



**Planet Kansas Update!**

**Issue #6, September 2017**



**Tyson Foods, Inc., proposes new chicken slaughterhouse in Tonganoxie.** On September 5, Kansas state officials and Tyson Foods, Inc., announced plans to build a huge chicken slaughterhouse just south of Tonganoxie, Kan. The plant would kill some 65 million chickens per year and, according to the *Topeka Capitol Journal*, would require 300 to 400 new barns in full production. Tonganoxie residents were blindsided because city and county official signed non-disclosure agreements while plans were proceeding behind closed doors in the state capitol. [Read Craig Volland's write-up, including contact info and action items here.](#)

**Holcomb is over!** Tri-State and Sunflower Electric originally sought to expand the Holcomb coal plant in 2007, but the project was blocked by legal challenges from the Sierra Club and Earthjustice. [Check out the final verdict at Think Progress.](#)

**Kansas Chapter Challenges KDHE Decision on Hog CAFO.** On Sept. 12, 2017, Craig Volland, the Kansas Chapter's Ag Chair, sent a letter on behalf of the Chapter to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment protesting the agency's decision to allow a hog operator in Phillips County to expand its operation without adhering to stricter setbacks to neighbors and to the nearest stream. [Click here to read Craig's letter to KDHE.](#)

**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.

**The Kansas Chapter was there!** The Kansas Sierra Club recently contributed legal support to Flint Hills residents in their effort to prevent the Quail Oil and Gas company from obtaining permission from the Kansas Corporation Commission to jettison up to 5,000 barrels a day of drilling waste near Strong City and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Opponents fear earthquakes and contamination of local groundwater may result if the permit is granted. Lawyers and geologists from both sides faced off before

the Kansas Corporation Commission at a hearing on August 16, 2017, in Topeka. For more info, [please contact Fracking Chair Joe Spease](#).

**[Mother Earth News Fair in Topeka](#), Oct. 21 & 22.** Kansas Sierra Club will be participating! If you would like to come and help with the booth, [sign up here](#). For more info, [contact Lori!](#)

**Annual Elections Coming Soon!** Now's your chance to make a difference! Nominations are invited for Executive Committees at the Chapter (state) and Group (local) levels. There are only two requirements: Club membership upon agreeing to become a candidate and a commitment to sharing your time and expertise with our leadership team. ExCom members have the opportunity to support their environmental passions and collaborate with experts on a wide range of issues. Please consider joining the leadership team! Contact Elaine Giessel, Chapter Nominating Committee Chair: [ecos@everestkc.net](mailto:ecos@everestkc.net)

**Thank you, Craig Wolfe!** After nearly thirty years of service to the Sierra Club's Kansas Chapter, Craig Wolfe has stepped down from his leadership role. [Click here for a brief profile of Craig's many contributions](#). Please join us in wishing him well in the next stage of his most interesting life by posting your comments at the [Kansas Chapter Facebook page](#).

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

### **Upcoming Kanza Events & Meetings**

**Tues., Sept. 26, 7:00 p.m. Annual Harvest Days Film with JCCC.** The film *Sustainable* will be shown in GEB 233, Craig Auditorium, on the Johnson County Community College campus. Panel discussion will follow. Plan to arrive early to find a parking space and check in by 6:45 p.m.

**Thurs., Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. Prairie Village Environmental Forum, Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center.** Kanza is a sponsor of this event. "Crisis in Cowtown. Coping with Climate Change: What to expect locally and how to build resilient communities." \$20 per person, advance purchase only.

**Tues., Nov. 7. General Election for local officials.**

**Tues., Nov. 14. The Future of Water in Kansas.** Sarah Hill Nelson with Governor's Task Force will discuss next steps with Kansas Water Plan. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

**Sat., Dec. 9. Holiday Pot Luck and Adventure Sharing.** Overland Park Lutheran Church. 6:00 p.m.

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/KanzaSierraClub/>  
Follow us on Facebook as events are frequently added on short notice.

**For info on Kansas City Area Outings**, check <https://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings>

## ***Southwind Group***

**Southwind Group has a Facebook page!** Don't forget to join! You will have all the latest news [@SouthwindGroup](#)

**[Phil Nelson from the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization](#)** is coming to discuss the future of transportation in ICT. Come and ask questions! Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N. Friday, Oct. 13th. Bring a dish to share at 6:30 or just come to talk to Phil at 7:30.

**Pro-Kansas Recycling Presentation** at Confluence Community Center, 520 S. Commerce, 67202. Thurs., Sept. 21, 5:30 - 7 pm. Demos & a fun craft activity involving recycled materials. [See details here](#).

**Join Southwind Group at [EcoFest 2017!](#)** Sept. 23rd, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. First Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship, 7202 E. 21st St. N! Visit all the vendors. There's plenty to see and hear! We can also use your help if you can come.

**Open Streets ICT!** Sept. 24th, 12-4 pm. Southwind will have a booth so plan to bring the kids and join us! If you would like to help [let Stuart know!](#)

**Up on the Roof** with Kansas State University professor Lee Skabelund to explain how you can have a Green Roof. The Hill Bar & Grill, 4800 E. Douglas, 67208. Plan to arrive by 6:30 p.m. on Thur., Sept. 28th, to order food and get seated.

**Gyp Hills Day Hike.** Sat., Oct. 28th. Meet at Kirkbride Ranch at 10:30 a.m. and spend the day hiking. Moderate difficulty. [Contact Dave](#) for directions and to tell him how many are coming.

**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 for farmers markets for customers to use and return. If you can sew or if you have sturdy fabric you can donate, [please contact Lori!](#) We need 400 bags by Oct 7th!

### **Topeka Group**

**Topeka Group general meeting**, Sept. 26th, 7:00 p.m., Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Sierra Club lobbyist Zack Pistora will present information about "Tyson and Tonganoxie Chicken Plants." Tyson Foods, Inc., recently announced plans to build a plant near Tonganoxie for chicken processing which will require hundreds of chicken farms over a 50 mile radius. Please come and learn about this development in our area. This is a public meeting. Members and non-members alike are welcome. Contact Gary Anderson for further info: [gjanderson1963@gmail.com](mailto:gjanderson1963@gmail.com).

**Fall Float on the Kansas River!** The Topeka Group along with Friends of the Kaw will again sponsor our annual fall float trip. Fall colors should be in full display as we launch from the 8th Street river access ramp in Lawrence for any easy float to Eudora - about 9 river miles. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one from Friends of the Kaw for \$60 per canoe or kayak or \$30 per person. (Each boat seats two people.) We will stop on a sand bar along the way for lunch, and then continue on to Eudora. Sat., Oct. 21st, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Level: Easy. Bring water bottle, sun screen, and hat. Please contact Paul Post to reserve a boat or if you have questions about this outing: 785-223-3356 or [pacmanpost@icloud.com](mailto:pacmanpost@icloud.com). [Click here for a map.](#)

**Lecture by Dr. Ray Pierotti on "Climate Change and Species Extinction."** Adaptability, habitat destruction, evolutionary rescue, and the role of hybridization. Time and place TBA.

**We know! Where's *Planet Kansas*? We're going digital.** Kansas Chapter leaders recently voted to modernize our communications, including updates to the website, current calendar events, monthly digital newsletters (like this one), email alerts and online voting for our annual election of officers. While the transition is underway, we're delivering *Planet Kansas Update!* to your inbox monthly. Now is the time to think about updating your email address and revisit your preferences that are available through the Club. Down below, please click "Manage Preferences" to choose what info you'd like to receive from the Sierra Club.

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

***Support your Kansas Chapter!***

