

# OZARK SIERRA

One Earth

One Chance

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## The New Meramec Mosaic Natural Area

by Dan Drees

Thanks in large part to the hard work of glade restoration volunteers from the Sierra Club's Eastern Missouri Group, Missourians have a new 831 acre natural area at

Meramec State Park. The multiagency Missouri Natural Areas Committee hiked much of the nominated Meramec Mosaic on May 31 and voted it in as the 178th designated Natural Area for the state.

Natural Area designation gives public and private lands in Missouri official recognition for

having exceptional natural integrity. Natural Area designation is more than an arbitrary title, as demonstrated recently in the successful effort to save the St. Francois Mountains Natural Area from a proposed hydroelectric plant. Some of the criteria the committee looks for are high biodiversity, endangered species, functional natural communities, superlative geologic features and scenic integrity.

The Meramec Mosaic Natural Area scored high in all these areas, but its fire dependent natural communities were recognized as significantly noteworthy. A review of the 1822 land survey notes for the area showed a highly varied landscape shaped by the influence of fire.

Less than two miles west of the Meramec Mosaic there was a 400 acre prairie in 1822. Some of the land inside the Meramec Mosaic was described as having thin rocky soil covered with grass and wide-open timber. Today we classify this as a fire dependent, open woodland community.

The dominant tree of the Meramec Mosaic open woodlands is the chinkapin oak, *Quercus muhlenbergii*.



Sierra Club glade restoration volunteers on Prairie Dock Glade in early May 2001 surrounded by Indian Paintbrush.  
photo by Dan Drees

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## Which Way For The Missouri River: Living River Or Navigation Ditch?

by Roy C. Hengerson, Legislative Committee Chair

The Missouri River is 2,341 miles long and its watershed makes up one sixth of the United States. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has built six large dams on the main stem of the Missouri River and made numerous other changes and modifications to the Missouri River to promote such economic benefits as navigation, flood control, water supply, hydropower and recreation. However, these benefits have come at a price: fish and wildlife habitat has been lost and destroyed, unsuitable development in the floodplain has been encouraged, and the living river system is in jeopardy.

Although the mighty Missouri has been controlled, altered and tamed she has not completely lost her wild character. We remember well the 1993 flood and how the floodplain was altered by the Missouri River's turbulent and muddy waters. I have a vivid recollection of standing on a high bluff near Boonville, Missouri a day or two after the highest crest of that prolonged flood and seeing the power of the Missouri River as her waters swept downstream the full width of the floodplain.

Despite such periodic wildness, the Missouri River is not a healthy river. Its fish and wildlife habitat is degraded, some species which depend on the riverine environment are threatened and endangered, flood losses increase as the Missouri River is constricted by higher levees located closer

to the river, and recreation opportunities are foreclosed. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a biological opinion stating that changes are necessary in how the ACE manages the releases from the Missouri River dams if three threatened and endangered species are to survive.

In response, the Corps initiated the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual Review, continuing their study of needed changes begun in the early 1990's. Just recently the Corps released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on a range of alternatives for Master Water Control Manual. The DEIS analyzes the environmental and other effects of a set of six alternatives: one is

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lenbergii. These ancient gnarled and craggy oaks reign in rugged elegance over a large diversity of native grasses and wildflowers.

In the center of these open woodlands are fifteen sun drenched glades. Protruding from the glade's carpet of grasses and wildflowers are numerous dolomite bedrock outcrops. In spring these outcrops are especially popular with sunbathing reptiles. These glades are also home to the most viable tarantula population in the northeast corner of their natural range.

Typically these open woodlands and glades produce an impressive wildflower display in April, May and June, but, if adequate moisture is available, they may bloom throughout the growing season. Many of the glades also offer inspiring vistas of the Meramec valley and forest covered hills devoid of blinking towers.

The glade on top of Butterfly Bluff has a commanding vista of the river. In winter it is especially serene; a place of quiet solitude where the beauty of nature can permeate the soul.

Historically, open woodlands and glades were kept open by lightning fires and fires started by Native Americans. These fires sometimes burned for weeks and burned hundreds of square miles. In modern Missouri, wildfires seldom burn even a single square mile, nor do we desire them to.

Instead, to perpetuate the abundant variety of plants and animals that depend on fires to provide their habitat needs, park personnel periodically use prescribed fires. Unfortunately, fire was completely suppressed in the Meramec Mosaic from the mid-1930's until the late 1980's. That period of fire suppression allowed large numbers of eastern red cedar tree seedlings from surrounding river bluffs to invade the open woodlands and glades.

The cedars were well on their way to shading out the native grasses and wildflowers when glade restoration volunteers, predominantly from the Sierra Club's Eastern Missouri Group led by Penny Holtzmann, came to the rescue in 1989. As park staff cut down and cut up the cedars, teams of Sierrans fed them into bonfires.

Twelve years of cedar removal, nine years of prescribed burns, and over 16,000 hours of paid and volunteer labor have returned this natural community to its historic place in the sun and flame. This has made the Meramec Mosaic's restored chinkapin oak woodland the largest in the Missouri natural areas system.

Another record holder in the Meramec Mosaic is Beaver Creek. This perennial creek is fed by four springs and flows for 1.5 miles through the Meramec Mosaic before joining the Meramec River. The twenty-two species of native fish that have been documented is a state record for an order one stream.

A 0.6 mile section of the Meramec River is also included in the Meramec Mosaic. This area is home to rare aquatic species such as the Alabama shad, ozark emerald dragonfly, Arkansas snaketail dragonfly and the spectaclecase mussel.

It is probable that this section of the Meramec River is also habitat to additional rare aquatic species such as the highfin carpsucker, mooneye and the eastern hellbender. These aquatic species have been recorded in comparable

habitat within half a mile of the Meramec Mosaic. The potential for additional significant aquatic species in the river portion of the Meramec Mosaic is enormous. Of the 573 described native fish species in North America, 120 (21%) inhabit the Meramec River.

The mature bottomland forest that borders

this section of the river is breeding habitat for the rare cerulean warbler. However, the rarest animals documented from the Meramec Mosaic are some of its bats. Indiana bats and gray bats, both federally listed endangered species, seasonally inhabit two of the six caves in the Meramec Mosaic. Both of these species are fond of feeding on aquatic insects above and along rivers such as the Meramec.

Currently, the only maintained access into the Meramec Mosaic is the 1.3 mile Natural Wonders Loop Trail. A glade, two caves, beaver meadows and mature north facing forest are among the natural area gems accessed. The elusive ovenbird and woodthrush are common along much of this trail during their breeding season. In mid-May this trail is also an excellent place to see the showy blooms of the large yellow lady-slipper orchid.

To see the largest and best open woodlands and glades in the Meramec Mosaic, get directions to Chinkapin Ridge. Call (573)468-8155 and ask for Meramec State Park naturalists Brian or Jody. Even better, attend one of the upcoming glade restoration outings on February 2 and 3 or March 16 and 17. Contact Sierra Club member Susan Farrington at (636)583-0948 or susanfmo@aol.com to get information on these service outings.

Dan Drees is Natural Resource Steward at Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks. —



Glade coneflower in late May on Chinquapin Ridge

photo by Dan Drees

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**OZARK SIERRAN**

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the newsletter will come out on time!

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a Mac or PC disk (3.5"), **WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT**. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your disk), please include a SASE.

*Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff:* **Keet Kopecky, Editor; Bob Sherrick, and Claus Wawrzinek**

## Chapter Executive Committee

### AT LARGE:

**Keet Kopecky, Chapter Chair, SC Council Delegate**, 9211 Olmstead, Kansas City, MO 64138, [kkopecky@kc.rr.com](mailto:kkopecky@kc.rr.com), (816)966-9544

**Andrew Gondzur, Vice Chair**, 4037 McDonald Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116, (314)772-8810

**Gale Burrus, Secretary**, 9828 Willow Avenue, #1A, Kansas City, MO 64134, [gburrus@att.net](mailto:gburrus@att.net), (816)763-5120

**Herschel Asner**, 10381 Oxford Hill Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146, (314)991-3450

**Gina DeBarthe**, 20 Oak Hill Cluster, Independence, MO 64057, (816)224-0734

**Donna Clark Fuller**, 7400 E. 235th St., Peculiar, MO 64078, (816)779-7284

**Wallace McMullen**, 2805 Mohawk Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101, [mcmulw@sockets.net](mailto:mcmulw@sockets.net), (573)636-6067

**Tom Moran, Political Chair**, Columbia, MO, [tomvmoran@yahoo.com](mailto:tomvmoran@yahoo.com), (573)442-6955

**Caroline Pufalt, Conservation Chair**, 13415 Land-O-Woods, #3, St. Louis, MO 63141, (314)878-3165

### GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

**Eastern Missouri Group: Cheryl Hammond**, 12231 Hillcrest, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, (314)291-5907

**Osage Group: vacant**

**Thomas Hart Benton Group: Bob Sherrick**, 10807 E. 205th St., Peculiar, MO 64078, (816)779-6708

**Trail of Tears Group: Brian Alworth**, 2444 Glenridge Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, (573)334-7978

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Education Chair: Leslie Lihou**, [leslielihou@postnet.com](mailto:leslielihou@postnet.com)

**Fund-raising Chair: Doris Sherrick**, 10807 E. 205th St., Peculiar, MO 64078, (816)779-6708

**Legal Chair: Deferred Gifts Officer: Roger Hershey**, 3412 South Trail Ridge Drive, Independence, MO 64055, (816)842-3636

**Legislative Chair: Roy C. Hengerson**, 2201 Weathered Rock Rd., Jefferson City, MO. 65101, (573)635-8066,

**Membership Chair: Cheryl Hammond**, 12231 Hillcrest, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, (314)291-5907

**Newsletter Editor: Keet Kopecky**, 9211 Olmstead, Kansas City, MO 64138, [kkopecky@kc.rr.com](mailto:kkopecky@kc.rr.com), (816)966-9544

**Transportation Chair: Ron McLinden**, 3236 Coleman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111, (816)513-3477

**Treasurer: vacant**

**Website Chair: Wallace McMullen**, 2805 Mohawk Dr.,

Jefferson City, MO 65101, [mcmulw@sockets.net](mailto:mcmulw@sockets.net), (573)636-6067

## Chapter Office Staff

**vacant, Program Director**,

**Terri Folsom, Chapter Coordinator**

**Carla Klein, Global Warming Campaign Organizer**

**Sheila Siegal, Sprawl Campaign Organizer**

**Angel Kruzen, Missouri Water Quality Monitoring Organizer**

1007 N. College, Suite 1, Columbia, MO 65201

(573)815-9250 voice/answering machine

(573)442-7051 FAX/modem

(800)628-5333 Water Quality Hotline

# Energy News

by Wallace McMullen

## Huge New Power Plant near Herman: or, What kind of bear is Panda Energy?

Mid-Missouri is getting another big power plant the size of the Calloway Nuclear Power Plant. Panda Energy, based in Dallas, Texas, has obtained all the needed permits to construct an electrical generation facility near Hermann, Missouri. Combined cycle gas turbines will power the generators, with an output capacity of 1,130 megawatts. This type of plant is designed to be relatively clean and to employ a small number of people. However, it will be a big industrial installation, will consume a lot of natural gas, and will use a large amount of river water for cooling. It is expected to pump six–eleven million gallons of water out of the Missouri River every day, and to discharge 1.4 million gallons of heated water back into the river. The difference, five million or more gallons a day, will be vaporized for cooling.

Other expected emissions include one million tons of carbon monoxide a year, and 533 tons of nitrous oxides (NOx) a year. (NOx causes smog and aggravates asthma). The environmental effect on the Missouri River of removing water, inserting heated water, and the effect of the emissions on the air quality in the St. Louis non-attainment area are unknown at present.

The Panda facility is not proposing to serve any specific Missouri utility. It expects to sell all electricity generated on the open market to the highest bidder.

## Governor's Energy Policy Task Force Issues its Final Report: Will the Governor Support It?

The Governor's Energy Policy Task Force has issued its final report. Sierrans who have read it are favorably impressed. It includes thirty–six pages of recommendations pertaining

to energy efficiency, renewable energy, conservation and regulating utilities. It also includes a nice nine page summary profile of Missouri energy use and resources.

Ozark Chapter staff and activists made an effort to influence the deliberations of this Task Force during the summer, and the recommendations in the report indicate that it was time well spent.

Now the burning question before us is: will the Governor put some political muscle into implementing the recommendations of the Energy Policy Task Force he created? We will cover developments in forthcoming issues of the Sierran.

Highlights of the Report's Recommendations:

- 1 Missouri should adopt a Minimum Renewable Portfolio Standard for electric utilities.
- 1 Enact legislation that allows net metering and interconnection to the electric grid for home generation equipment.
- 1 Financial incentives to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 1 Missouri should approach electric industry restructuring with caution.
- 1 Missouri should include energy education in the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools, and encourage it in other educational institutions.
- 1 Missouri should fully implement the "Energy Efficiency in State Facilities Program."
- 1 Missouri's requirement to use alternative fuels in state vehicles should be enforced and expanded.
- 1 State agencies achieving savings from energy efficiency should be rewarded.
- 1 Missouri Utilities should assess the security and reliability of their infrastructure as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

1 The Public Service Commission should consider implementing time-of-use electric rates.

1 Missouri should promote the distribution of energy price information and consider legislation to enhance the Attorney General's power to deal with price gouging.

1 An Energy Policy Council should be established to advise the Governor on energy issues.

The full report can be read or downloaded

from the Governor's website at [http://www.gov.state.mo.us/etf/Missouri\\_Energy\\_Task\\_Force.pdf](http://www.gov.state.mo.us/etf/Missouri_Energy_Task_Force.pdf).

## KCP&L Metamorphoses into Great Plains Energy and Proposes a New Coal Plant

Kansas City Power and Light, a regulated utility with sales of electricity in excess of two billion dollars (\$2 billion), has recreated itself as an unregulated corporation with a regulated subsidiary. The Public Service Commission, which regulates monopoly electric utilities, has approved this.\* The new corporation, Great Plains Energy, has applied for a permit to build a large coal fired power plant north of Kansas City. The new plant at 530 megawatts will be one of the largest coal fired plants in Missouri.

The Weston Bend facility is proposing to sell all electricity generated on the open market. It may not serve Missouri utilities and customers.

It will emit pollution in the Kansas City area. Burning coal for electricity is the dirtiest form of power generation technology. The new plant will emit air-borne mercury, fine particles, carbon monoxide and millions of tons of carbon dioxide that causes global warming.

\*See the article about our meeting with Public Service Commissioners in the last issue of the Sierran for more details on this.

## Coalition Forming to Advance Pro-Environmental Energy Policies

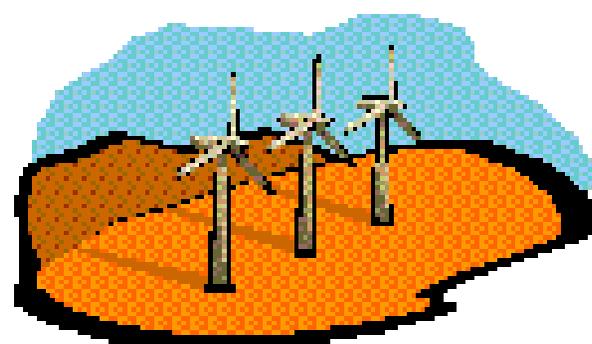
Representatives from environmental and consumer advocacy groups have begun meeting to work on united action in dealing with the Missouri legislature in the 2002 session. Participants include members of the Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, League of Women Voters, Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition, Green Party, Missourians For Affordable and Reliable Electricity Service and the Heartland Renewable Energy Society. Tentatively, this will be called the Public Interest Energy Coalition.

All participants agree that the big industrial utilities should not be allowed to run roughshod over the interests of consumers and ratepayers. Most of the groups also are interested in participating in the new coalition because they are strongly in favor of advancing clean, safe, nonpolluting renewable energy and minimizing the environmental damage from energy infrastructure such as coal burning electricity plants.

The situation in the 2002 legislative session will be strongly influenced by what happens with the recommendations of the Governor's Energy Policy Task Force. (See item above.) In the last legislative session, pro-environmental interests were hardly apparent on energy issues, and bills backed by big industry advanced. The activists who are now talking to each other hope that by uniting they can set the stage for a different story in the coming session. —

## Dates You Need to Know

<b>1/26</b>	<b>Chapter ConsCom meeting:</b> Columbia, Missouri contact <b>Caroline Pufalt (314)878-3165</b> <a href="mailto:carolinepufalt@msn.com">carolinepufalt@msn.com</a>
<b>1/27</b>	<b>Chapter ExCom meeting:</b> Columbia, Missouri contact <b>Keet Kopecky (816)966-9544</b> <a href="mailto:kkopecky@kc.rr.com">kkopecky@kc.rr.com</a>
<b>3/1</b>	<b>Missouri Outdoor Leader Workshop:</b> Kansas City, Missouri contact <b>Dan Fuller (816)779-7284</b> <a href="mailto:dannadan@accessus.net">dannadan@accessus.net</a>
<b>3/1-5</b>	<b>Sierra Student Coalition Public Lands Summit: Washington, D.C.</b> Contact <b>Sierra Student Coalition</b> <b>1(888)JDIM-SSC, <a href="http://www.ssc.org">www.ssc.org</a></b>



# Seatbelts and the Environment

by Ron McLinden,  
Ozark Chapter Transportation Committee Chair

Bring up the topic of highways in out-state Missouri and you are undoubtedly going to hear about building more four lane highways and how many lives they will save. Chances are somebody will repeat the mantra, "Safety equals four lane highways."

Most people would agree that four lane highways are safer than two lane highways. At the very least they are more "forgiving." However, there isn't enough money to build all the four lanes that everybody wants, and nobody expects to raise taxes enough to do so during this century.

Each year some 1,000 lives are lost to traffic crashes on Missouri roads — about three every day. The troubling thing is not that highway safety is a problem in Missouri, but that so many people appear to focus so single-mindedly on four lane highways as the way to save lives.

Roads may be inherently "more safe" or "less safe." But safety depends more on driver behavior than on how the road is constructed.

At a November 27 hearing of the Senate Transportation Committee, Kansas Secretary of Transportation Dean Carlson spoke of the "Three

E's" of highway safety: Engineering, Education and Enforcement. He went on to outline nearly a dozen specific physical modifications to highways and the percent reduction in crashes that they would achieve. He described a one day public awareness event on safety that Kansas had participated in, and he spoke of enforcement by uttering that word exactly once. It was pretty clear where his biases lay.

Missouri has a seatbelt law, but like a number of states it cannot be enforced unless a law enforcement officer observes another offense. As a result, Missouri has a lower rate of seatbelt use than other states that have a "primary" seatbelt law, under which traffic stops can be made solely for failure to use a seatbelt.

We don't usually think about highway safety as an environmental issue. However, every traffic crash, every disabling injury, and every single death constitutes a loss of human and material



investment. Hospitalization and car repair might, through a perversity in how we calculate our economic well being, constitute an addition to the economy, but they are losses, both in human and environmental resource terms.

Last year the Missouri General Assembly reduced the blood alcohol content level used to define intoxication. This year they should enact a "primary seatbelt law" for Missouri, and Governor Holden should include that among his legislative priorities. If the experience of other states holds, the result should be a ten percentage point increase in seatbelt usage, and that will translate into fewer traffic deaths and injuries.

Missouri should take other steps to make our highways safer: lower speed limits, stricter enforcement, and greater use of cameras and other electronic devices to supplement enforcement and warn drivers when they are speeding. And there should be a greater commitment to public education campaigns to promote safe, unimpaired and civil driving habits.

Yes, we should spend more to modify our highways so they are safer by design. But anyone who advocates doing that, without in the same breath calling for actions to improve driver behavior, is engaging in one of the meanest forms of hypocrisy. —

## Transportation Funding A Thorny Issue in 2002

by Ron McLinden

Missouri has been under-investing in its transportation infrastructure for decades. We have especially been shorting routine maintenance — preservation, as the engineers call it — while putting too much into building new highways. The result is the highway deterioration you see all around you.

We've also spent money on highways to the detriment of transit. Highway building has contributed to the low population density and job dispersal that have led to public transit decline, and made transit more costly to provide. As a result, St. Louis bus service was reduced by ten percent in October, and Kansas City bus service could see similar cuts in May.

MoDOT Director Henry Hungerbeeler has been telling the General Assembly for nearly three years that he needs \$1 billion more per year to meet Missouri's total transportation needs. Legislators have balked, preferring to point fingers at the agency for failing to make good on the "promises" of the 15 year spending proposal used in 1992 to justify a six cent gas tax increase. (Few legislators will acknowledge their own culpability in that fiasco.)

If there's anything good in the current situation, it is that MoDOT now places highest priority on what they call "Taking care of what we've got."

This year, legislators will once more consider several proposals to increase funding. Proposed amounts range from about \$200 million to \$600 million, and possible sources include higher gas taxes and other "user fees" and a general sales tax. Funding proponents take comfort in a recent announcement from the Missouri Farm Bureau that they can now support a tax increase — provided a long list of conditions are met — but Farm Bureau support won't be enough.

Whatever is decided, the citizens will have to approve the package at the polls. Thus, it will have to be seen as fair and equitable to urban and rural voters alike.

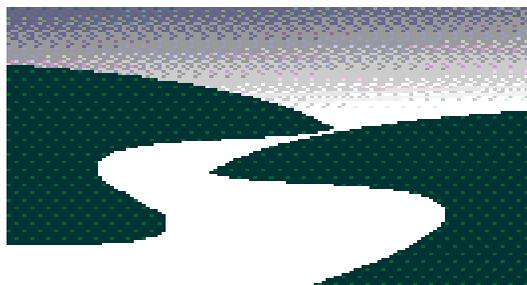
To make matters more interesting, there is talk of an initiative petition campaign to put a funding question before the voters in case the legislators fail to act. Signature gathering could begin early in the new year, long before anybody knows the prospects for legislative action.

The main questions are:

**I**How big a package? \$200 million? \$600 million? \$1 billion? Chances are the total will be in the \$500 million range.

**I**What source of revenue? Highway proponents favor a state sales tax, but that will be strongly resisted by local governments that want to use that tax for their own local projects, as well as by social equity advocates who point to its regressive nature. The package should include significant increases in highway user fees — up to a ten cent hike in the gas tax — before any sales tax increase for highways. Everybody benefits from highways, but we should expect to pay for that benefit directly and as part of the price of the products we buy, not as a lug on the cash value of everything we buy. (That way market forces have a better chance of reducing unnecessary transportation.)

**I**How will the money be divided among



modes? Transit needs are currently estimated at \$100 million per year. Back in 1992 the legislators "fully funded" a fifteen year plan for highways, but they have yet to take action on a 1992 fifteen year plan for transit.

Transit needs were estimated at \$63 million per year back then. It seems only fair, then, to "fully fund" transit at that level before highways and transit and other modes line up for "second helpings."

**I**How will highway money be allocated between "urban" and "rural" areas? That's a question beyond Solomon's wisdom, so I'll let it stand as just an issue.

Of course we should also insist that there be money to help make it safe for kids and seniors to walk along and across state roads in every city and town; increased public awareness and enforcement to improve safety by influencing driver skills and behavior; and resources to help local jurisdictions better guide their own future development so as to reduce future demands on state roads.

The Sierra Club has already made some of these points in testimony before the Senate Transportation Committee on November 28. That hearing might turn out to have been the first and best chance for transportation stakeholders to influence legislation — and especially to influence the content of a possible initiative petition.

Again, whatever happens in the next few months, the voters will have to approve it at the polls. If it's not balanced, there will almost certainly be organized opposition to passage. The Sierra Club should be prepared to participate with other public interest organizations in such opposition, should the proposal not be balanced. Given citizens' general aversion to tax increases, a well-reasoned opposition might be successful even though outspent 100 to 1 by funding proponents.

Let's keep that option open. And let's hope we don't have to resort to it. —

# Missouri Celebrates Pioneer Forest

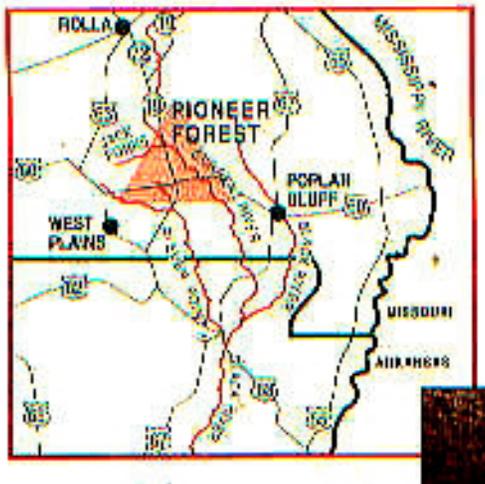
by Caroline Pufalt,  
Chapter Conservation Committee Chair

Missouri had a chance recently to celebrate one of our state's true homegrown successes when over 160 citizens gathered in October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pioneer Forest. Pioneer Forest is a 160,000 acre forest owned by Leo Drey. Leo and Kay Drey are well known in Missouri for their work in environmental issues. Friends, coworkers, professionals in research management in Missouri and from across the country gathered in St. Louis to recognize Pioneer Forest.

In 1951 Leo Drey purchased the first forested Missouri Ozark acres in Shannon county which was the start of what later grew in number to become Pioneer Forest. Leo recognized that forests in Missouri could be managed for both timber and ecological values. Today Pioneer Forest stands as an exemplary example of how single tree selection can be used to provide an ongoing timber supply without the ravages of clearcutting. Not only did Leo and his dedicated staff of foresters apply conservative but effective cutting methods, they also kept detailed records of test plots across the forest.

That staff included Greff Iffrig, who some Sierrans may recall as an activist in the Ozark Chapter when he lived in the Springfield area. Some of you may also recall that a few years ago the Ozark Chapter recognized the conservation work of forester Clint Trammell. Clint works for Pioneer Forest and has been indispensable to documenting the management of Pioneer Forest.

That documentation, painstakingly recorded for decades, provides a wealth of information rarely



available to researchers. Researchers have made ample use of the Pioneer Forest records and have concluded that timber management on the forest has been successful in providing timber as well as regenerating ample growth, without the use of clearcutting and similar practices.

This represents a major contribution to our knowledge of forest management like those found in Missouri. For some time it had been thought that species such as oak and shortleaf pine could only regenerate after a substantial clearcut to open up enough sunlight. We now know that is not true.

Pioneer Forest has proven that a good management plan using primarily single tree selection will work. And it will work better because it will also provide constant forest cover for wildlife, watershed protection, recreation and other values. It only makes sense, because single tree selection mimics what happens most often in nature.

Individual trees die, eventually fall over and create sunlight and space. Windstorms or ground level fires may thin a forest intermittently. There is little in nature that mimics a large clearcut. But we often need patient and dedicated folks like the Dreys to show us the way to that understanding.

To learn more about Pioneer Forest visit:  
[http://www.pioneerforest.com/PF\\_Home.html](http://www.pioneerforest.com/PF_Home.html)

## What Makes the Sierra Club Special?

by Diane Albright

The idea for this article has been rattling around in my brain for the past nine months, like a persistent pest. The word, volunteer, popped in one day and then refused to leave. It occurred during one of those nondefining moments. As mundane as the moment was, however, the significance of the topic was the sort that can set you on your seat.

That reflective moment was followed by more as I thought about the years I had been a Sierra Club member and what I had observed and experienced in three states and three Groups. It is a treat to witness the Club's vitality due to volunteers and their talents. Take the volunteers away and you have an organizational name with a slogan, mission, goal and vision statement, but that is all — not much happens. Add the people and the organization begins to roll.

The Sierra Club started as a group of outdoor enthusiasts. By October 2001, the total U.S. membership was 746,224. By the time you read this, the number is expected to exceed 750,000. Today there are 480 paid positions of which 398 are full time staff. Despite the fact the Club is predominately made up of volunteers, it continues to be the premier environmental organization. Competent environmentalists continue to rise from the ranks of its volunteers. Volunteers fight environmental battles every day.

I distinguish between participants and volunteer activists by saying that all volunteer activists are participants, but not all participants are volunteer activists. The Sierra Club needs all levels of involvement, but essential to its function are the volunteers. It is only after much time spent participating and then volunteering that I have begun to recognize what it takes to have an organization like the Sierra Club. How different my life would be and how different the country I live in would be without the efforts of the Sierra Club volunteers.

Why do people join and then become volunteers? Is it the pay? Don't think so...there isn't any pay. Is it the fact they have nothing else to do with their time? Doubt that...most are very busy people. Is it because they have limitless energy? Oh, yeah! Is it the fame and prestige garnered? That will be the day! Is it because they have no social life? No, that happens only after they volunteer their free time away.

I think the reasons for volunteering vary for each individual, but don't include any of the above reasons. I joined to spend time in the outdoors. Now, why I stayed and became a volunteer is another tale. Suffice it to say that I believe my high school government teacher would be proud that I have become a more conscientious U.S. citizen: a direct result of my association with the Sierra Club. The "Unwise" Use movement probably wishes I had stayed uninformed and unmotivated. Meanwhile, I sleep better knowing that I belong to an organization that works for clean air and water, healthy forests, rivers, soil, deserts and plains, and that these benefits don't exclude unwise people who think differently.

What goes on behind the scenes for something as seemingly simple as leading a hike is really a time consuming ordeal. Volunteers donate their time to locate an area, set aside the day and plan

for participants' safety. The outing may require the leader to scout the area prior to the event. Phone calls with the participants are another time commitment. Without participants there would be no need for outings, so everyone has a part.

Volunteers give their time to issues, forming special interest groups or committees. Recently, I had the opportunity to observe how generously volunteers gave of their time, expertise and resources. They did it with a pleasant attitude, too, despite hectic work schedules. They work on Sierra Club issues in the evenings and weekends, and on occasion use their vacation time. Researching issues, organizing meetings and preparing presentations require dedication. Frequently, volunteers are up against special interest groups with deep pockets, full-time staff and/or agencies that again have full-time staff and bureaucratic procedures. The odds can be daunting. These are the folks that inspire me.

The Groups and Chapters function because volunteers agree to serve on the Executive Committees (Excoms). I have served on Excoms in two different states, so I can speak in a limited way about them. The tasks aren't flashy: often it is tedious day-to-day activities of keeping the organization running as smoothly as is possible. Then there are the crisis and policy questions. As a direct result of having functional Executive Committees, other volunteers can pursue the important conservation issues.

At another level of volunteering is the person that attends state, regional and national activities. Some costs are covered at the regional and national level, but state and regional meetings aren't. These are paid for out of pocket by the volunteers. In an organization that was founded on volunteer input, the traditions can only remain as long as people are willing to step forward.

Next time you participate in a Sierra activity, take a moment to think about all the volunteer effort that went into making it happen. These days I'm convinced that volunteers are the Sierra Club's most valuable resource.



# Sierra Student Coalition Initiative: The Public Lands Action Summit

Who?

High school and college activists who care about wildlands and want to fight for their protection. By attending the Summit, you'll gain the knowledge and skills to help win permanent protection for these magnificent and threatened lands. You'll learn how to work with media, talk with your elected officials, and plan a long-term campaign to win their support for wildlands protections. When the weekend is over you will take these skills home with you to help better your community.

What will we focus on?

The Summit will focus on three of the most vital public lands battles in the nation:

- 9.1 million acres of Utah's spectacular redrock canyon country under attack by mining and off-road vehicle abuse;
- The coastal plain of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge threatened by oil drilling — and home to polar bears, caribou, and the Gwich'in First Nation.
- Our remaining national forest heritage owned by all Americans and endangered by commercial logging and road building.

This event will be the perfect opportunity for you or your group to discuss local issues with your congressperson or senator, so come prepared. Last year we had a group hand deliver over 200 letters to their representative!

When?

March 1–5, Friday evening through Tuesday evening. Participants will schedule meetings with their representatives and senators for Monday and Tuesday, the 4th and 5th.

Where?

Washington, DC (food and lodging included with registration fee).

Why?

The Public Lands Action Summit is still being talked about with starry-eyed glee by last year's participants. This is the only event where students can come together and learn the key issues and skills in the Wilderness Movement from national environmental leaders — both students like you and top environmental organizers on Capitol Hill. At the end of the Summit, participants will be empowered to achieve lasting change for the environment. And in meetings with Congress on Monday and Tuesday, they'll immediately test their skills and win new support for wilderness protection!

Less than a year ago, 150 students from 36 states descended on Washington, DC. They came from high schools and colleges, from cities, suburbs, and small towns.

Thanks to our energy and passion, ten new representatives and senators became new cosponsors of our wilderness bills. We took the fight back home, waging strategic campaigns to get even more cosponsors. We did great work, but we haven't won yet. Now it's a new Congress, and it's time for Round Three.

To get more info or to register for the Public Lands Action Summit call 1(888)JOIN-SSC or print the registration form online at the Sierra Student Coalition's website: [www.ssc.org](http://www.ssc.org). —



## Join a Sierra Club Online Discussion Forum

by Cheryl Hammond

Have you joined the world of online discussion forums? The Ozark Chapter has four active groups which provide many opportunities for fellowship and environmental activism. Online discussion forums provide another way for members to keep in touch with environmental issues in an interactive way.

The Sierra Club maintains many online discussion forums which are frequently referred to as "listservs." The name, **LISTSERV**®, is a registered trademark licensed to L-Soft International, Inc. However, this name has become as generic as Kleenex®. The Sierra Club discussion forums do, in fact, use the **LISTSERV**® product and you will get confirmation notices from L-Soft when you join.

You can get a list of available Sierra Club discussion forums at <http://www.lsoft.com/scripts/wl.exe?xh=lists.sierraclub.org>. These forums are issue related, location related, or even function related. For example, you can join a forum to discuss desert conservation, to discuss environmental justice or even to discuss clean water in Indiana. You can join a group that focuses on a club function, such as local club finances.

Some forums are limited in membership. For example there is a forum for conservation leaders who belong to either of the two Sierra Club Illinois groups or one Missouri group geographically near St. Louis. This forum requires that the forum leader approve new memberships.

Many Sierra Club forums automatically register anyone who applies.

The Eastern Missouri Group currently has two forums established, a conservation issues forum and a "smart growth" forum. The discussions include topics which may be of interest to all Missouri Sierrans. Recent discussion threads have discussed the Missouri Department of Conservation and where to buy fair trade coffee. You can join either of these forums by filling out the join form on <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/>.



Online discussion forums are easy to use. When any member sends an email to the forum email address, the message is rebroadcast to each member of the forum. You can also reply to any forum message and your reply will be broadcast to all the members.

You can start a forum. Does your email list of contacts sometimes lose contacts as email discussion goes back and forth? Consider starting a forum. When you send a message to the forum, everyone interested in the topic will automatically get the message and be able to contribute. The forum allows you to find other Sierrans who want to discuss this topic and to continue to include them in every message. You don't have to worry about synchronizing contact lists with others on your list. For help on starting a Sierra Club list, contact Cheryl Hammond at [info@todaydata.com](mailto:info@todaydata.com).

Discussion forums are democratic and interactive. Committee chairs can involve members more fully by online discussions between meetings. Online forums keep everyone involved.

Other Missouri organizations also maintain online forums. The Missouri Audubon Society has a forum for Missouri bird watchers, but be prepared for discussions of rare bird sightings. The St. Louis Bicycle Federation advocates bicycle transit and Critical Mass of St. Louis discusses car-free ways to get around St. Louis. You can find these two at Topica on the web at [www.topica.com](http://www.topica.com). In fact, a search of Topica provides a list of many discussion forums related to bicycles in Missouri.

Topica provides free list hosting for any person or group wishing to start a list. But setting up your list with the Sierra Club enables you to reach the most Sierra Club members.

You can reach Cheryl Hammond at [info@todaydata.com](mailto:info@todaydata.com) or (314)291-5907. —

# Ken Midkiff Departs from Chapter Staff

by Caroline Pufalt

Eight years ago we faced a crisis when our Ozark Chapter staff person resigned due to illness. We were trying to find a workable and affordable arrangement on fairly short notice. I was the staff manager at that time and someone told me about a Sierran in Columbia who was interested in trying to fill the gap in our state lobbying program. His name was Ken Midkiff and he had a business called Tavern Creek Canoes. That sounded sort of promising. I just hoped that someone who built canoes for a living had some idea of what working with the Missouri state legislature would be like. Well, as they say, the rest is history.

Ken started that year working part time as a lobbyist. His skills were obvious. It turned out that he had not built canoes all his life. He had also worked as an advocate for a teachers organization in Illinois. He knew something about lobbying, politics, working with agencies, as well as having an appreciation for Missouri's float streams.

Ken grew quickly in the job and he eventually became Chapter Director, working full time on conservation issues and lobbying. He had a broad range of interests, working on pollution issues, sprawl, clean water, endangered species, mining, forest protection, factory farms and more. He became well known in Missouri's agencies, including the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation. He even met with the Governor's staff on a regular basis.

Ken did an enormous amount to raise the profile of the Sierra Club and conservation issues in Missouri. He was effective.

Sierrans across the state were inspired by his hard work and his often entertaining way of explaining the ways things worked, or didn't work. We had many a meeting/party at his home. We became acquainted with his wife, Julie, who generously shared her house and time for Sierra Club functions. Julie also contributes her wonderful pottery to our Chapter auctions.

Ken took a special interest in rural Missouri



and the issues surrounding family farms. He and Scott Dye worked hard to help farmers resist the impacts of factory farms (CAFO's) in the state. His work attracted the attention of the Sierra Club leaders at the national level and a few years ago he began working part time on national level issues mostly related to clean water issues. That work easily complemented many Missouri issues as well.

At the end of October 2001, after eight years working for the Ozark chapter, Ken took a full time job with the Sierra Club working as campaign director for the Club's Clean Water Campaign. Ken will fortunately be staying in Columbia and his office is currently just above the existing Chapter office. Thus, while we are losing his much valued work for the Chapter, we will be in touch and will be able to hear some of his famous stories on occasion. Most importantly, he is still using his talents to further environmental progress. We can't say enough about Ken's contribution to the Ozark Chapter and to the cause of the environment in Missouri. Thank you, Ken!

Now we are back where this article started, looking for a new staff person. But we are better off this time. Given our experience with Ken, we have a solid foundation on which to build. Also due to a generous bequest we are in a little better financial situation than we were eight years ago when we hired Ken as a part time lobbyist. By the time this article is printed we will have advertised for a new Chapter Director. We will not be able to replace Ken. But our hopes are high that we will soon begin again to carry on the good work on behalf of Missouri's environment. —

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San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 977-5541 or e-mail:  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

## March 30 Farmers Expo in Kansas City

The KC Food Circle and the Barstow Organic Farmers Market are co-hosting the 4th Annual Farmers Exhibition on Saturday, March 30, 2002 at Barstow School 11511 State Line Rd in KCMO, 9AM to 3PM.

Admission is free.

Meet Kansas and Missouri organic farmers who can supply high quality organic fruits and veggies and free range, natural meats for the coming season. Original music by eco-troubadour, Stan Slaughter. Pick up your free copy of KC Food Circle Producers Directory.

This year's event will also feature a day long conference with regional & national speakers on problems in the industrial food system and how you can avoid them. Small registration fee. For registration details call the Food Circle Hotline at 1(816)374-5899.

The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas and

# Senate Energy Bill First Priority in New Year

by John Barry, Office of Volunteer and Activist Services/The Planet

New Year's celebrations are past. Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa leftovers have been eaten. Thanksgiving and Halloween are distant memories. The holiday season is finally over. The new year, with all its new uncertainties, begins in earnest.

First out of the chute, the U.S. Senate will be turning its attention to America's energy needs, with a critical vote on a Senate energy bill expected in mid-February.

The Senate energy debate will swirl around the bill introduced in December by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.). The National Energy Security Bill, S. 1766, is a huge improvement over the plan proposed by President Bush and the bill passed by the House of Representatives in August.

The Daschle bill is on the right track because it recognizes that our energy policy must protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other special places, plus help curb global warming and reduce America's oil dependence. The bill creates a strong framework to accomplish these key things, and move us to a cleaner, safer, more secure energy future.

However, some key elements have been left blank, to be filled in later.

For example, the bill calls for improvements in automobile fuel economy, but doesn't say how much of an improvement should be made. We need to make sure that there is a loud chorus of support for a Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE)

standard of 40 mpg for cars, light trucks and SUV's by 2010.

Another fill-in-the-blank deals with tax subsidies for new energy technologies. The bill doesn't say yet how much or which technologies and industries will benefit. We need to make sure our tax dollars support clean, renewable technologies like solar and wind power, and don't subsidize nuclear power or so-called "clean coal," which is anything but.

The Senate bill calls for ten percent of our electricity to be provided by new renewable energy sources by 2020, but studies by the Union of Concerned Scientists show that we can achieve 20 percent.

And please be sure to tell your senators to reject any and all amendments to drill the Arctic Refuge.

Clearly, our voices are needed now. Please take a minute to write a letter to your senators. You can use the sample letter to the right as a starting point.

Or go to the Club's new Take Action Web site at <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/actionindex.jsp> and send an e-mail or fax alert to your senators. Add your voice to the growing chorus for a cleaner, safer, more secure energy future.

Support a Cleaner, Safer, More Secure Energy Future.

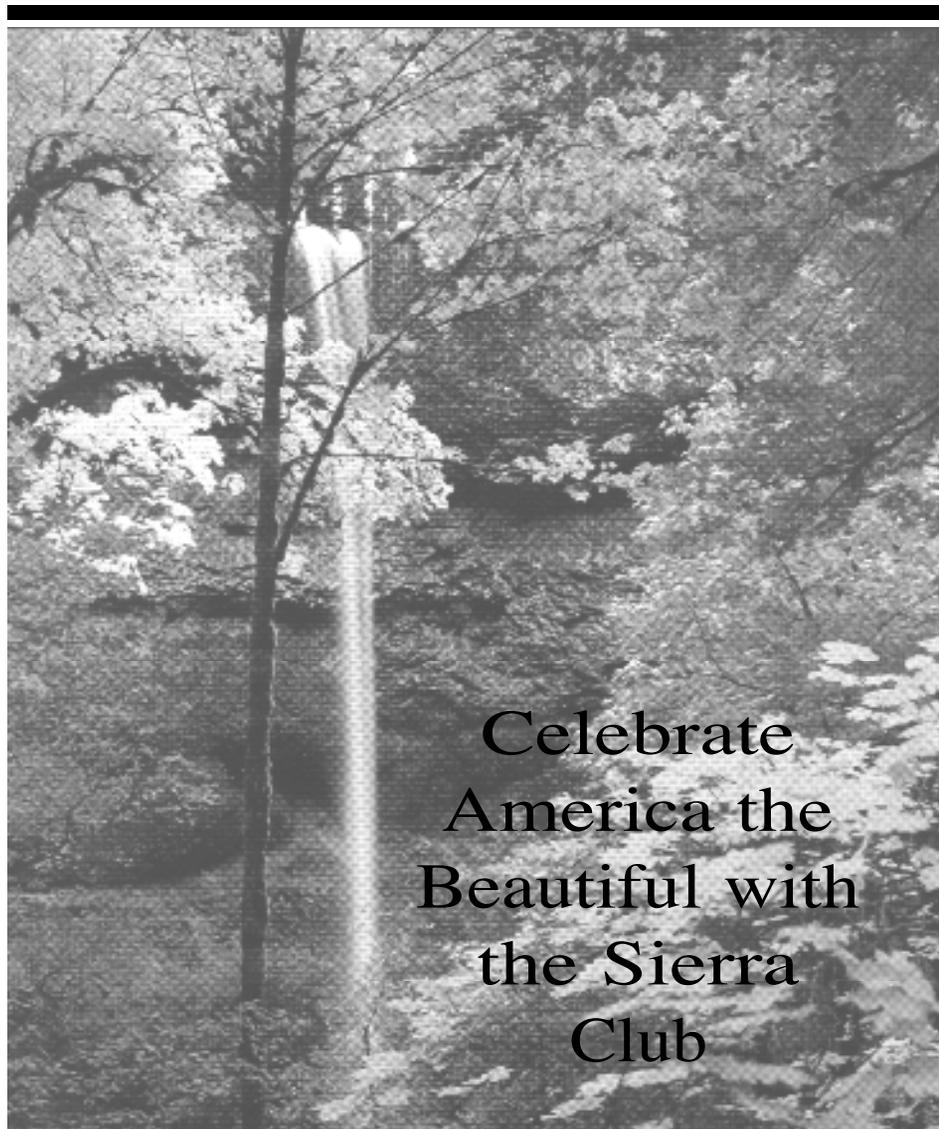


Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_

The Senate's energy bill, introduced in December by Senators Daschle and Bingaman, is a significant improvement to the backward-looking bill passed by the House. The Senate bill would increase federal research and development for energy efficiency to more than \$1 billion per year by 2006, and mandate higher efficiency for appliances. It also recognizes that a sound energy policy must protect special places like the Arctic Refuge and help curb global warming.

This bill is a strong framework. However, more is needed. The Senate bill requires that ten percent of our electricity be provided by clean, renewable energy by 2020, but studies show that we can achieve 20 percent. It also calls for improved fuel economy and tax benefits for energy technologies, but does not yet specify how much. The Senate should require a CAFE standard of 40 mpg for cars, light trucks and SUV's by 2010, and should support clean renewable energy, not nuclear power or fossil fuels. And please reject any amendments to drill the Arctic Refuge.

Sincerely,



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# Letters to the Editor

## Wilderness — Where the Hand of Man Shouldn't Set Foot

by Ken Midkiff, Director of the National Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign

Quite a few years ago in 1978, the then Director of Missouri State Parks did a wise and wondrous thing: by administrative order, he created the State Parks Wild Area system.

The reason was simple, some would even say simplistic. There weren't many large areas of untamed lands left for wilderness designation in the National Forests in Missouri — and the U.S. Forest Service had been more of a hindrance than a help in previous designations. (Then as now, that agency was more inclined to assist those who want to conduct extractive activities; those interested in preservation were viewed as off-kilter and in need of vigilant surveillance.)

So, the State Parks Director decreed that there should be wild areas in Missouri State Parks, and set about promptly to create these. Ranging from the Gans Creek Wild Area in RockBridge State Park, which is surrounded by urban and suburban growth from the sprawling City of Columbia, to Goggins Mountain Wild Area in the eastern Ozarks, which is surrounded only by many more square miles of rugged public and private lands, the State Parks Wild Areas meet ecological, aesthetic, wildlife and human needs.

The concept of wilderness was elegantly stated by, of all people, members of the U.S. Congress, in the Wilderness Act of 1964: a place where "man is but a visitor who does not remain." In short, wilderness areas were off-limits to human manipulations and interferences. Natural processes would dictate what occurred, and what the future conditions would be.

Federal wilderness areas have been subjected to several controversies: signage, trail-building, fire suppression, fire fighting, salvage logging, and fixed anchors (bolts for assisted climbing) — and in almost every instance the "off limits" side prevailed. The philosophy of "wild and free, let it be" won out.

State Parks Wild Areas, however, not having the protection of federal law, have endured human manipulations and interferences. Fire suppression has occurred, as well as prescribed burning to reduce encroachment of cedars on glades areas. There have been modest trail building activities and there have been several instances of removal of nonindigenous species.

Those conducting these activities have what they believe to be good and sufficient reasons for imposing their wishes and visions upon the Wild Areas. They state, with considerable reference to the historical records, that the State Parks are for the most part reclaimed lands. As such, almost all of the Wild Areas have been subjected to considerable alteration in the past — and what is needed now is Restoration and Reclamation.

But, when all the alleged science-based arguments and ecological treatises are pulled back and stripped away, what remains is that those wanting to conduct Restoration and Reclamation have a vision of what the Wild Areas should be. These folks, with the best of intentions no doubt, have arbitrarily and capriciously selected some historical date — typically pre-European settlement — and want to recreate the wild areas in the image of that era. They see native cedar trees, actually junipers, as an enemy of the past, and they use fire as their

primary weapon.

This is scurrilous, spurious and more than a tad bit racist. The historical records reveal that naturally occurring wild fires seldom burned more than an acre. Current data support this. Unlike the arid West, there are no "dry strikes" of lightning in Missouri; when lightning occurs so do copious amounts of rain which douses any lightning-induced fire. The historical record documents that fire in Missouri forests was deliberately set by indigenous peoples. However, since these were indigenous only by perspective — having arrived here no more than 30,000 years ago by the most liberal reckoning — these fires must be considered as yet one more instance of humans manipulating their environment. The only way that these fires can be considered "natural" is if one asserts that American Indians are less than human.

What it all comes down to is a matter of philosophy. Wild Areas should be wild. No matter how they phrase it, when invasive species are removed, someone's vision for the Wild Area is being realized. What Reclamation and Restoration means is that trees are whacked down, vegetation is pulled up by the roots, and considerable disturbances of Wild Areas occur. This is completely and totally at odds with the concepts and precepts of wilderness. Manipulation, interference, removal of vegetation (i.e., trees) and "desired future conditions" are what the U.S. Forest Service does in timber sales. This is patently NOT what State Parks staffers should be doing in Wild Areas.

Those of us who love wilderness — and there are many — don't want to venture into a Wild Area on which someone has imposed their vision. We don't want to see stumps or wide open spaces between trees where pretty flowers grow — there are such places all over the state, including most cities. We want vines, briars, clutter, underbrush, poison ivy, chiggers, stinging nettle, dead logs, tangled masses not yearning to be free and things that go "crunch" in the night. But, no fresh stumps, please.

Wilderness is an idea, an ideology, a philosophy. There need to be places set aside, where man is indeed but a visitor who does not remain — nor leaves reminders of his visit. It is either a Wild Area or it is not. Even a little manipulation — "Well, all we want to do is remove a few of these cedars that are taking over the glade" — is like being a little bit pregnant. There ain't no such thing as a Wild Area where manipulation is occurring — it becomes a Primitive Area, or a Semi-Wild Area, or just another park.

What was in the past cannot be truly recreated. We no longer have bison, elk, grizzly bear, black bear, mountain lions, or Indian tribes roaming our state (and if these entities were present, they would be eliminated all over again because they're messy and undisciplined). When State Parks personnel set out to eliminate some species they consider to be undesirable, their vision is myopic. Without the other components of the original ecosystem in place, their actions are akin to tending a flower garden. Well, not "akin to" — in fact that is exactly what they're doing. Removing what are viewed to be weeds; nurturing desirable plants; creating nice, scenic little vistas, or viewsheds as they're currently labeled.

Sure, there will be glades taken over by junipers — in my lifetime. These glades were probably taken over by cedars in someone else's lifetime. At some point in the future, these former glades may once again be glades or maybe not. Wild Areas are not places of instant gratification.

Nature doesn't operate at our dictate or at a pace or a schedule that we can predict or foresee.

There are very few Wild Areas in Missouri State Parks. These are areas that were to be set aside, where natural processes — Ma Nature if you will — established what would be. State Parks personnel have thousands of acres where they can tinker and tend to their hearts' delight. They can hew, burn, shred, chew and render until the cows (lacking bison) come home. But, they need to leave Wild Areas alone. Even if, particularly if, they don't quite turn out to look like what some naturalist or ecologist thinks they should.

What some cannot countenance are natural processes. These, akin to democracy, are messy and unpredictable. That, however, is exactly what Wild Areas are supposed to be. Wild. Messy. Unpredictable. Natural. And, yes, lovely — to those of us who love wild things.

Wild and free, let them be.

## Support Improved CAFE Standards

by Jim Shrewsbury, Acting-President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen

Legislation has come before the St. Louis Board of Aldermen that deserves serious consideration from anyone concerned over the environment or America's dependence on foreign oil.

Resolution 140 is asking the city's 28 aldermen to oppose any changes to federal CAFE standards. Corporate Average Fuel Economy regulations were first put into place by Congress in 1975 as a way to create better gas mileage during the United States' embargo on Arab oil.

Currently, the standard for passenger cars sold in the U.S. is 27.5 mpg. Action by Congress could boost that to around 40 mpg.

The enactment of CAFE standards in the 70's resulted in America saving 300 million barrels of oil per day. However, critics have charged that

better gas mileage has lead to the production of more lightweight, unsafe cars on the road. This argument just doesn't hold water.

A report from the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration showed that the rate of traffic fatalities fell



by 50% from 1975 to 1989. Safe automobiles are born of good design. High-strength, lightweight materials have been used successfully to reduce weight, while, at the same time, giving better protection in a collision.

Another factor that must be considered is health. Childhood asthma is occurring at twice the national average in St. Louis. Red Air Quality days have become frequent during the city's hot and humid summer months. Automobile exhaust is no doubt contributing to our city's poor air quality.

It is unwise, I believe, for St. Louis lawmakers to be considering a measure that does nothing but oppose better gas mileage and cleaner air. Americans and the environment have benefited from CAFE standards and now is not the time to turn back. —

**The Missouri River.....**continued from page 1

the current Water Control Plan, one is a modified conservation plan, and four alternatives add various changes to the pattern of releases from Gavins Point Dam, the lowest of the six dams. The Corps has been holding public information meetings and hearings up and down the river corridor. Many different interests have weighed in on the alternatives.

The Sierra Club has been working to develop its position on proposed modifications to the river's management. Many different regional, statewide and local Club entities have been involved with Missouri River issues and bring their perspectives to these critical decisions. At a meeting in Omaha in June, 2001, an overall framework or position statement was crafted and subsequently approved by the Sierra Club entities in the Missouri River watershed. Club activists participated in the Corps hearings held up and down the River in November, 2001.

The Sierra Club supports the basic idea that a spring rise in the water levels below Gavins Point Dam would make the flow regime more like the natural flow regime before the Corps dams and project were instituted and would help improve the habitat for the pallid sturgeon, the interior least tern and the piping plover (the three threatened and endangered species). However, control of the flows is only one part of restoring fish and wildlife habitat. Many other actions can be taken to improve habitat, and we believe this should be a major goal of Missouri River management. This would also create more opportunities for recreation along the Missouri River.

In implementing the Master Water Control Plan revisions, improved monitoring for water quality, habitat quality, species decline, species recovery and other parameters is needed. This monitoring can then be used to guide future management decisions. The Corps is calling this "adaptive management" and the Club is very supportive

of the concept. We also want the river to be reconnected with its floodplain, and not just during extreme floods. There should be a wide variety of habitats along the river for the many different species which live in and around the Missouri River corridor.

The Sierra Club opposes out-of-basin water diversions. These would impact historic natural fish and wildlife communities and reduce the benefits the river provides to human communities in its watershed. We also oppose in-basin water depletions which would have similar impacts.

You have until February 28, 2002, to comment on the Missouri River Master Manual Review and DEIS. To get a copy of the summary document you can visit one of many public libraries along the Missouri River or fax a request to (402)697-2504 or e-mail a request to [mastermanual@usace.army.mil](mailto:mastermanual@usace.army.mil) or you can view the document on the Corps' website: <http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil> —

## Recommendations of the Sierra Club for Missouri River Basin-wide Management

The following recommendations on the management of the Missouri River System, including the Master Water Control Manual, were developed by the Sierra Club after extensive meetings, discussions and reviews by Club activists and entities throughout the Missouri River Basin.

- 1 We support native habitat restoration. This should be an over-riding goal of Missouri River management, and all other management goals and recommendations should be subservient to this main goal.
- 1 There should be no new dams in the Missouri River basin, either on the main stem of the Missouri River or on any of the tributaries.
- 1 There should be no new levees that protect beyond "agricultural level" protection (five to ten year flood levels).
- 1 We support basin-wide mitigation funding. The Corps of Engineers has been authorized significant funding to conduct mitigation efforts that will counter the negative impacts of the past decades of river management and we support targeted funding to continue these efforts.
- 1 We support funding for conservation ease-

ments. In addition to public acquisition of floodplain lands, such easements will help restore the river corridor. They can be funded through several programs in the Farm Bill.

- 1 We support monitoring for water quality, habitat quality, species decline and recovery. This monitoring is particularly important for threatened and endangered species, but is also necessary to prevent other species from becoming threatened or endangered.
- 1 We support adaptive management, as proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The results of the monitoring must serve as a guide to making adaptive changes to the management plan to address any problems that are not solved or that develop during implementation of the plan.
- 1 The Missouri River should be "reconnected" to its floodplain by levee setbacks – giving the river room to allow floodwaters to move downstream without causing flood losses and replenish and restore a more natural riparian corridor.
- 1 Since the beneficial uses of the river, other than navigation, far exceed the benefits from navigation, managing for those other uses should be the main focus of management of

the Missouri River System.

- 1 We support "unbalancing" the large three upper reservoirs on the Missouri River. This will allow exposure of the sandbars and mudflats in the upper basin reservoirs on a cyclical basis, which should enhance nesting success for the endangered bird species. However, careful monitoring and adaptive management should be used to ensure positive results.
- 1 We support more dependence on natural riverine systems, and less on engineering structures and measures. This includes modifying the bank stabilization structures to allow restoration of a more diverse riparian habitat in parts of the river corridor.
- 1 We support the "split-season" flow regime for spring high flows in one of every three years, and low summer flows each year. However, we do not believe the "fall rise" is historically or ecologically justified.
- 1 We oppose out-of-basin diversions and basin depletions. These will impact natural fish and wildlife communities within the basin and potentially reduce the economic benefits of the Missouri River to basin-wide human communities.

## The Midwest Region Conservation Committee Takes a New Direction

by Wallace McMullen,  
Ozark Chapter MRCC delegate

The Midwest Region Conservation Committee (MRCC) recently held its fall meeting in Chicago. It chose to focus on reducing pollution from coal fired power plants as the committee's priority for next year. That problem affects all nine U.S. Chapters as well as our newest member, Eastern Canada. Due to mercury pollution, the problem also has a direct effect on rivers and the Great Lakes. The MRCC is hoping to expand from doing issue workshops to doing more long-term follow-up, using the Sierra Club's planning matrix model.

Other significant decisions were made as well. The MRCC voted to forego Big River Week

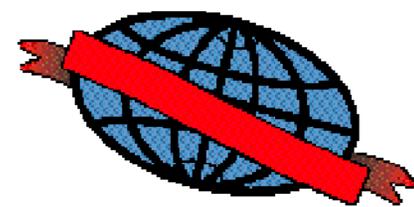
in Washington, DC next year in favor of a scaled-down training event somewhere along the Mississippi River. They also voted to dissolve the Ecoregion Task Forces (Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin) and appointed two individual issue coordinators instead: Jack Norman and Deb Neustadt. Dissolving the Ecoregion Task Forces was not meant to de-emphasize Great Lakes or Mississippi River work — resisting the Army Corps' plans for the Mississippi is more important than ever, as is Great Lakes work on toxic cleanups and pollution. This was a process change to respond to a perception that the Task Force model no longer worked effectively.

Barb Frank from Wisconsin will succeed Dave Scott (Ohio) as MRCC Chair. Barb is a

club veteran who has been recognized by the national Sierra Club for her long-term dedication. I was elected Vice Chair of the MRCC, and Debbie Neustadt of Iowa was elected Treasurer.

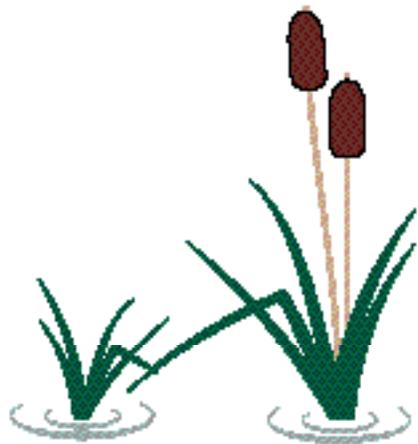
The Ontario Chair, Paula Boutis, reported remarkable success in volunteer activation, with 100 active volunteers out of a membership of 900.

We in Missouri want to learn her secrets! —



# Outings Continued

**Jan 26 (Sat) Tour of the Haskell-Baker Wetlands, Lawrence, KS.** Our first of several trips throughout the different seasons of the year to the Haskell-Baker Wetlands, which are facing a threat from the proposed continuation of the South Lawrence Trafficway. Dr. Roger Boyd from Baker University will show us how the wetland ecosystem survives the winter. Jim Horlacher, (913)649-1611, jimhorlach@aol.com.



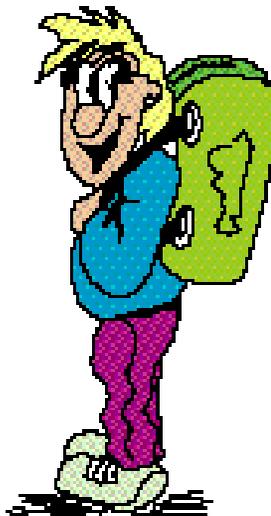
**Feb 2 (Sat, 9 a.m.) Riverfront Park and Steamboat Arabia Museum, Kansas City, MO.** We'll meet about nine and walk in the park. Then we will go to some restaurant for lunch and discussion of conservation issues related to the river. After lunch we will go to the museum, dedicated to a Missouri River vessel that sank in the 1800's. Lee Ann Googe, (816)453-8558.

**Feb 2-3 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking at Perry Lake, Perry, KS.** Our traditional winter trip, with a day hike along the shores

of Perry Lake followed by a night of camping not far from the cars. Jeff Pierce, (913)599-3966, jpierce4@kc.rr.com.

**Feb 9 (Sat, 12:00 p.m.) Beginning backpacking workshop, Lakeside Nature Center (Swope Park), Kansas City, MO.** Come learn more than you might want to know about backpacking. We will cover equipment, food, places to go, and more. Dan Fuller (816)779-7284, donnadan@accessus.net or Scott Hooper (913)722-3882, scott@hoobernet.

**Feb 16 (Sat, 9:00 a.m.) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS.** We'll work the northwest section of the trail along the lake around Lakewood Hills. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack/fanny pack). Please check the forecast and dress appropriately, wearing layers of clothing so you can shed



some, as needed, to remain comfortable. Parts of the trail in this area can be exposed to north winds. We will provide loppers, bow saws and any other equipment needed. Kevin Otterman, (913)856-8281, skiotter@aol.com.

**Feb 23-24 (Sat-Sun) Pigeon Roost backpacking, Rogers, AR.** This is one of our favorite trails because it is short enough to do comfortably in a weekend yet has a couple of challenging stretches. Great views of Beaver Lake and brunch at

War Eagle Mill on Sunday. Anne McDonald, (913)384-6645, rwilamc@msn.com.

## Trail of Tears Group

None submitted.



## Missouri Outdoor Leader Workshop

Trying to learn to be a leader by using your intellectual skills only — by sticking to hard-edged, quantifiable stuff — is like owning a TV that tunes to only one channel: there's no way you can get the full range of information and insights you need. Making the head/heart connection not only provides information and insights that will make your trips safer and more likely to reach their goals, it also provides richer, fuller, and more personal experiences for everybody involved. — John Graham, author of *Outdoor Leadership*

If you're a Sierra Club outing leader or you want to become a Sierra Club outing leader, join us for the Missouri 2002 Outdoor Leader Workshop. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you're an old hand or have never led before, this workshop is for you. It's part of the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP) — a Club-wide training initiative — being offered in the Heartland. Join us for a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun.

### DETAILS

Where **ÈÈ** Camp Shawnee, Waldron, Missouri, 15 miles south of Kansas City International Airport.

When **ÈÈ** Friday, March 1. Opening program at 8 p.m. sharp. Check-in & dinner from 6 p.m. Workshop ends with lunch at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, March 3.

Cost **ÈÈ** \$45. Includes meals (Friday dinner to Sunday lunch) & cabin lodging Friday & Saturday nights.

### GOALS AND PURPOSE

**I** The goals of the workshop are to learn and enhance leadership skills, to bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club, and once again, to have a lot of fun.

**I** The purpose of this workshop is to bring together new and seasoned leaders from ICO (Inner City Outings), GCO (Group & Chapter Outings), and NO (National Outings). The agenda for the workshop will encompass an extensive array of leadership topics presented in both group and breakout formats.

**I** To register, learn more about the workshop, and check for available space, go to the Training website at <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/outings/Training/index.asp>.

### REGISTRATION — 3 other ways to register

Be sure to include your name(s), address, telephone #, email address, membership #, and workshop # — 02989A

MAIL check or money order for \$45  
Sierra Club Outings  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

CALL — credit card only:  
1(415)977-5588  
Monday—Friday, 8:30—5, PST

FAX — credit card only:  
1(415)977-5795  
Include Card Number, Expiration Date and  
Signature

Limited to 50 people — first-come, first-served. Questions? Contact Steven Shewach, Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at [steven.shewach@sierraclub.org](mailto:steven.shewach@sierraclub.org) or at 1(415)977-5711.

# SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS OZARK CHAPTER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

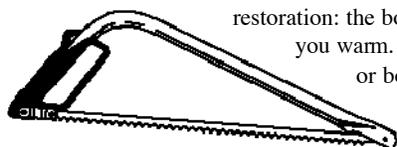
## Eastern Missouri Group

**Jan 1 (Tue) Join me for my annual New Years Day hike in Meramec State Park.** This five mile hike takes us to glades, springs, open forests, and a beautiful river overlook. A moderate hike. Limit 15 hikers. Call (314)429-4352. Paul Stupperich and Bob Gestel are leaders.

**Jan 4 (Fri) It's a new year! Resolve to hike on Friday.** Our first outing will be the 7.5 mile Chubb Trail right here in St. Louis County. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week nights only).

**Jan 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Seventh annual winter backpack trip.** Where we go will depend on driving conditions. Limit ten participants. Bob Gestel, (636)296-8975, or Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

**Jan 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Washington State Park.** Help restore native wildflowers, grasses and wildlife habitat through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. We pile the cedars into bonfires: it's fun, dirty and a good work-out! It's never too cold for a glade restoration: the bonfires will keep you warm. Come one day or both; spend Saturday night at a



cabin in the park with us if you choose. Call Susan Farrington at 1-(636)583-0948 (home, long distance) or leave a message at (314)577-9402 (toll-free) or e-mail [susanfmo@aol.com](mailto:susanfmo@aol.com)

**Jan 12 (Sat) Spend a wonderful day in a beautiful area at Kaintuck Hollow in the Rolla district.** We will hike past and through a natural tunnel which is 175 feet long. We will also see a beautiful spring and pond. Six-eight miles. Moderate difficulty. Glenn Wolters (314)845-5859, or [glenn27@hotmail.com](mailto:glenn27@hotmail.com)

**Jan 12 (Sat) Highway cleanup.** Trash is easier to pick up when it's frozen. Join the crew for some arctic madness by the road. Diane DuBois, (314)721-0594.

**Jan 13 (Sun) This six mile hike will take us to the top of Rockpile Mountain.** We will look for the pile of rocks that makes this mountain famous. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

**Jan 13 (Sun) Eagle watch.** Hike along the Illinois River looking for eagles and other wildlife (approx. three miles). Will stop for brunch at a local restaurant. Suitable for beginners. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

nights only).

**Jan 19 (Sat) Weldon Spring winter woods hike features scenic overlooks of the Missouri River.** About five miles. Jill Miller, (314)664-7895.

**Jan 20 (Sun) Photo-slide-video party.** Show your vacation photos, slides and videos to an appreciative audience. Then enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. Ann Eggebrecht, (314)725-1560.

**Jan 25 (Fri) Ten mile Meramec State Park Wilderness Trail.** Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week nights only).

**Jan 26 (Sat) Day hike at Rockbridge Memorial State Park.** Possibly visit the nature center in Columbia, too. Glenn Wolters (314)845-5859 or [glenn27@hotmail.com](mailto:glenn27@hotmail.com)

**Jan 27 (Sun) See eagles soar at the Clarksville Dam.** Dress warmly for the wind and cold. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Possible hike after lunch. Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758, or [jamarhodes@earthlink.net](mailto:jamarhodes@earthlink.net)



**Jan 26-27 (Sat-Sun) Trail maintenance on Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail.** Common Commissary Saturday night. Bob Gestel, (636)296-8975, or Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

**Feb 1 (Fri) Hiking at Babler State Park.** Maybe we'll see a ground hog. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 2-3 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Meramec State Park.** Help restore native wildflowers, grasses and tarantula habitat through the removal of encroaching cedar trees. Come one day or both; spend Saturday night at a cabin in the park with us if you choose. Call Susan Farrington at (636)583-0948 (home) or leave a message at (314)577-9402 or e-mail [susanfmo@aol.com](mailto:susanfmo@aol.com)

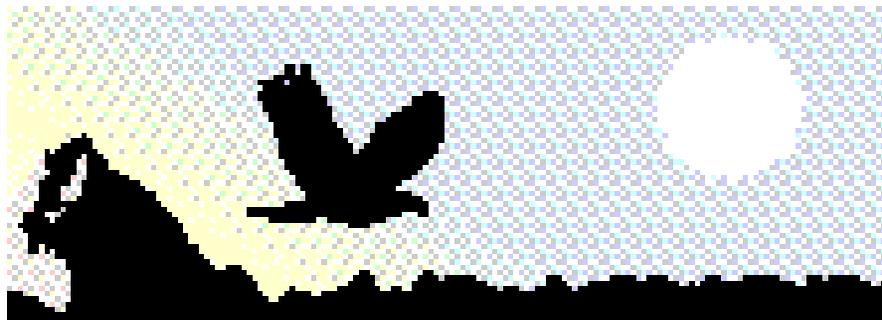
**Feb 3 (Sun) Hike Bell Mountain Wilderness to the Ozark Trail.** Lots of great views on this moderate hike. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

**Feb 8 (Fri) A ten miler at Washington State Park.** Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 15 (Fri) St. Francis State Park hike.** Seven-eight mile hike and lunch at C.B. Joe's BBQ. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week nights only).

**Feb 16 (Sat) Hike the Cedar Creek district of the MTNE.** This trail network offers different lengths packed with hidden and spectacular highlights. Moderate hiking difficulty. Glenn Wolters (314)845-5859, or [glenn27@hotmail.com](mailto:glenn27@hotmail.com)

**Feb 16-17 (Sat-Sun) Canoe float on Meramec River or Huzzah Creek.** Stayovernight in heated cabin. Colin Maag, (314)721-7397.



**Jan 18 (Fri) Let's explore Castlewood State Park right here in St. Louis County.** Hopefully, four-six mile hike. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7 pm, week

**Feb 17 (Sun) Car tour of Calhoun County to look for eagles.** We'll eat family style at historic Wittmond Hotel in Brussels, Illinois. Optional hike afterwards. Ted Horn, (618)397-9430.

**Feb 23-24 (Sat-Sun) Glade restoration at Washington State Park.** Susan Farrington, (636)583-0948 (h), (314)577-9402.

## Osage Group

**Jan 27 (Sat) Join Randal Clark for his Annual Winter Hike and Chili Fest.** Meet at 2 p.m. at the Wagonwheel Parking lot of Rockbridge State Park at the end of Bearfield Road. After a winter hike through Gans Creek Wild Area we will go to Randal's house for a potluck and Randal's Chili. Randal (573)875-0514.



**Feb 23 (Sat) Winter wonderland at Rocky Hollow Natural Area.** Join us to see the ice waterfalls at the scenic Rocky Hollow Natural Area. Meet at 11 a.m. at the MDC Wildlife Research Center at the corner of College and Stadium Ave. Randal Clark (573)875-0514.

**Feb 24 (Sun) Explore Schnabel Woods.** A University-owned woodland preserve overlooking the Eagle Bluffs Wetlands. Steep trails, an impressive hardwood forest, great views with the foliage gone. It may be a little muddy. Dick Luecke (573)442-7063.

## Thomas Hart Benton Group

**Jan 6 (Sun) Ice skating at Crown Center Ice Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.** Join us at KC's finest outdoor ice rink. Fun for the whole family (don't worry, we're not very good, either). Dan & Donna Clark Fuller, (816)779-7284, [donnadan@accessus.net](mailto:donnadan@accessus.net).

**Jan 12-13 (Sat-Sun) Winter Campout, Lawrence, KS.** Our traditional winter backpacking trip in the Woodridge Primitive Area on the west side of Clinton Lake. Scott Hooper, (816)561-0575, [scott@hooper.net](mailto:scott@hooper.net).

