



Planet Kansas Update!
2017

Issue #7, October

Kansas Chapter

Sierra Club Win in WyCo!

by Elaine Giessel, Kansas Chapter Vice Chair

Recently, the Kansas Sierra Club submitted public comment on a Consent Decree negotiated between Harcros Chemicals of Kansas City, Kan., and the EPA and Department of Justice. Harcros, located near low income, minority communities already overburdened with air quality issues, had been found to be in violation of federal laws enacted to protect workers and the public from chemical releases. Following several conference calls with the entities involved, the Kansas Chapter agreed to withdraw its comments in exchange for a commitment from Harcros to work with surrounding communities on chemical emergency preparedness. [Read the full account here, including letters submitted by the Kansas Sierra Club.](#)

Tongie Citizens Stall Tyson Chicken Slaughterhouse.

by Craig Volland, Ag Chair

Tonganoxie residents have stopped for now the Tyson chicken plant proposed for just south of their town. Rapid organizing and intense pressure caused elected officials in both the town and Leavenworth County to walk back their approval of subsidies for the project. Tyson is reportedly looking elsewhere in Kansas. Since this battle may be rejoined before long, the Kansas Chapter is continuing to research how state officials kept this thing secret for four months and ended up with egg all over their faces. [Click here to read the backstory of how Kansas Chapter members played a significant role in preventing this disastrous plant from breaking ground in Tongie.](#)

And in a related story!

Along with nine other state and local organizations, the Wakarusa Group welcomed over 100 people to hear Dr. Don Stull, Univ. of Kansas Professor Emeritus, discuss his research and to educate themselves concerning industrialized agriculture. [Read Tim Carpenter's account in the *Topeka Capital-Journal Online* here.](#)

Chapter Committee Visits New Sunrise Garden in Lawrence

by Craig Volland Food & Ag chair

On Sept. 30, members and guests of our Healthy Food and Farms Committee toured the new Sunrise Garden at 1501 Learned in Lawrence, partly financed by the Kansas Chapter. Designed to provide free, sustainably grown produce to community members, the Garden is part of a much larger operation that includes meeting space, a greenhouse for starting plants for local farmers, composting, a seed company, and soon, a coffeehouse we jokingly dubbed "not Starbucks." We also visited a nearby orchard growing apples, persimmons, pawpaws, & jujubes (tasty--look it up!). Participating were Eric and Mary Kirkendall, Leticia DeCaigny, Richard Mabion, Karen Pagel-Meiners, and Lori Lawrence. Some of us met afterwards to prepare to table at the upcoming Mother Earth News Fair in Topeka, Oct. 21 & 22.

Kansas Legislative News!

Our state lobbyist in Topeka, Zack Pistora, shares his [outlook for the 2018 legislature here](#).

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

Mother Earth News Fair!

The Kansas Sierra Club will be in Topeka, October 21st and 22nd, at the Kansas Expocenter! We need at least two volunteers to staff the booth with Lori from 11-6, Saturday and 9-5, Sunday. Please help! [Here's how to sign up!](#) Contact [Lori](#) with questions.

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. Keynote speaker Dr. Johannes Feddema, University of Victoria, B.C., served on the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Bring your walking shoes, too! We plan to get outdoors at this great nature preserve.

We're going digital!

Kansas Chapter leaders recently voted to bring our communications into the 21st century with upgrades to the website, calendar events, 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. To ensure that you continue to receive these vital communications from the Kansas Chapter, please update your email address and preferences with the Sierra Club. To choose what info you'd like to receive from the Sierra Club and the Kansas Chapter, click [Manage Preferences](#) here or at the bottom of this page. Need help? Please send an email to membership.services@sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City area)

Upcoming Kanza General Meetings/Programs

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

"Watershed Management through the Kansas Water Vision and its Regional Advisory Committees: Can the RACs be successful in helping to manage and protect Kansas water resources?" Presentation by Sarah Hill Nelson, owner/operator of the Bowersock Mills and Power Company in Lawrence, Kan., and Chair of the Kansas Regional Advisory Committee for the Kansas River Watershed. Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

Annual Winter Solstice Potluck!

Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

Kansas City Area Outings

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

Southwind Group (Wichita area)

Party for the Planet!

Music, food, and a drawing to win dozens of prizes! This is our only fundraiser of the year so come

help--and bring some cash for tickets! Fri., Nov. 3rd, 6:30 p.m., Great Plains Nature Center. Bring an appetizer to share!

2017 Gyp Hills Hike

Kirkbride family ranch, located southwest of Medicine Lodge. Four-to-five hour hike, covering between five and eight miles. Level of difficulty is moderate. Gyp Hills terrain is rugged in places, but we will travel slowly in those locations. Hikers of all ages welcome. Lunch provided. \$5.00 donation requested in support of future Sierra Club outings and programs. Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, 10:30 a.m. To register, call 316-945-0728 and leave an email address or send an email to david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org. I will send specific directions to the ranch to all who register. [Details here.](#) (Hint: The picture at the top of this page is from a past Gyp Hills hike!)

Topeka Group

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. Location: <http://bit.ly/2wP6zKZ>

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence area)

"Passive but not Aggressive: How Climate Change can Lead to Extinction."

Presentation by Dr. Ray Pierotti, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas. Dr. Pierotti will discuss how climate change is a passive form of habitat destruction for many species, especially those that depend upon ice as a major component of their habitats. Sponsored by Sierra Club-Wakarusa Group and Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability. Monday, November 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m., ECM Center, 1204 Oread.

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

Support your Sierra Club-Kansas Chapter

