponentially. More than ever, the realization is dawning that we cannot depend on the government to take good care of us if we just elect the right people. What may well be the silver lining in all this is that people are becoming ready to take care of each other and the earth, with or without the will and action of the power elite. Human rights, peace and justice, environmental, and animal rights groups may have many different missions and work to do, but it is clear that we all have one common mission. Often referred to as intersectionality, we are now seeing that all justice work, whether for the earth, animals, or people, is focused on ending oppression and violence. Most efforts on the part of one cause to end oppression can benefit the other causes. The exception to that premise occurs when activists act compassionately toward one group while unconsciously causing oppression to another. As Carla Golden states in her “activist’s lunchbox” article, “As long as those who gain the most from the current system can keep you oppressing other beings, then you excuse and permit their oppression of you.”

It is a time in our history when we activists must join together in our common goal to end oppression and build a world in which all people, animals, and the earth are protected from human greed. As Golden points out, “If education, awareness, non-violent speech, and non-violent action are part of your social justice activist toolbox, then vegan needs to describe your activist lunchbox. Without non-violent sustenance, you are fueling your activism with the oppression against which you campaign. Eat peace and campaign for peace. Awaken the vegan within. Every social justice activist’s lunchbox must contain non-violence…Intersectionality calls for veganism to protect all beings, non-humans and humans, and secure justice, freedom, and compassion for all.”

Consumption—this is mind-boggling in its potential to create the world we envision. We all know Americans’ consumption levels are off the charts compared to the rest of the world. Not only do we need to consume less, but also consume consciously and mindfully. When we shop at thrift stores, second hand stores, garage sales, Craigslist, and fair trade and ethical companies, we peacefully and nonviolently protest against big corporations and their child and adult slavery, unsafe working conditions, waste, pollution, mining for resources, and a long list of environmental, social justice, and animal atrocities caused by their reckless pursuit of profit without ethics. But more than that, with enough of us participating, we peacefully and radically reduce their profits and force them to either close or get ethical!

But our greatest influence as consumers lies in what we eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Nowhere else do we have such power to eliminate oppression of people, animals, and the earth
as we do with our food purchases. The government-subsidized animal agriculture industry causes animal suffering and death to billions of animals; causes misery among slaughterhouse and other workers; uses most of our fresh water and land; destroys rainforests and indigenous peoples’ homes; grows enough grain for animals that could be used to end world hunger; pollutes our air, waterways and seas; degrades the land; denudes forests; and destroys wildlife and their habitats. That covers many of the justice movements directly. And the good news is that it is this one industry upon which we can have the most profound impact. We can transform that industry by ourselves, without legislation, without appealing to those in power. Most of us would have a hard time eliminating all petroleum products from our purchases right now, but overnight we can tell Big Ag that we will not buy their products because they wreak havoc on the planet and all who live upon it.

There are signs that this globally destructive industry is already paying attention to our ethics in action since the number of people going plant-based is rising dramatically. An October 10 article in the New York Times by Stephanie Strom is entitled “Tyson foods, A Meat Leader, Invests in Protein Alternatives.” The largest meat processor in the country, Tyson Foods, has actually invested in the plant-based “meat alternative” company, Beyond Meat. This new company is one of several that aims to do their part to heal the earth and create social justice by giving people an alternative to the destructive practice of eating animal products. One of Beyond’s products is the Beyond Burger that some Whole Foods Markets are selling next to their meat cases. The article quotes Tyson senior Vice President of New Ventures, Monica McGurk. ‘The quality of the Beyond Burger is amazing…We think it’s a game-changing product that gives us exposure to this fast-growing part of the food business.’

This is happening, not because of legislation which continues to subsidize animal agriculture or lobbyists getting soft hearted about the environment, but because of our power to choose what we buy. Americans are simply eating more plant-based, vegan meals, and Big Ag is noticing. If they have to switch to plant-based products to continue their profitability, then that is exactly what they will do and are beginning to do. According to the Plant Based Foods Association, these new companies which include Beyond Meat, Heidi Ho, Califia Farms, and others showed $4.9 billion in sales from June of 2015 to June of 2016, outpacing in growth regular food businesses. General Mills has moved quickly on the basis of such news and has invested in Beyond Meat and another plant-based company Kite Hill.

Michele Simon, who is the executive director of the Plant Based Foods Association, said ‘The question in my mind with these acquisitions is always why they’re being done…The most positive view is that this means the meat industry is shifting away from animal meat to plant-based meat, but I don’t think we know that’s the case yet — it could also be a way of distracting attention from their industrial meat business.’ Also, if enough meat industry investors got too much control of the companies, they could destroy them. At this point, there is no doubt these animal agriculture companies have no plans to give up what has made them so rich and powerful. And that puts the responsibility back onto each one of us. If we buy plant-based and never again buy animal-based, then they will have no choice but to transform into the non-violent, non-destroyer of the earth that we know they must. According to Strom’s article, one survey found that 22 percent of consumers said they were eating more plant-based meat substitutes than they did the previous year.

By “being the change,” by living without oppression, by acknowledging our power and our ethics, we can re-wild the earth; we can bring the forests and prairies back; we can help wild animals on the brink of extinction thrive once more; we can end world hunger. By eating plant-based meals we tell Big Ag we are through with them. By not supporting them, we prevent them from continuing to pollute the air and waters of earth. I’m not saying legislation, demonstrations, and other forms of protest aren’t important. They are critical. But recognizing the simple fact that we can make an enormous difference from this moment on by living non-violently is more important than ever before. This is something we can each do as individuals right now and from now on that will bring us exponentially closer to the healed world we hold in our hearts. It’s up to us. The power elite is not going to do it for us. And that’s ok, because we can do this ourselves. I know we can. We have the passion, imagination, initiative, and courage that Paul Watson says we need. We have all those things. We can do this.

© 2016, Judy Carman, M.A., is author of Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken’s Soul and co-author of The Missing Peace: The Hidden Power of our Kinship with Animal; 2014 winner of the Henry Spira Grassroots Animal Activist award; and owner of a truck and a car powered by used vegetable oil and house and a Chevy Volt electric car powered by solar. Her primary websites are circleofcompassion.org and peacetoallbeings.com.

Zacharias article can be found at http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/shape-our-environmental-future-with-trump-as-president/?utm_source=Green+Monster+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=d595d6129e-NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bbf62dd34-d595d6129e-106618509

Carla Golden's article can be found at http://www.carlagoldenwellness.com/2015/04/27/what-any-social-justice-activists-lunchbox-must-contain/


Paul Watson's article is at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-watson/why-fighting-donald-trump_b_12951212.html
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Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

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David Kirkbride*, Secretary, Outings Chair, (316) 204-8920, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Gary Anderson***, PAC Treasurer, Topeka Group Rep, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Yvonne Cather*, Council Delegate, (316) 204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Lori Lawrence*, Southwind Group Rep, Money & Politics, (316) 516-3632, lawrencelorid@gmail.com
Richard Mabion*, Environmental Justice Chair, (913) 481-9920, rmabion@sdgglobal.net
Jennifer Robinson*, Polical Chair, (785) 550-6123, jlrshar@gmail.com
Gail Shafton*, ExCom Member, (913) 909-3127, gail@shafton.com
Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net
Deborah Gafvert***, Southwind Group Rep, (316) 733-5102, dsgafvert@gmail.com
Janet Lhuillier***, Kanza Group Rep, (913) 226-0719, JanetL312@everestkc.net
Karim Pagel-Meiners***, Wakarusa Group Rep, (785) 841-4258, kpagelmeiners@earthlink.net
Bill Griffith****, Energy Chair, (913) 772-8960, bill.griffith@kansas.sierraclub.org
Zack Pistora***, Legislative/Lobbying, (785)865-6503, zackpistora@gmail.com
Bob Sommer****, Development, (816) 898-1100, bobsommer09@gmail.com
Craig Volland****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 788-7336, volland@kansas.sierraclub.org
Craig Wolfe****, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications, (913) 299-4474, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
Elaine Giessel*, Group Chair, Water Quality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)
Carol Barta*, Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, snowsage54@hotmail.com
Scott Smith*, Treasurer, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net

Kanwa Group (Kansas City)
Elaine Giessel*, Group Chair, Water Quality Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
Kent Rowe*, Chair, Energy Chair (316) 409-7178, harkglider@yahoo.com
Dave Kirkbride*, Secretary, Outings Chair, Political Chair, (316) 945-7856, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
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Deborah Gafvert*, Chair, (316) 733-5102, dsgafvert@gmail.com
Trent Franz*, ExCom Member, trentf82@gmail.com, (785) 706-7857
Lori Lawrence*, (316) 516-3632, lawrencelorid@gmail.com
Stuart Bolt**, Chapter Group Rep, Membership Chair, (316) 299-3946, boltstuart@yahoo.com

Topeka Group
Gary Anderson*, Chair, Program Chair, Chapter Group Rep, (785) 246-3229, gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Bill Cutler*, Secretary, Treasurer, (785) 379-9756, spudspa@yahoo.com
Ramon Powers*, ExCom Member, (785) 224-9225, ramonpowers@sbcglobal.net
Anita Frank*, Conservation Chair, (785) 273-5305, afrank16@cox.net
Paul Post*, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
Duncan Whittier*, ExCom Member, (785) 234-6819, duncan888@aol.com

Wakarusa Group
Karim Pagel-Meiners*, Acting Chair, (785) 841-4258, kpagelmeiners@earthlink.net
Dave Kyner*, Treasurer, (785) 856-1789, dkyner@kansas.sierraclub.org

Winter - 2017
General Meetings

More details at www.Kansas.SierraClub.org/Calendar/

Kanza Group (Kansas City), Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 pm
Myths and Reality of the Annual Flint Hills Burning.
The annual burning of the Flint Hills rangelands has produced widespread smoke plumes and exceedances of air quality standards in eastern Kansas and surrounding states. Craig Volland, Chair of the Kansas Chapter's Air Quality and Agriculture Committees, will address the primary causes of the problem, the consequences to human health and to wildlife, and the inadequate regulatory response.
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W 79th St, Overland Park, KS. Park on north side.
Contact - Yvonne A Cather, 316-204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City), Tuesday, February 7
Explore & Enjoy -- Sierra Club Outdoors.
When he founded the Sierra Club in 1892, John Muir discovered that leading people into the wild better inspired them to protect it. This concept grew into an outings program offering thousands of local, national & international outings annually. Tonight, local outings leaders will illustrate the variety of trips offered and display some of the gear we take along.
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W 79th St, Overland Park, KS. Park on north side.
Contact - Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com.

Kanza Group (Kansas City), Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 pm
Is Kansas City the Next Port of Los Angeles?
Health Impacts of Freight Air Pollution. Kerry Herndon 816-804-9277 sfajane@gmail.com. Eric Kirkendall will discuss the business of freight in Kansas City, its growth trajectory, the impact of diesel exhaust on public health, and the work done by the Diesel Health Project and the KC regional CleanAirNow coalition.
Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W 79th St, Overland Park, KS. Park on north side.
Contact - Kerry Herndon 913-334-5083 sfajane@gmail.com.

Southwind Group (Wichita), Friday, January 13, 6:30 pm
Transportation.
6:30 pm – Social hour begins. Finger Food will be available. Please bring your own dinnerware. 7:30 pm - Phil Nelson, Interim Director of WAM,PO, presentation will relate transportation and how various trends will have a huge impact on how we move people, goods and services, and how WAM,PO will have to look at many changing variables as the future is planned.
Where - Great Plains Nature Ctr, 6232 East 29th St N, Wichita, KS
Contact - Yvonne A Cather, 316-204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita), Friday, February 10, 6:30 pm
Legislative Update
6:30 pm – Social hour begins. Finger Foods - Food will be available. Please bring your own dinnerware. 7:30 pm - Zack Pistora, Legislative Director for the Kansas Chapter Sierra Club, will inform about the legislative assault to our environment. He will also tell what must be done to protect our precious resources from these attacks.
Where - Great Plains Nature Ctr, 6232 East 29th St N, Wichita, KS
Contact - Yvonne A Cather, 316-204-8920, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita), Friday, March 10, 6:00 pm
Annual Fragile Earth Banquet & Auction

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence), Saturday, January 21, 8:30 am
Kaw Valley Eagle Day.
Stop by the Sierra Club Wakarusa Group table at the Kaw Valley Eagle Day. Better yet, volunteer to help set up and table.
Where - Free State High School, 4700 Overland Drive, Lawrence, KS
Contact - Karin Pagel-Meiners at kpagelmeiners@gmail.com.

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence), Thursday, February 2 6:30 pm
Vegan Potluck
Hosted by Melissa Hickam. Please RSVP to Melissa. Enjoy socializing with your fellow Sierra Club members and help plan activities for 2017!
Where - 2736 Rawhide Ln, Lawrence, KS
Contact - Melissa Hickam 785-865-3722 melissahickam@yahoo.com.

Topeka Group, Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 pm
Leonardo DiCaprio’s “Before The Flood”
6:30 pm, Meet, Greet & Gather. 7:00 pm, View the 2016 documentary about climate change. Co-produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, who shares his 3 year journey to every corner of the globe to document the devastating impacts of climate change. We cannot afford to have political leaders out there that do not believe in modern science or the scientific method or empirical truths. We’ll discuss the film and current events after.
Where - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Marvin Auditorium 101C, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka
Contact - Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 ganderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group, Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 pm
Legislative Update
6:30 pm, Meet, Greet & Gather. 7:00 pm, Zack Pistora, Legislative Director and our Sierra Club Lobbyist, will give us his annual update on what is going on in the KS Legislature. Zack can give us the status of all the important environmental issues that we care about, answer questions and give us advice as to any actions we can take that would help key legislation. Everyone invited.
Where - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Marvin Auditorium 101C, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka
Contact - Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 ganderson1963@gmail.com

Topeka Group, Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 pm
‘The Paradox of the Prairie Dog’
6:30 pm, Meet, Greet & Gather. 7:00 pm, Elaine Giessel will tell the story of the successful relocation of 500 prairie dogs from a BLM facility in southern Kansas to a private bison ranch in the Gyp Hills near Medicine Lodge. Giessel has been a Kansas Chapter leader for many years most recently as Conservation Chair. She represents Sierra Club on the Kansas Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Council to Secretary Jennison of the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Everyone welcome.
Where - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Marvin Auditorium 101C, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka
Contact - Gary Anderson 785-246-3229 ganderson1963@gmail.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence), Saturday, January 21, 8:30 am
Kaw Valley Eagle Day.
Stop by the Sierra Club Wakarusa Group table at the Kaw Valley Eagle Day. Better yet, volunteer to help set up and table.
Where - Free State High School, 4700 Overland Drive, Lawrence, KS
Contact - Karin Pagel-Meiners at kpagelmeiners@gmail.com.

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence), Thursday, February 2 6:30 pm
Vegan Potluck
Hosted by Melissa Hickam. Please RSVP to Melissa. Enjoy socializing with your fellow Sierra Club members and help plan activities for 2017!
Where - 2736 Rawhide Ln, Lawrence, KS
Contact - Melissa Hickam 785-865-3722 melissahickam@yahoo.com.
Sierra Club Outings

Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. 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. Outings organizers have a Meetup webpage for the latest outings updates at: http://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/. Outings are also listed at http://kansas.sierraclub.org/outings/.

Mon, Jan 02, 2017 10:15 AM,. Kanza Outing,. Day Hike at Wilson State Park, near Sylvan, KS. Matt Verhulst 913-484-2212 zionhikes@yahoo.com.

We will day hike 6 miles along the Hell Creek Loop at Wilson State Park, walking steadily and enjoying the views along this moderate trail. You may combine it with the Rocktown Loop Day Hike later the same afternoon. Unless you have the KDWPT pass, a $5.00 entrance fee per vehicle is required. Bring a daypack, food, water, and anything else you might need. Not a hike for children or pets. $3 donation to the Sierra Club is requested.

Mon, Jan 02, 2017 2:00 PM,. Kanza Outing,. Day Hike at Lucas Park (Wilson Lake), near Lucas, KS. Matt Verhulst 913-484-2212 zionhikes@yahoo.com.

We will day hike 3 miles along the Rocktown Loop at Lucas Park (Wilson Lake), walking steadily and enjoying the views along this easy trail. You may combine it with the Hell Creek Loop Day Hike earlier the same morning. There is no entrance fee. Bring a daypack, food, water, and anything else you might need. Not a hike for children or pets. $3 donation to the Sierra Club is requested.

Sat, Jan 07, 2017 10:00 AM,. Kanza Outing. Wonderful Winter Views at Lewis & Clark State Park, Rushville, MO. Eileen McManus 816-523-7823 eileen4250@sbcglobal.net. Sandy Parke 816-536-4028 sandybparker@gmail.com.

Join us for “Wonderful Winter Views” at Lewis & Clark State Park. Carl Clarke, park interpreter, will lead us on a mile walk to the pavilion overlook near the lake where we hope to spot some bald eagles. Optional lunch in Atchison afterwards. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly and wear sturdy shoes. $3.00 donation requested.

Sat, Jan 14, 2017 10:00 AM,. (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Weston Bend State Park, Weston, MO. Sara Pittman 785-764-0011 nomadicthumbs@gmail.com. Nate Southwick 785-760-3219 landwhe@gmail.com.

Join us for a day hike on several trails at Weston Bend State Park including the Weston Bluffs trail overlooking the Missouri River. Bring water, snacks, lunch. Dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for variety of trail conditions. $3 donation requested.


Join us for a special winter trail maintenance event on this 28-mile loop trail halfway between Lawrence and Topeka. Bring lunch, water, snacks, work gloves, and if you have them, a lopper or bow saw. Weather postponement date is Feb 4.

Sat, Jan 28, 2017 10:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Cave Spring Interpretive Center, Kansas City, MO. Eileen McManus 816-523-7823 eileen4250@sbcglobal.net. Sandy Parke 816-536-4028 sandybparker@gmail.com.

Join us on our stroll through historic Cave Springs Park. Remains of prohibition-era buildings where the elite of the day met to illegally imbibe and socialize will be viewed and investigated. The Santa Fe Trail passed through the land where a cave reveals the spring feeding an underground stream whose waters travel beneath Blue Ridge Boulevard and beyond. $3.00 donation requested.

Sat, Feb 04, 2017 9:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Beginning Backpack Series, Discovery Center, Kansas City, MO. John Haynes 913-742-0100 jhaynes5018@everestkc.net.

This is a four-part series consisting of two 6-hour classroom sessions (Feb 4 & Mar 4), a 2-hour shakedown hike (Mar 11 or 12), and a 2-3 day backpacking trip Mar 17-19 (prerequisite is attending both classroom sessions). Total cost $50/person.


We will meet at the Great Plains Nature Center. We will then take a hike around Chisholm Creek park to study the wildlife. Please wear appropriate clothes for the weather. Please include gloves as we will be picking up trash as we hike. We ask for a $5 donation to be used to further our outings program. Southwind. Stuart Bolt, (316) 299-3946, boltstuart@yahoo.com

Sat, Feb 11, 2017 9:00 AM. Wakarusa Outing. Hike the North Shore Trails at Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS. Tim Cross 785-330-3655 tecross3@gmail.com.

Weather permitting, get outside for a winter hike at Clinton Lake near Lawrence following the shoreline on the North Shore Trails. Appropriate footwear and clothing required. $3 donation requested.


Come and enjoy a bus trip to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. The Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, KS is a world class space museum that was named one of the first affiliates of the
Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

prestigious Smithsonian Institution. Join us for a trip to the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson on Sat, Feb 18th. We will take a bus for this fantastic educational tour of the museum and see their wonderful film in the Carey Digital Dome Theater, educating us on national parks. We will be going by bus. We can seat 24 people, and pay only $15 per seat. We will leave Wichita at 8:30 am and return by 6:00 pm. Meet us at Towne East in the upper parking lot on the north side of Dillard's. The cost of your tickets to enter and enjoy a Digital Dome show, Dr. Goddard's Lab & a tour of the Hall of Space Museum to learn about our history and see artifacts from the National Air & Space museum plus a large collection of Soviet artifacts for only $14 (plus tax) for the day IF YOU PRE-PAY by sending a check to Sierra Club Southwind Group to 321 N. Lorraine Ave., Wichita, KS 67214. We will also have lunch at the Lunar Outpost, your choice of ham or turkey sandwich, chips and a drink for only $6.55 per person, cost for the ticket to get in the museum, $15.28. Cost for the bus, $15.00. Total Cost of the day trip is $36.83. Send your check for $36.83 for your admission, meal, and bus ticket and get ready for a fantastic trip with your friends in the Southwind Group!

Sat, Feb 18, 2017 10:00 AM, (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Hillsdale State Park, Paola, KS. Sara Pittman 785-764-0011 nomadicthumbs@gmail.com. Nate Southwick 785-760-3219 landwher@hotmail.com. Come out and hike the trails at Hillsdale State Park. Enjoy views of the lake and perhaps catch glimpses of a variety of birds. Bring water, snacks, lunch. Dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for a variety of trail conditions. $3 donation requested. All vehicles require day-use permit ($5) while in the state park permit area.

Sat, Feb 25, 2017 10:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Bluffwoods Conservation Area, St. Joseph, MO. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com. Join us for a day hike on several trails at the Bluffwoods Conservation Area southwest of St. Joseph. We’ll start with the 2 miles of nature trails to the east (two of which are paved) and then head over to the west side for primitive trails that total 4-5 miles in length. Bring water, snacks, lunch. $3 donation requested.

Sat, Mar 18, 2017 10:00 AM, (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Wyandotte County Lake, Kansas City, KS. Sara Pittman 785-764-0011 nomadicthumbs@gmail.com. Nate Southwick 785-760-3219 landwher@hotmail.com. Spend the day getting in some mileage and exploring Wyandotte County Lake. We’ll hike along 8+ miles of trail overlooking the lake and maybe spot the park's resident eagles. Bring water, snacks, lunch. Dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for a variety of trail conditions. $3 donation requested.

Fri, Mar 24, 2017 to Sun, Mar 26, 2017. Kanza Outing. Backcountry Backpacking at Richland Creek Wilderness, Dickey Junction, AR. Paul Gross 816-985-2339 wildwoodp@hotmail.com. Prepare for a 2-day adventure to explore the less traveled Richland Creek Wilderness, taking in Richland Falls, Twin Falls, Rose Hollow and Jack Jones Hollow. Lots to see, very few trails (plenty of bushwhacking), and several challenging water crossings. Our group of 10 or less will fervently follow Leave No Trace principles in this backcountry area. Dogs allowed with prior approval of trip leader. $10 donation requested.

Sat, Mar 25, 2017 9:15 AM. Kanza Outing. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Steve Hassler 913-707-3296 hassler@planetkc.com. Join us for a trail maintenance trip on this 28-mile loop trail halfway between Lawrence and Topeka. Bring lunch, water, snacks, work gloves, and if you have them, a lopper or bow saw. Weather postponement date is Apr 1.

Sat, May 06, 2017 8:00 AM, (Time Tentative). 4602-South Wind Group Outing. Southwind Group Outing - Greensburg, KS Visit. Lori Lawrence 316-516-3632 lawrencelorid@gmail.com. Ride with the Southwind Group to the 10th anniversary commemorating the tornado that wiped out Greensburg, Kansas. We will leave in the morning by bus, tickets will be only $20 per seat, and spend the day in Greensburg to help them remember the past and celebrate the future. We will take tours teaching us about how they are now using renewable energy to power the city and even go to their World’s Largest Hand-Dug Well Museum to learn the history of the disaster and see how they made their City “green” during it rebirth.

Deadline for the next issue is March 10

www.kansas.sierraclub.org

Calendar of Events

Summary of all Kansas Chapter Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings, Outings, and Events for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 22 and Outings page 23. For the latest update on events, go to http://kansas.sierraclub.org/calendar/

OUT - Mon, Jan 02, 2017 10:15 AM,. Kanza Outing,. Day Hike at Wilson State Park, near Sylvan, KS.

OUT - Mon, Jan 02, 2017 2:00 PM,. Kanza Outing,. Day Hike at Lucas Park (Wilson Lake), near Lucas, KS.

OUT - Sat, Jan 07, 2017 10:00 AM,. Kanza Outing. Wonderful Winter Views at Lewis & Clark State Park, Rushville, MO.


GM - Fri, Jan 13, 2017 6:30 PM. Southwind. Southwind General Meeting - Transportation.

OUT - Sat, Jan 14, 2017 10:00 AM, (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Weston Bend State Park, Weston, MO.


GM - Tues, Jan 24, 2017 7:00 PM. Topeka. Topeka Group Meeting - Before The Flood.


OUT - Sat, Jan 28, 2017 9:15 AM. Kanza Outing. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS.

OUT - Sat, Jan 28, 2017 10:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Cave Spring Interpretive Center, Kansas City, MO.

OUT - Thurs, Feb 02, 2017 6:30 PM. Wákárusa Social Event. Vegan Potluck.

OUT - Sat, Feb 04, 2017 9:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Beginning Backpack Series, Discovery Center, Kansas City, MO.


OUT - Sat, Feb 11, 2017 9:00 AM. Wákárusa Outing. Hike the North Shore Trails at Clinton Lake, Lawrence, KS.


OUT - Sat, Feb 18, 2017 10:00 AM, (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Hillsdale State Park, Paola, KS.

OUT - Sat, Feb 25, 2017 10:00 AM. Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Bluffwoods Conservation Area, St. Joseph, MO.

GM - Tues, Feb 28, 2017 7:00 PM. Topeka. Topeka Zack Pistora, Legislative Dir., Annual Update on KS Legislature.


OUT - Sat, Mar 18, 2017 10:00 AM, (Time Tentative). Kanza Outing. Day Hike at Wyandotte County Lake, Kansas City, KS.

OUT - Fri, Mar 24, 2017 to Sun, Mar 26, 2017. Kanza Outing. Backcountry Backpacking at Richland Creek Wilderness, Dickey Junction, AR.

OUT - Sat, Mar 25, 2017 9:15 AM. Kanza Outing. Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS.

GM - Tues, Mar 28, 2017 7:00 PM. Topeka. Topeka - Giessel 'The Paradox of the Prairie Dog'.

GM - Fri, Apr 14, 2017 6:00 PM. Southwind. Southwind General Meeting - Kent's and Jennifer's Solar Project.
