

SIERRASCAPE

Eastern Missouri Group - Missouri Chapter

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Valley View Glades Conservation Area. Photo by: Matthew Self

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**SIERRA
CLUB**

Enjoy, Explore & Protect the Planet

What's climate change got to do with it?

BY CAROLINE PUFALT
Conservation Chair

Amid this year's debate about climate legislation and upcoming elections, let's take stock of what human induced climate change is delivering now. Climate change is no longer just about the future. But sadly, many of our so-called leaders still do not get it.

This summer's heat and drought have exacerbated forest fires worldwide. Elsewhere extreme rainfall has flooded rural towns and larger cities, and in the case of Pakistan, a third of the country.

And how is climate change impacting us locally? The greater St Louis area suffers from hotter summer days and warmer summer nights. The loss of evening cooling stresses human health and increases heat retention in our many brick buildings. Scientists have increased our understanding of the limits of human heat tolerance. Heat is a killer and economic inequalities make some residents more at risk. Rainfall extremes created flash flooding. This summer many St. Louis residents were displaced by flooding. It's a too familiar story. Storm water systems cannot handle water volume, vulnerable neighborhoods are overwhelmed. Infrastructure costs, housing upgrades or buyouts are slow in coming.

Gardeners and farmers continue to see climate zones adjusted. Warmer zones may mean more plant variety, but also more stress from heat, changes in insect cycles and

rainfall. Heat and drought retard crop growth.

Warm weather combined with nutrient runoff increases harmful algae blooms in lakes and rivers. Algae and its associated cyanobacteria growth pose a danger to humans, pets, and aquatic health. Too often this summer regional "recreational" waters have become dangerous. More serious is the growth of the ameba, naegleria fowleri, in warming waters which is rare, but this summer cost a Missouri resident his life.

These are just a few local climate change impacts. Other regions, and locales outside the US, have experienced more difficulties. Climate change is nothing if not a global issue requiring global action reducing our species' carbon footprint. Start locally with how we live and how we vote this November.

SierraScape Deadlines



Send articles, photos and announcements to
emg.missouri.sierraclub@gmail.com

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3rd Monday of each month

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Vice Chair: Caitlin Zera
Secretary: Stephanie Todd
Treasurer: Robert Roberson
Tim Elwell
John Feldmann
Glenn May
Diana Oleskevich



For a full directory of committee leaders, please visit
www.sierraclub.org/missouri

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Chapter Director

*Denotes national Sierra Club staff member based in Missouri.



Photo by: Marisa Fraizer

A Victory for Eleven Point State Park!

BY MARISA FRAIZER

Conservation Program Coordinator

On Friday, July 29, the ongoing battle to protect a treasured state park took a positive turn. The Missouri Court of Appeals reversed an Oregon County judge's decision to force a sale of a portion of Eleven Point State Park. The court unanimously reversed all six counts, setting a positive precedent that state parks can be established to preserve natural resources and scenic values.

The argument centered around whether the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) held legal authority to purchase the park, because a portion of the land lies within a scenic river easement held by the U.S. Forest Service. The Court of Appeals concluded that environmental preservation is a legitimate public purpose, and that the state park is consistent with the preservation purposes of the Eleven Point Scenic River easement (the river was one of the first federally protected rivers under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968).

DNR purchased Eleven Point State Park to restore and preserve 4,167 acres of native savanna, woodlands, streams, and riparian areas along the Eleven Point River, expanding unfragmented forest coverage to benefit migratory bird populations and

reduce erosion and nutrient input to improve water quality, and to provide for public use and enjoyment of the land.

Funds to purchase the land came from a legal settlement with ASARCO, the lead mining company whose sloppy practices poisoned large areas with mine waste. Part of those funds are targeted to rehabilitating damaged land, while another part is dedicated to purchasing "mitigation" land in the same eco-region.

Missouri State Parks see more than 21 million visitors annually! The popularity of our parks benefits local communities. An economic impact study showed that for every dollar Missouri spends to operate state parks, the state's economy sees a return of \$26- a 2600% return on investment!

This ruling is a vote of confidence in our state parks as a respected and trusted caretaker of our public lands. We are grateful to finally protect this wonderful park which preserves natural beauty and resources in a highly prized wildlife corridor.

Many thanks to the team of lawyers, conservation groups, and the thousands of Missouri Sierra Club members who have diligently advocated for the park's protection!

Find the latest outings

View the online calendar at
www.sierraclub.org/missouri



Photos by: John Feldmann and George Behrens

Going Solar in Soulard

In conversation with EMG Member, Jim Young



BY TIM ELWELL

EMG Ex Com Member

Phyllis and Jim Young have been Sierra Club members since 1976 so they know a thing or two about helping the planet and replacing fossil fuels. Rooftop photovoltaic panels is an easy way for individuals to be part of this historic shift.

Triggered by decreasing solar panel costs and the availability of rebates and tax credits, they decided to go fossil free in 2010 & 2011 with solar thermal hot water and a 3.36 kW PV solar system. Moving to the Soulard neighborhood located in south St. Louis many years ago, they continue to learn how to consume less and adopting strategies to be comfortable without needing much energy. An initial small solar array supplied their home's energy except for heating for which they used a wood pellet stove. Recently, they

made the decision to run entirely on sunbeams falling on their roof, finding that concept to be like magic. So, they upgraded their solar array to new equipment and 6.72 kW, doubling their previous setup. Now they have enough energy for their all-electric home as well as their Leaf and Bolt electric vehicles. They replaced their solar thermal hot water heater with an electric heat pump water heater, and the new solar array powers it too.



Jim Young with his solar array. Photo: Tim Elwell

Could you explain how your residential solar system functions?

Rooftop solar works absolutely reliably without the homeowner having to give it a thought. Sun shines on the roof, down into the house goes electricity, the same alternating current (ac) that Ameren supplies via the grid. The home generated electricity is either used immediately if needed in the home or if not, the excess is fed into the grid, in a process called net metering. At the end of each month's "true-up", the electric bill depends on whether more electricity has been generated or imported from the grid that month. It has just been 4 months since the new solar installation and it should supply slightly more electricity than we need annually.

What should we do if we're interested in solar panels on my home?

My advice for people contemplating solar is to just begin. Determine what you want out of solar. Do you want a portion of your electricity consumption offset, all the way up to do you want solar to provide all of your home's, and your vehicle's energy? Money obviously enters into the equation. To serve as an approximate gauge, our system after the 30% Federal tax credit and Ameren rebate cost us just under \$15,000. If one is ok with and can afford paying for a larger solar array, then some of the preliminary demand reducing things we did, could be skipped. Once you know what you want, and to help you decide what is right for you, get advice and bids from several solar installers. Compare bids, including reputation of installer, quality of panels and other system components and choose one, and away you go.

Finally, I would advise people considering going solar to not focus solely on the bottom line and payback times and to include non-monetary rewards like increased peace of mind and personal sense of well-being, purpose, worth. And to get fanciful and imagine how cool it would be having your every ice cube, cold beer, hot shower, warm cozy winter den and mile driven happen because of sunshine on your roof.

HONORING & REMEMBERING OUTINGS LEADERS

Suzanne Smith



*Suzanne Smith at St. Francois State Park.
Photo: Rod Randall*

A remembrance by Ann Eggebrecht

Suzanne Smith has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. Suzanne was a member of Sierra Club for over 30 years. She was active on the Outings Committee, and Trail Maintenance Committee and Glade Restoration. She started the Friday Hiking group. She also was very involved with the Ozark Trails Association. As I think of my favorite memories shared with Suzanne, I think about how she such an on-the-go person! She was always seemed to have 3 or 4 possible activities for each day! In 1999, Marge O’Gorman and I traveled with Suzanne to Yosemite National Park, all sharing our camping food to come up with some unusual combinations. Suzanne’s leadership, enthusiasm and passion positively impacted many, many Sierra Club members over the years. Read more wonderful encounters and memories from our members to honor Suzanne’s dedication on our website www.sierraclub.org/missouri.

A remembrance by Dorothy Stade

John Stade was the first person to welcome Sierra Club members on an outing. He was an advocate for preserving and protecting the environment and building what would become the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. His sudden death at the age of 86 this summer leaves a big hole in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. "He was always an enthusiastic outdoor kind of person," said Dorothy Stade, his wife and fellow canoe paddler for 61 years. His passions included "family camping, Eagle Scout activities, planting thousands of trees on an island in the upper Mississippi River, serious caving, backpacking and white-water canoeing."

John Stade



John and Dorothy Stade. Photo: Jim Rhodes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



JEAN NOCK

I have actively supported the preservation of our environment and wildlife for as long as I can recall. I did graduate field studies in primatology in West Africa and participated in collecting amphibian specimens in the Peruvian Amazon for the Indianapolis Zoo. I am a Certified Interpretive Guide, Master Naturalist, Dark Sky Volunteer, and Stream Team Volunteer. I have presented to H.O.A.'s, Zoning Boards, Aldermen, the County Commissioner, and advocacy groups for trail protection and access. I am also the co-owner of Liberated Horsemanship, LLC, an international educational corporation that has supported advocate groups for the preservation of the wild horses of the Great Basin of Western United States. These experiences have increased my knowledge of the challenges our environment faces but, more importantly, how to bring them to the public in an understandable, actionable way. The Sierra Club is a force in environmental legislation and actions. As a member of the Sierra Club Executive Committee, it would bring my life long passion and experience to a much broader and more powerful scale. I would be honored to contribute. Thank you for considering my application for the Sierra Club Executive Committee.



DIANA OLESKEVICH

I have enjoyed participating on the Excom for my first term, learning about the process and issues that go into Sierra Club's advocacy and nitty-gritty...For years I've loved Nature outdoors, hiking and bicycling - now I have the opportunity to pay it forward with the ExCom. I will keep listening and doing the non-glamorous "whatever" behind the scenes in service to Earth, People and all the Critters that Sierra Club does so well when each of us contributes our talents and time!



MATTHEW SELF

I joined the Sierra Club about 3 years ago and have significantly increased my participation in the past year. During this time, I've learned that we can each have a significant impact just by showing up, listening, and engaging with other people that care or are curious about the same issues. My main interests are Conservation and Outings. As a new outings leader, I'm hoping to introduce the Sierra Club values and mission to new and younger participants. Generations prior to mine have done significant work for conservation in Missouri and we need to ensure that their experience and knowledge is carried forward by next generations. I also hope to increase cross-organizational activity where there is mission overlap. There are a great number of public and private conservation organizations in Missouri, and I believe the Club should be a greater part of the work already underway to ensure that Club values are being implemented broadly. By leading outings with MDC and DNR staff, I hope to learn more about long-term agency goals and to better understand where there is the most need for exposure to the Club's values and influence. Outside of the Sierra Club, I work as an actuary in healthcare, and I volunteer with several organizations doing invasive species removal and ecological restoration. In my free time, I like to hike, exercise, and explore any green space in Missouri. My wife and I recently completed our first 7-day backpacking at Isle Royale National Park with the Sierra Club, and we'll definitely be back for another national Club outing.

EMG Executive Committee Ballot Instructions

Carefully read ALL instructions before completing or mailing your ballot. Ballots must be received by 5pm on December 31, 2022 in order to be counted. Deliver ballots via mail only.

1. **You must use this ballot with your electronic address label on the back.** The ballot portion will be detached from the label portion before counting ballots. Ballots without addresses cannot be counted.
2. **Vote for up to three (3) candidates.** Indicate your choices by marking an x or check mark in the space to the left of each name. If yours is a joint membership, two members may vote, each in their own column.
3. **Put the ballot in an envelope and mail it to: Ballot - EMG Elections Committee Sierra Club PO Box 432010, St. Louis, MO 63143.**
4. For questions, including the date, time and place of ballot counting, please contact the EMG Secretary, Stephanie Todd at stephmtodd3@outlook.com.

EMG Executive Committee Ballot

HOUSEHOLD VOTER 1

Individual Membership, use this column.
Joint Membership, **voter 1** use this column.
Vote for up to THREE (3). One voter per household, per side.

- Jean Nook
- Diana Oleskevich
- Matthew Self
- _____ write in candidate

HOUSEHOLD VOTER 2

Individual Membership, use this column.
Joint Membership, **voter 2** use this column.
Vote for up to THREE (3). One voter per household, per side.

- Jean Nook
- Diana Oleskevich
- Matthew Self
- _____ write in candidate

EMG Members Out & About - Fall 2022 Photo Features



Volunteers at Operation Clean Stream in the Meramec River Watershed

Photo by: Tim Elwell



Sierra Club volunteers canvas for State Senate Candidate Tracy McCreery

Photo by: Michael Berg

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