



PLANET KANSAS UPDATE!

News you can use from the Kansas Chapter!

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Planet Kansas Update! ***Kansas Chapter***

Issue #4, July 2017

Support Bold Nebraska on Sunday, Aug. 6, as it calls for the state to disapprove TransCanada's license for routing Keystone XL across Nebraska!

[Thanks to support from the national Sierra Club, bus tickets are only \\$10! Register and learn more here!](#)



We'll be marching in solidarity with hundreds of Nebraskans, along with Water Protectors and dirty fuels Pipeline Fighters from near and far, ahead of a week-long set of Keystone XL hearings at the Nebraska Public Service Commission. We need to send the message that Keystone XL is a threat to our land, water, and climate, and is not in the public interest. The march will conclude with a rally at the Nebraska state capitol.

Save the Date! The Kansas Chapter's biennial statewide conference is set for Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center in Lawrence, Kan. The planning committee is hard at work putting together a great line-up of speakers. And bring your walking shoes! We plan to get outdoors at this great nature preserve.

Kansas Chapter Chair Paul Post interviewed for the *Topeka Capitol Journal!* Read the article here: ["Sierra Club looks for involvement: The organization has 5,000 members in state of Kansas."](#)

Easy Steps to Personally Fight Global Warming. The Kansas Chapter's [No Sweat Action Guide to Stop Global Warming](#) has been updated to reflect the declining cost of LED lights. While installing LED lights is quick and easy, the Guide also describes how you can take simple steps to "operate" your home to reduce energy use, especially during hot weather. And no politician can stop you!

Kanza Group

Upcoming Kanza General Meetings and Programs

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/KanzaSierraClub/>

August 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Summer Social with Green Drinks KC at Fox and Hound Bar & Grill, Overland Park. Informal gathering. Food and drinks available for purchase. Networking 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Short program presented by Kanza Group on "Green Governance." Choices for elected officials will follow.

September 26, 7:00 p.m. Annual Harvest Day Film with JCCC. The film *Sustainable* will be shown in Craig Auditorium. Panel discussion to follow. Plan to arrive early to find a parking space and check in by 6:45 p.m.

October 5 or 12 (TBA), Prairie Village Environmental Fair, Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. Date and details coming soon.

Kansas City Area Outings

Details at <https://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings>

Day Hike at Wallace State Park, Sat. July 22, 9:00 a.m. RSVPs will open one week prior on July 15 at 9:00 a.m. Hike 5-6 miles along trail Lake Allaman, the beautiful wooded hills, and the meandering Deer Creek.

Solar Eclipse and Dutch Oven Primer, Sat. July 29 10:00 a.m. Join staff from Lewis and Clark State Park program about upcoming total solar eclipse and a Dutch oven cooking demonstration.

Kill Creek Silent Conditioning Hike, Sat. Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m. RSVPs open July 31 at 6:30 a.m. Hike 5-6 miles in silence on trails and sidewalks of Kill Creek Park.

Possible day trip to St. Joseph Area to watch total solar eclipse on August 21. Watch Meetup for announcement.

Other Kansas City Area Opportunities

Thursday, July 27, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Make your voice heard at the People's Hearing for Clean Air and Water at the Plaza Branch Library, Cohen Center (4801 Main, KCMO). Speakers will share how EPA budget cuts and environmental rollbacks impact the people of Kansas City. Local organizations will provide information on how to learn about clean air and water and get involved. Sponsored by Thomas Hart Benton Group of Sierra Club and Mom's Clean Air Force.

Southwind Group (Wichita area)

Go Native! Thursday, August 24, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Sweet Allie B's/ Limestone Beer Co, 707 N Waco, Suite 105, Wichita. Join Southwind Group to learn about making your yard native. Krista from the [Kansas Native Plant Society](#) will tell us where to find native plants that are easy to grow AND garden designs and signage to designate "pollinator garden" to avoid being forced to mow.

Southwind's [Bag Free Wichita](#) has teamed up with [Firefly Farm](#), Heirs to Our Oceans, Organic Publishing and [Confluence Community Center](#) to institute [Boomerang Bags](#) in Wichita. We make reusable bags and put them near shops for customers to use and bring back. We need help! If you can sew, if you have a sewing machine you do not need, if you have heavy fabric you can donate, [please contact Lori!](#)

Southwind Group has purchased a [Cynergy 160 watt foldable solar panel](#), charge controller and inverter to 120 volt to run devices. We are loaning it to Wichita State University's Dept. of Mechanical Engineering (even though the Koch brothers told the school not to use it!). You can see the solar panel at the September 8th meeting, so don't miss this one!

Southwind is already planning our fall meetings and events. On Sept. 8th, we go to [Eagle Valley Raptor Center](#) to meet some birds, while rehabilitator Ken Lockwood teaches us about these animals. Bring a simple potluck dish for fingers and a plate. **On Oct. 13th, meet Phil Nelson from WAMPO to learn about Wichita's Transportation plans.**

We are planning something special for November! A Gala at Great Plains! Bring finger-food to share and stay for our drawing! If you have something to donate or know a business that will, [contact Lori now](#). Watch for more details in *PKU!* and [at our Facebook page](#).

Of interest in Wichita!

Produce Farm Twilight Tour, Monday, August 7, 2017, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Improve the quality, shelf life, and safety of the produce you sell. Join us in touring three Wichita area produce farms to learn about their production, harvest, and marketing practices. [Registration is \\$15 by Thursday, August 3, 2017.](#) Participants will meet in a central location and board a bus for the tour. Dinner will be provided. Details will be provided upon registration.

Topeka Group

Everyone welcome! Topeka Group meetings are held at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library,

1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka. [Visit the Topeka Group Facebook page here for upcoming events and activities.](#)

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence area)

Upcoming this fall:

Wakarusa Group plans to show the film *The Dream is Now* in partnership with the Islamic Center of Lawrence and the Jewish Community Congregation, as well as LETUS. Date: TBA. Contact Thad Holcombe if you'd like to help: tjholcombe@gmail.com.

Prof. Ray Pierotti will address "Climate Change and Animal Extinction" as part of the series of talks on climate change this year. Stay tuned for date and details.

Of interest!

Thur, July 20, 6:30 p.m. "Healthy Soil and Human Health." Ellen Plumb's City Bookstore (1101 Commercial, Emporia, phone: 620-208-BOOK). Join Emporia-area farmer [Gail Fuller](#) for an informative discussion about the correlation between healthy soil and human health. The event is free; reservations recommended. [Details on Facebook](#).

Did you know?

"Just 100 companies have been the source of more than 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions since 1988, according to a new report." [To learn more, check out this recent article in The Guardian.](#)

Since January, the White House, Congress and EPA have engineered a dizzying reversal of regulations designed to protect the environment and public health. [Here's a timeline of the rollbacks to date.](#) Not mentioned is the fact that the Sierra Club, in conjunction with other organizations, is fighting back in the courts to sustain protection of the environment and the health of citizens nationwide. --Thanks to Elaine Giessel for a heads-up on this article.

Planet Kansas Update! delivers brief, concise Kansas Chapter news and action items to your in-box. Contact Bob Sommer at rsommer@kc.rr.com.

Support your Kansas Chapter!