

OZARK SIERRA

One Earth

One Chance

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You Want Fair Elections? Vote for Proposition B

by Roy C. Hengerson

You care about the environment, about clean air and water, about protecting parks and forests. You care about your health and the health of your family. So why should you support and work for passage of Proposition B on the November 7th ballot? Proposition B would help make Missouri elections fairer and begin to take the big special interest money out of our elections.

The current system of campaign financing is out of control and benefits those big money interests who can use their financial resources to unduly influence the outcome of elections and the votes of politicians elected with their support. Proposition B would halt the rising cost of campaigns, level the playing field for all candidates for public office, allow candidates to focus on the public interest rather than on raising huge amounts of money, and strengthen public confidence in our democracy.

Missouri voters have been asking for campaign finance reform for quite some time. However, bills in the state legislature have repeatedly been blocked. Politicians elected with the old system of big donor money are understandably reluctant to support reform. Fortunately, Missouri has the ballot initiative provision in its constitution so citizens can put

measures to a vote of the people despite inaction by the legislature.

Proposition B would institute a system of public funding of state election campaigns for the state legislature and for the six statewide office holders. To participate, candidates would have to agree to abide by strict spending limits and accept no private contributions other than raising a certain amount of "seed money" in order to demonstrate that the candidate has a minimum level of public support. This "seed money" could not just come from their own resources or those of a few rich supporters, but a set number of \$5 minimum contributions would be required, based on the importance of the office.

If a "fair elections" funded candidate faced a race against a candidate who was privately funded, the "fair elections" funded candidate's spending limit would be raised to the level of his or her opponent. This matching provision would assure that all candidates have a level playing field for campaign funding, even against candidates who choose to raise money from wealthy special interests. The source of the funding for fair elections will come from limiting the corporate franchise tax rollback recently granted to Missouri's largest for-profit corporations. The cost of the fair elections system is estimated at \$10 to \$11 million per election cycle, well worth it to clean up politics in Missouri. It is less than 1/10 of 1% of the state budget and, given that wealthy special interests get millions in special deals due to their influence,

this can actually save taxpayers money.

Citizens concerned about their health and environment will benefit from reducing the influence of big money special interests on our elections. Studies on the voting records of politicians have repeatedly shown that there is a strong correlation between their big contributors and whose interests they represent in government. Politicians who receive the largest amounts of campaign contributions from big polluting industries and industries that exploit natural resources typically have the worst environmental voting records.

Clean money in clean elections will ultimately mean a cleaner environment for all of us. Proposition B can help Missouri show the way in the growing movement toward campaign finance reform. Four states have already enacted fair elections laws. Now it's time for Missourians to step up to the challenge to reform our election process and restore confidence in state government.

We urge you to become involved in the campaign for fair elections. For more information contact:

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Transportation Plan Is \$30 Billion Short

by Ron McLinden
Ozark Chapter Transportation Chair

Education and prescription drugs for seniors might be getting most of the attention this political season, but a projected \$30 billion shortfall in transportation funding over the next 20 years promises to eclipse them as Missouri's Number One issue.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) released its draft Long-Range Transportation Plan in September and the bottom-line numbers are sobering. The cost of meeting the state's transportation needs — for all modes, including transit and rail — will be approximately \$52 billion over the next 20 years. It's anticipated that available funds, including federal funds, will total only \$22 billion. That leaves a whopping \$30 billion that is needed — about \$1.5 billion per year.

As expected, the lion's share of the need is for highways and bridges: nearly \$42 billion. The plan divides this between preservation needs (\$22 billion) and expansion needs (\$20 billion). "Preservation" includes "rehabilitation and reconstruction" work that must be done to keep the state's 32,000 miles of roads in operating condition, and to bring them up to acceptable standards. "Expansion" includes essentially all of the projects in the failed "fifteen year plan" of 1992 — those four-lane highways to every town of 5,000 or more.

Public transit needs are estimated at \$8.5 billion, while the inter-city passenger rail and bus service need is estimated at \$0.4 to \$2.6 billion, depend-

ing on whether a full-blown high-speed rail system is implemented. No estimate is given for bike and pedestrian needs — in part because these needs are often considered incidental to highway construction projects, and in part because MoDOT simply doesn't have a handle on the extent of those needs.

If we take these estimates at face value — and we should not do that, of course — the question becomes how to raise the money. The two most obvious sources are the gas tax and the general sales tax. Based on MoDOT's estimates of revenue per penny of tax, it would take a gasoline tax increase of about 50 cents per gallon, or a sales tax increase of 3 cents, to raise \$1.5 billion per year. Either way the

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increase would have to go to the voters for approval.

The Plan, As a Plan

Overall, the plan is getting favorable reviews for being at least a good start on addressing transportation needs. Significantly, the plan proposes guidelines for how to prioritize future spending for highways, while avoiding the trap of identifying specific projects. That will be done year by year as MoDOT updates its five-year spending plan. Of greatest significance, perhaps, is that it identifies safety and preservation of the existing system as highest priority. Even those needs, however, exceed available funding.

The plan also has its shortcomings. MoDOT recognizes this, and characterizes the plan as a work in progress. Based on our quick review, here are some of its deficiencies:

nThe plan takes transportation pretty much for granted, without stepping back to consider where it fits in a broader context. It focuses on transportation investment "inputs" more than on "outputs" or benefits to society.



nThe plan takes transportation pretty much for granted, without stepping back to consider where it fits in a broader context. It focuses on transportation investment "inputs" more than on "outputs" or benefits to society.

nThe plan appears to assume that MoDOT will continue to do pretty much what it already does, albeit with some expansion in transit and inter-city passenger transportation.

nThe plan gives inadequate attention to safety. Building roads to be safer is considered, of course, but there's little or no mention of the role of driver behavior and traffic law enforcement in saving lives and avoiding injuries.

nThe plan gives little consideration to urban growth policies and their impact on transportation expansion needs.

nThe plan offers no policy alternatives. What might be the costs and benefits of shifting, say, \$5 billion from highways to transit? You won't find the answer in this document — nor even the question.

Multi-Faceted Approach Needed

The size of the funding shortfall is so enormous that a single-tax solution is not likely. Meeting the identified needs is going to require a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to transportation. That approach must include the following principles at minimum:

nTrim highway expansion expectations. Some of the projects desired for economic development and other purposes are going to have to be dropped or at least postponed.

nIncrease funding for transit over and above the needs identified, as a matter of policy, to make up for past decades of neglect.

nRequire greater local funding for projects that are primarily for local benefit. For example, local jurisdictions should bear more of the cost of widening state highways to ease congestion along local commercial strips.

nPromote better local land development practices to help reduce local traffic — provide more "access" through proximity and less through mobility.

nRaise user fees — the motor fuel tax, vehicle sales taxes, and vehicle registration fees to levels at least as high as surrounding states.

nIncrease user fees on trucks — perhaps through a "weight-distance tax" — to assure that they pay more of the cost of the damage they do to highways. The trucking industry will protest that such fees will just be passed along to product consumers — and that's the way it should be.

nIncrease the general sales tax only after user fees have been raised to the highest level tolerable.

nUse congestion pricing — or "time-of-day" tolls — on urban freeways to shift trips to alternate routes or off-peak time periods, and thereby reduce or postpone the need for added capacity.

nImplement tolls on new or expanded interstate highways.

nCreate interstate highway corridor benefit districts within which a tax surcharge would be levied on all businesses that depend on highway traffic — gas stations, motels, restaurants, and outdoor advertising.

The Political Angle

Funding transportation needs is going to require leadership from our next governor. Curiously, credible leadership is not yet apparent. One candidate adheres rigidly to the "fifteen-year plan" of 1992, and insists he can have all those projects under construction by 2011 without an increase in taxes. The other candidate says, "No, that won't work" — but he doesn't say what he would do. Obviously neither candidate wants to say he'll raise taxes for transportation. But one has promised that he won't raise taxes — in spite of the fact that the 6-cent gas tax increase enacted in 1992 will expire in 2008.

Meanwhile, a new organization called "Transport Missouri" has been formed to lead a campaign for new transportation funding. They anticipate holding at least a couple of public forums prior to the November 7 election. Their impact on the gubernatorial election, if any, is hard to predict.

In short, things are about to get pretty interesting, transportation-wise.

The complete 226-page Long-Range Transportation Plan draft is available on MoDOT's website. Go to www.modot.state.mo.us, and select "Long-Range Transportation Plan" under "Other Information" near the end of the site map. Comments will be accepted through mid-November. —

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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 issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this 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: Bob Sherrick, Editor; Keet Kopecky, and Claus Wawrzinek

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11/11

Chapter ConsCom meeting:

Mid Missouri

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11/12

Chapter ExCom meeting:

Mid Missouri

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12/2

January/February Ozark Sierran

Deadline

contact **Bob Sherrick (816)779-6708**

U.S. NEGOTIATING TO WEAKEN GLOBAL WARMING TREATY

News release from Sierra Club Washington, D. C. Office

International negotiators are currently deciding how strong the Kyoto Global Warming Protocol will be. While countries such as Great Britain are actually finding ways to reduce their emissions (oh by the way, U.S. autos emit more CO₂ than every source in Great Britain combined!) negotiators for the U.S. are trying to avoid making any real reductions in our own emissions. Instead, the U.S. is promoting a system of pollution permit trading which would allow U.S. polluters to continue polluting as usual domestically while placing the burden of making real reductions upon other countries. The U.S. would then buy the "credits" earned by those countries making reductions.

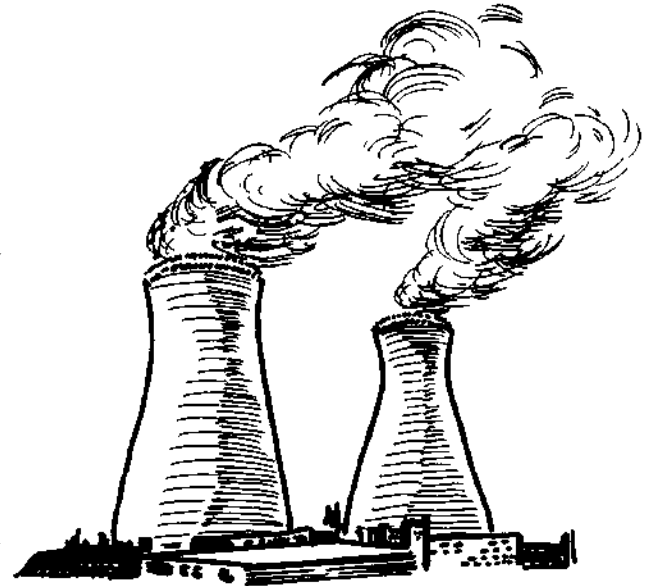
Negotiators are trying to take advantage of



every possible loophole and even create new ones. For example, the U.S. is trying to ensure that U.S. polluters will be able to continue to pollute, so long as they buy emissions reductions that have already occurred in Russia, which has shut down many polluting plants since 1990. This "Hot Air" loophole would mean that pollution that didn't come out of Russian tailpipes and smokestacks could come out of ours. The Administration is also seeking to allow the U.S. to get pollution reduction credits for merely keeping existing forests standing. And the nuclear industry is absolutely salivating at the U.S. proposal that polluters could earn pollution credits from new nuclear power plants abroad.

The Sierra Club has taken a position against these risky trading schemes and opposes the use of "credits" as a right to pollute. Instead of passing the responsibility on to others and delaying any action, we're pressing for real reductions in domestic emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. We should be making our cars, powerplants and factories pollute less, not rely on less developed countries to clean up our mess.

TAKE ACTION. Contact the White House (phone: 202-456-1111, or email: president@whitehouse.gov). Urge President Clinton to instruct U.S. negotiators to stop weakening the Kyoto Protocol with loopholes designed to avoid making real reductions. We should take World leadership by cutting



our own global warming emissions. —

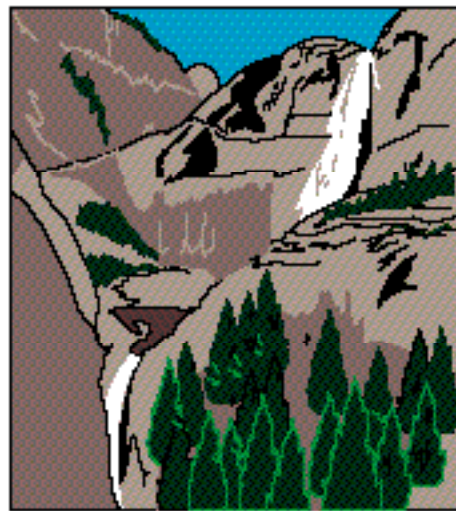
The National Park Service Enters the 21st Century With Emphasis on Resource Protection

by Caroline Pufalt
Ozark Chapter Conservation Chair, ExCom

If there is any American agency, tradition, or idea that Sierrans closely identify with it's the National Park system. We know our roots go back to John Muir and his cohorts who viewed Yosemite and other spectacular places as American treasures which deserved special protection. We know that from its formal inception in 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has striven to protect those parks and provide visitors with quality visiting opportunities. That history has not been without its problems, as the NPS has struggled with conflicting pressures from the public, from politics, from budget limitations and from within its own bureaucracy. Through it all our National Parks have remained an invaluable contribution to our national identity and to the conservation of our natural resources.

Thus I felt especially privileged to attend Discovery 2000, a NPS conference held in St. Louis this Sept. The NPS holds a major management conference only about once every decade. The 1200 attendees at Discovery 2000 included primarily NPS employees from all levels of operation. A major theme of the conference was meeting the challenges of managing and protecting natural resources amid many other duties and pressures.

I have visited several National Parks and Historic Sites and approached this conference with what I thought was a little more knowledge than the average citizen regarding the NPS. But I was still amazed and inspired by the diversity of their challenges and the talents and experience of their employees. The agency includes employees working in remote outposts of Alaska to historic tenement sites in New York City. In Missouri the NPS manages the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, the Gateway Arch grounds and exhibits, and Truman Historical Site in Independence.



I attended a workshop regarding historical interpretation which dealt with how to present sometimes controversial truths to visitors of varied backgrounds and sensibilities. And those "truths" sometimes change. One park employee working at an historical site in the south asked: What do we say now about Thomas Jefferson? Other items I heard discussed at the conference were issues surrounding budget limits, fire policy, fee demo projects, appropriate technology for park facilities, working with concessionaires, transportation problems, concerns of neighboring communities, relevancy of exhibits, requests for inappropriate recreational activities and just what is inappropriate anyway?

Sierrans would have been especially interested in the NPS's recent program called the Natural Resources Challenge. This is an attempt to apply good science to resource management in order to restore and retain the natural heritage of the parks. Legislation passed in 1998 was designed to provide more resources for scientific study. Over its 84 year

history the NPS has sometimes placed more emphasis on visitor and recreation issues than on protecting and understanding resources within parks. In recent years the agency has desired to take a more proactive role in resource protection and this initiative is part of that effort. Included in this program will be efforts to inventory park species and habitats, protect endangered and rare species, control non native species, and restore habitats. Readers may have heard of the inventory in Great Smoky Mountain National Park that has already discovered two species, the eastern spadefoot toad and mole salamander, not previously recorded in the park.

Conference participants had the benefit of hearing from noted entomologist, naturalist and Pulitzer Prize winner, Dr. E. O. Wilson and from our own distinguished Dr. Peter Raven of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Both stressed the importance that National Parks can play in preserving our natural heritage and in implementing the principles of conservation biology. One of the tenants of that discipline is that in general larger areas provide better conservation opportunities and security for biodiversity. National parks need to work in concert with other public lands and private lands to achieve this. Parks, as large as some of them are, still need to be supplemented by good conservation practices in neighboring lands. Dr. Wilson even went so far as to state opposition to commercial logging in our National Forests and to suggest that those lands would be better managed as National Parks. Both Dr. Wilson and Dr. Raven recognized the difficult political and social changes needed to achieve such ambitious goals.

As a citizen and user of National Parks I left the conference with a renewed appreciation for the agency and a renewed sense of responsibility to help support the NPS and keep in on the right track. —

Big Opportunity for Regional Parks and Trails: Support Proposition C

by Roy C. Hengerson

The citizens of several counties in the St. Louis metropolitan region in both Illinois and Missouri, as well as the City of St. Louis, will have the opportunity to implement an exciting initiative to improve their parks and trails systems. The Clean Water, Safe Parks, and Community Trails Initiative will improve water quality, increase park safety, provide a community trail network, improve local parks, increase disabled public access to recreation, and protect wildlife habitat. It is on the ballot in several St. Louis Region counties and cities as Proposition C.

In 1999 legislation was enacted by both the Missouri and Illinois State Legislatures that authorizes creation of separate regional park and recreation districts. These districts would not replace local park agencies, but would work together with them to expand recreational opportunities and improve and protect the environment. Inclusion in the regional districts is voluntary. Each county can decide to join the district by approving a one tenth cent sales tax that would be used by the district, and also by local park agencies, for park and recreation purposes.

In Illinois the district is called the Metro-East Park and Recreation District, and in Missouri the district is called the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District. The two districts would be linked by inter-governmental agreements to insure

coordination of planning and development of the overall parks and trails system. Counties that did not join immediately could do so later as they realized the benefits of being part of the districts. Eleven counties, five in Illinois and six in Missouri, and the City of St. Louis are eligible to join one of the two districts.

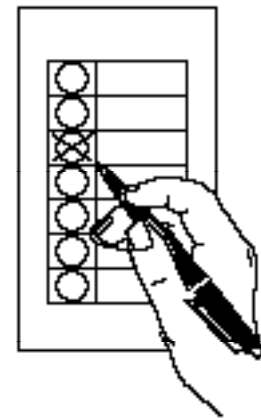
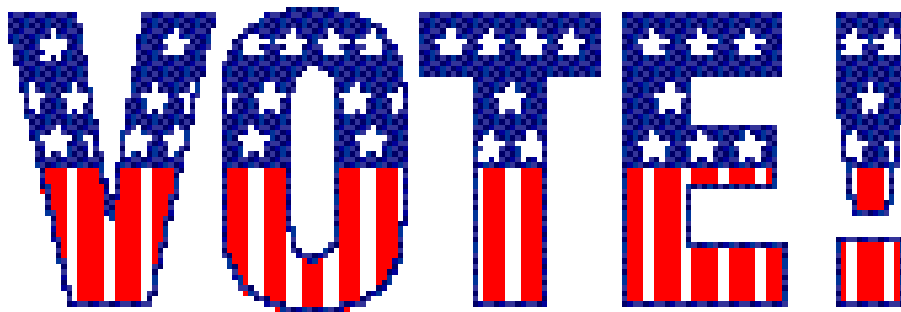
The environmental community has been very supportive of the regional park and recreation concept. Working with a large and diverse alliance of groups including Gateway Parks & Trails 2004, we worked to pass the authorizing state legislation and are now working to get the implementing measure

each state, and county and municipal park agencies in each participating county and the City of St. Louis. Each participating entity would have representation on the district Board in their state, which would have specific powers to plan and operate the regional parks and trails system. The Board would not have the power of eminent domain, but could issue bonds, contract with existing park agencies, and accept property and financial contributions.

The Clean Water, Safe Parks, and Community Trails Initiative is an exciting opportunity for the greater St. Louis region to work cooperatively for a cleaner, healthier, more livable environment.

Expanded recreational facilities, protected open space and greenways, and a higher quality of life are among the many benefits. You are urged to support Proposition C by voting for the November ballot measure and working for its passage where it is on the ballot.

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on the ballot and then approved by the voters. Four of the Illinois counties eligible to join the Illinois district have put the measure on the November ballot. St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County in Missouri have put the measure on the November ballot. The other eligible counties have decided to see how the concept works and then will consider putting it to a vote in the future.

If approved by voters, funds generated by the one tenth cent sales tax would be split 50/50 between the newly established regional district in

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website: www.moenviron.org

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL TURNS OUT TO BE AN ECONOMIC BOON

by Alan Journet

Conservation Chair, Trail of Tears Group
Department of Biology, Southeast Missouri State University

In 1991, Federal District Judge William Dwyer banned timber harvest sales on 24 million acres in 17 National Forests in Oregon, Washington, and Northern California. The ban was imposed until such time as the U.S. Forest Service could provide assurance that logging would not harm the endangered northern spotted owl.

This decision brought the right wing doomsayers out in force. President George Bush proclaimed "It is time we worried not only about endangered species, but endangered jobs." Congressman Bob Smith (R-OR) warned that reducing logging on federal lands "will take us to the bottom of a black hole." Senator Hatfield (R-OR), meanwhile, warned that the mill towns would be turned into ghost towns.

So, what actually happened? With the wisdom of 20/20 hindsight, we can now assess the accuracy of these predictions.

In contrast to those dire economic fears, since 1991 the economy of the affected areas has blossomed, with regional economies out-performing even the national economy. While timber harvests have fallen 91% on federal land (52% overall) and timber-related employment has fallen 15%, per capita income has risen 25% (in 1999 dollars) and total employment has risen 31%.

Apparently there are three reasons for the outcome being opposite to the predictions of economic catastrophe, none of which should have surprised the doomsayers of the day. The first is that in 1998

the timber industry played only a very small role in the economy of the region, ranging from 0.9% in California to a high of 3.4% in Washington. In Missouri, by comparison, it represented just 1.3% of the state economy. A second reason is that in many states, after the costs of forest management are taken into account, logging is actually a net loss to regional economies: in 1997, the loss in California amounted

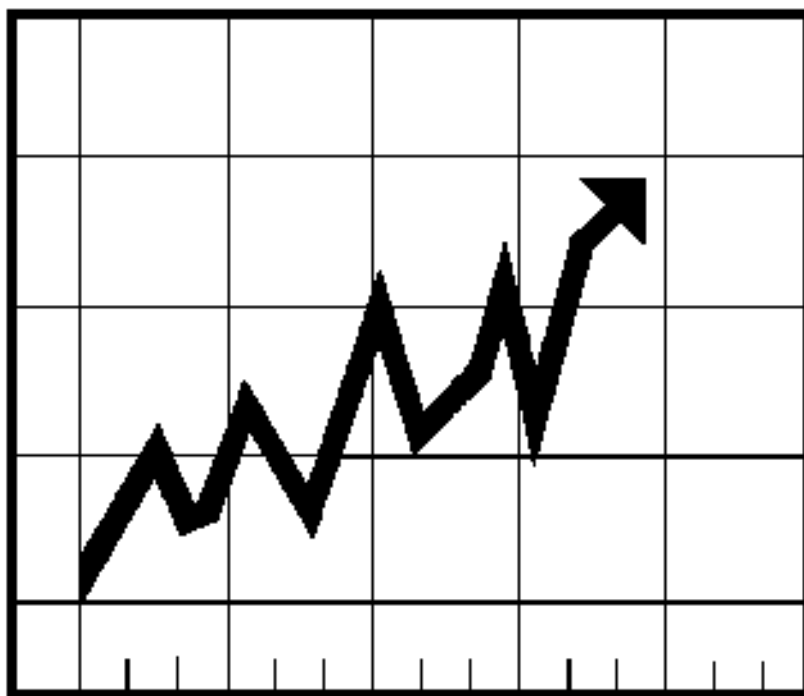
\$1.2 million.

A third contributor to the positive outcome is that the timber harvest nationally comprises a minuscule proportion of the economic benefit gained from our National Forests. 1995 data revealed that timber contributed just 2.7% of the Gross Domestic Product generated from our National Forests and just 2.3% of the 3.3 million jobs. Recreational activities, meanwhile, weigh in at over 75% of the GDP, and 78% of the jobs. While recreational activities do not have a negative impact on timber harvest, the reverse is not the case. Many timber harvest techniques harm recreation – either directly by deterring tourists, or indirectly by polluting rivers and damaging fisheries.

It turns out that rather than being an economic catastrophe as many continually argue, reducing or eliminating logging in National Forests actually has resulted in an economic boom in the Northwest. As many conservatives are beginning to realize, our National Forests are too valuable a resource for us to allow their management for the benefit of a small though politically powerful segment of society: the timber industry. If we were to apply sound economic management to these forests we would reap not only economic benefits, but would also provide improved habitat for a wealth of the nation's threatened and endangered species.

It is time for us to evaluate more wisely the social and economic costs and benefits of logging our National Forests and incorporate into the accounting non-timber benefits and services provided.

Information based on Niemie and Fifield 2000 "Seeing the Forests for the Green," a Sierra Club Report.



to over \$3.8 million, in Washington the loss was \$1.4 million. Only the National Forests of Oregon operated as a regional economic plus, at \$23.7 million. Interestingly, the Mark Twain National Forest of Missouri during the same period cost the region

CARE TO DRIVE SOME COFFIN NAILS INTO GENE ENGINEERED FOOD?

by Laurel Hopwood
Chair of Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee

Philip Morris is a household name, and the Marlboro man is more famous yet, but did you know that the cigarette company is also a major seller of genetically engineered (GE) food? Sierra Club's Genetic Engineering Committee has chosen to target what turns out to be the biggest packaged food company in the U.S., demanding that Kraft produce GE free food, or label it as genetically engineered if it dares. Surveys have found that a majority of us are leery of GE ingredients, and labels would allow us to vote with our dollars.

Sierra Club isn't opposed to genetic engineering, but the Club has asked for a moratorium on GE crops, which use gene splicing techniques to transfer genes from viruses, bacteria, unrelated plant species, and animals into food crops. This is just the very beginning, but already 100 million acres have been planted.

Genetic engineering is a radical technology whereby genes from one or many species can be introduced into totally unrelated species, which are

then called transgenic. The fundamental blueprints of the natural world are being manipulated in this way and, in the case of crops, are being released into the environment without any precautions. The results can't be predicted and there may be no remedies for the consequences.

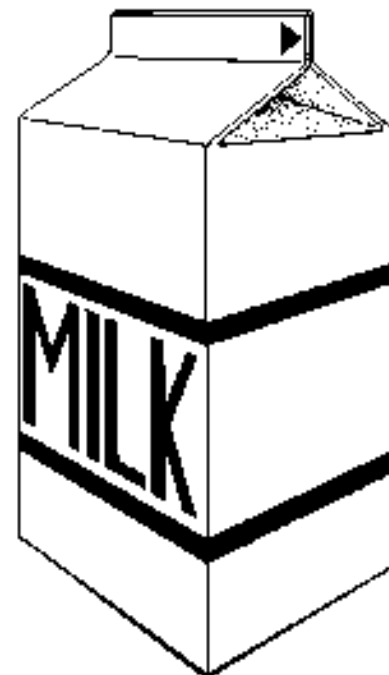
GE crops create pollen which can blow in the wind. Many of the crops contain their own pesticide, and the pollen of GE corn has been shown to kill monarch butterflies. Cross pollination of neighboring organic farms results in a huge loss for organic farmers since the crop can no longer be regarded as organic. Other crops are Roundup Ready, designed to tolerate Monsanto's herbicide. The crops then get sprayed with more Roundup and both the active and the inert ingredients are a cause for concern.

Europe, and also Canada, bans rBGH (cow growth hormone) to treat dairy cows (it doesn't turn them into Olympic sprinters, it makes them produce more milk). This is also a genetically engineered product. The major human health concern is that rBGH causes the milk to contain increased levels of IGF-I, which is a growth factor for prostate and breast cancers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you think it's time to stop this experiment for which the American people never volunteered, here's how you can help:

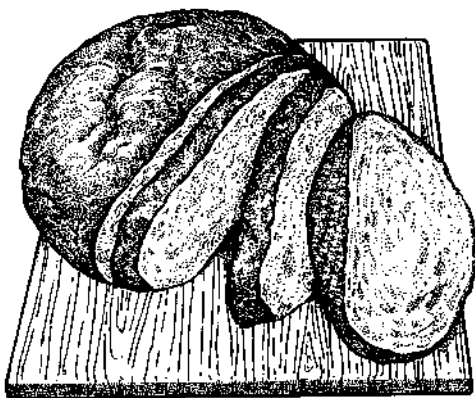
- 1) Contact Betsy Holden, CEO of Kraft Foods, Inc., 3 Lakes Drive, Northfield, IL 60093. See sample letter below.
- 2) Call 1(800)847-1997 to say NO to Kraft's genetically manipulated foods.
- 3) Send an e-mail via the Kraft web site: www.kraft.com/html/email/email.html.
- 4) Contact Laurel Hopwood, Chair, for a supply of postcards to distribute to your friends, family, and colleagues to send to Kraft.



Sample letter:

I'm writing to ask you to remove genetically engineered (GE) products from your foods, just as I'm trying to remove them from my table. Transgenic crops — crops which have been genetically manipulated with viral, bacterial, and animal genes — pose environmental risks and I believe shouldn't be in our food supply until adequately tested and clearly labeled. Dairy products made with milk from r-BGH treated cows are banned in many countries as possibly contributing to cancer. For our health and the environment, I ask that you move to GE free production.

You can find the Sierra Club's Policy (and much more) on agricultural biotech on our website: www.sierraclub.org/biotech. To subscribe to our Biotech Forum listserv, contact Jim Diamond: jim.diamond@sierraclub.org. For any questions, contact Laurel Hopwood, Chair, Genetic Engineering Committee: jhopwood@wviz.org or (216)371-9779.



Hard Green is Hard To Take

by Peter Huber
reviewed by Caroline Pufalt
Ozark Chapter Conservation Chair, ExCom

I became interested in reading this book due to a message I read about it on Sierra Club e-mail. The message was from Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, in which he alerted readers that they may see quotes or references to this book in anti-environmental editorials and gave some advice on how to respond. Mr. Pope's advice on responding was that on just about any page one can find a quote so ridiculous as to cast well founded skepticism on the whole treatise. The quote he chose was:

"Cut down the last redwood for chopsticks, harpoon the last blue whale for sushi, and the additional mouths fed will nourish additional human brains which will soon invent ways to replace blubber with olestra and pine with plastic. Humanity can survive just fine in a planet-covering crypt of concrete and computers."

An outrageous statement, but to be fair to Huber, taken a bit out of context. It is hard to worry about being fair to Huber, however, but more on that later. The plastic and concrete nightmare world described above is not one that Huber wants to live in, but is one that he believes is possible. What Huber does seem to want is a world similar to that described above but dotted with preserves of wilderness for human aesthetic enjoyment.

The book is subtitled Saving the Environment from the Environmentalists, a Conservative Manifesto. I read it in hopes of understanding another perspec-



tive. I did not expect to agree with that perspective but it's always good to be exposed to other viewpoints. However, I have rarely been so often tempted just to give up on a book as I was when reading this one. The book lacked coherency, made outrageous comparisons, is full of contradictions, gave very few references, and poorly explained its few points. Huber, like most extremists, divides environmental viewpoints into two camps, hard and soft. He is so involved in his anti-soft ranting that he easily slips off topic and the reader is often left searching for some coherent point.

Huber places himself in the "hard green" camp, a tradition he claims back to Teddy Roosevelt (Too bad T.R. can not defend himself). Huber claims that what is important for environmentalism today is simply to save land for wilderness, be it forests, mountains, seashores, etc. He claims that this wildness has an aesthetic value and sometimes a practical value, such as watershed protection. OK so far, but Huber does not stop there. He argues for mining, using oil reserves, plane travel, against recycling, and shows an amazing lack of appreciation for the services nature provides. He argues that these activities use less land surface and are therefore more "green" than soft alternatives.

Soft alternatives would be alternative energy such as solar or wind, which use land surface.

Recycling paper is counterproductive because we should be cutting and re-growing trees as a way of using up carbon. Huber is also critical of "soft-green" for depending too much on computer models and micro-managing pollution. Pollution controls

continued on page 6...*Hard Green*

Hard Green.....continued from page 5

are best left to the markets and computer models are too uncertain and too likely to be interpreted pessimistically by “softies.”

But Huber has no difficulty making wildly optimistic projections based on what I’m not sure. He repeats some of the well worn predictions that with our brains and technology on our side, we humans can think, invent, and with the aid of the free market, find our way out of any environmental problem. The current environmental “balance” is not the only one possible, nature is now “at our feet,” we can do what we will. We can “invent” in the lab anything and more that is found in nature.

It is hard to over emphasize all the contradictions and highly selective examples used to support outlandish conclusions in this book. One of the worst is his claim that efficiency is not “green.” According to Huber when we make our refrigerators more efficient to save energy and fuel, we will just then be able to afford bigger refrigerators and will end up using more resources. Therefore, why make efficient appliances, cars, etc.? On the otherhand he claims that purchasing an SUV is efficient because it makes the purchaser feel wealthy and satisfied and

that’s economic efficiency. He also points out more than once that it is more efficient to burn oil in a large central power plant than in a two-stroke lawn mower. This he uses as part of his argument for large power plants and not decentralized solutions such as solar or wind. At most it seems like an argument for electric mowers, or better yet, push mowers. But wait; he also points out how inefficient “human power” is, we need to eat too much per unit of energy expended. Can anyone make sense of this?

Huber expects that most conservation can be accomplished through private efforts. Wealth brings the luxury of private preserves and easements, etc. Where needed, the government can preserve larger wild spaces. He uses Yellowstone as an example of this. But nowhere does Huber show an appreciation of the principles of conservation biology. He refers to the hard green approach as Central Park on a large scale. From his point of view we do not have a responsibility to the evolution of the rest of the planet, only to ourselves.


He clearly states that his brand of conservation is not based on moral imperatives, just aesthetic and practical ones. He strongly rejects the concept that nonhuman life has “inherent value.” He claims that

will only lead to placing nonhuman life at a par or above that of humans. It is in Huber’s discussion of “Ethics in a Green Lifeboat” that I really lost all respect for him. Suffice it to say that he compares “soft green” ethics with what he calls the two other major nonreligious movements of the 20th century, fascism and communism. When he goes on to criticize the public examination of Theodore Kaczynski’s writing (the Unabomber), he concludes that “murder now can be green.” The whole chapter is a callous dismissal of many important issues.

Huber’s book seems like a confusing mess, or maybe I missed the point. But as I said earlier, it is hard to worry about being unfair to him. He spends so much time on being unfair to others. Early in Huber’s book he states his concern that we are spending too much effort trying to cleanup every superfund site and extract every polluting particle from the air and not enough on saving wilderness. I’m sure many Sierrans also worry about how to balance and prioritize what we can do, but don’t expect Huber’s book to give you any advice on how to do it. —



Some images will live on long after we’re gone. And we get to choose which ones those are. The Everglades is a national treasure—as well as one of the most biologically significant wetlands in the world. And it’s also one of the most endangered sites in America. Join us now, so together we can save what remains of these and other precious wildlands for generations to come.



SIERRA CLUB
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George W. Bush’s Toxic Record

“Bush let industry write an anti-pollution measure, and believes voluntary plans, not regulation, can clean up the air and water.”

“No Wonder Texas Has A World-Class Pollution Problem”

—Time Magazine

Despite Bush’s attempt to get business to voluntarily reduce emissions, Texas has continued to lead the nation in industrial air emissions, which increased in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s most recent Toxic Release Inventory. The state’s toxic pollution discharged into surface waters jumped nearly 20 percent, to approximately 25 million pounds. And for the first time in history, Houston topped Los Angeles as the nation’s smog capital in 1999. —EPA, *Air Toxics Release Inventory*

“Governor Bush has shown more concern with giving polluters options than with protecting families who breathe the nation’s dirtiest air,” Ellen Pillard, Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club said.

Texas Governor George Bush has received “more than a million dollars in campaign contributions from Texas’s worst air polluters. —Time Magazine

November 24 is Buy Nothing Day

by Ron McLinden
Ozark Chapter Transportation Chair

Time to begin planning for this year’s Buy Nothing Day. You know, the annual celebration of sanity held on the same day-after-Thanksgiving when the rest of the country goes on a shopping binge.

The idea is simple: just boycott the madness.

Buy Nothing Day is the creation of Adbusters, a decidedly counter-establishment group of advertising industry folks. Their purpose is to focus attention on American over-consumption. For more information, including a poster you can download and print, check their website, adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd/.



Ozark Chapter
Sierra Club Ballot 2001



About
this
ballot

Your official ballot for the Ozark Chapter Executive Committee is on the right of this page. The ExCom sets Chapter policy and oversees the business of the Ozark Chapter. It is made up of nine members elected from the membership at large (you), plus one additional member appointed by each of the five Sierra Club groups in Missouri. ExCom members are elected to staggered two-year terms. Of the current ExCom members, Herschel Asner, Gale Burrus, Donna Clark Fuller, Keet Kopecky, and Wallace McMullen continue in office. That leaves four members to be elected this year. You may vote for up to four of the candidates named on the ballot, or you may write in the name of another qualified member. If yours is a joint membership, two members

Executive Committee Ballot Profiles

Gina DeBarthe (Kansas City) I am a 26 year old student of Biology and Environmental Science. In order to better understand our planet, I have traveled to Europe, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, and all over the United States. No matter where I go, or what I study, I am always struck by the great beauty of the natural world. It often seems that our society has become too separated from nature, with people passing from one man-made environment into another. I would like the opportunity to work with the Executive Committee to better educate the younger members of our community about the environmental treasures that are all too often overlooked.

Andrew Gondzur (St. Louis) I have been a member of the Sierra Club for six years and am a current member of the Executive Committee of the Ozark Chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the club in this capacity. It has been a very valuable and rewarding learning experience, and I would be honored to be given the opportunity to serve for a second term. I have also served on the Eastern Missouri Group's Executive Committee and as group representative. With the help of the Osage Group leaders, I coordinated the Chapter's Annual Reunion & Campout last year at beautiful Lake of the Ozarks State Park. I have been a member of the Endangered Species and Bio-diversity Committee, and, as such, have organized outings and hosted/co-led monthly meetings. I am strongly committed to environmental education and fostering positive values regarding the protection of the environment. Upon my reelection I will once again seek out and communicate your concerns to Chapter leadership and give priority to those efforts that activate membership. I believe this is key to getting new members more involved which, in turn, helps spread word of the great work we are all doing to explore, enjoy, and protect Missouri, as well as the rest of our precious planet.

Thomas Moran (Columbia) Hi. I'm Thomas Moran, from Columbia, MO. I have been serving on the Ozark Chapter excom for a year now. At first appointed to serve out the term of a prior member, I have enjoyed my time on excom, have participated in many activities, and served as political chair in this election cycle. We have endorsed many well-qualified candidates, and look forward to the culmination of our efforts in seeing a (more)responsible and balanced government seated after November. I have been active in Sierra Club for 4 years now, and currently am Osage group chair, and am active locally in sprawl issues. I thank you for your vote for my continued activities on the Ozark Chapter Executive Committee.

Caroline Pufalt (St. Louis) The Sierra Club is a dynamic organization with a large and complex mission: to preserve, protect, and enjoy the wild places. Today, so many things fall under the environmental agenda. As a primarily volunteer based group we must make hard choices about on what to spend our finite time and energy. I will work to help our chapter make those choices and to increase our volunteer base so we can be the most effective in our conservation work. I am currently Ozark Chapter Conservation Chair. In the past I have served as chapter chair and newsletter editor. The executive committee deals with the necessary business of the chapter. I'll try to use my experience to see that we all work together as effectively as possible. I also hope that I can help group level activists get to know their counterparts across the state so we can share experiences and increase our awareness of state level issues.

2001 Ozark Chapter ExCom Ballot instructions

To vote:

- 1) Vote for up to four (4) people (you may write in additional names)
- 2) If yours is a joint membership, two (2) members may vote
- 3) Insert ballot into an envelope and address to
Bob Sherrick/Sierra Club Election Committee
10807 E. 205th
Peculiar, MO 64078
- 4) Write **your membership number** (the 8 digit number on top of the computer address label) in the return address space of the envelope.
- 5) Affix 33¢ stamp and mail to us so it arrives by **December 31, 2000.**

I vote for ...

(see personal profiles at left)

| 1st member | 2nd member | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| () | () | Gina DeBarthe |
| () | () | Andrew Gondzur |
| () | () | Thomas Moran |
| () | () | Caroline Pufalt |
| () | () | |
| () | () | |
| () | () | |

Ecofacts:

40%

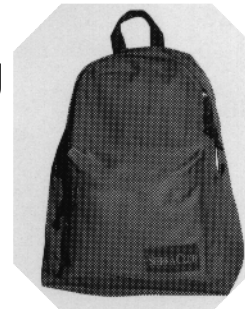
Percentage of dollars saved by replacing an incandescent lightbulb with a compact fluorescent.

Percentage by which energy consumption in developing nations is expected to grow by 2010.

Percentage of total paper used in Germany that goes towards packaging.

Percentage by which one can reduce pollution from an older car by keeping it well tuned.

Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting the land. Nature doesn't.



Won't you join the Sierra Club, and add your voice to the many thousands who want to ensure that our nation's unique natural heritage is protected?

Join the Club and receive a FREE Sierra Club Backpack!

Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

My Name _____

Address _____

City / State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed (made payable to "Sierra Club") Phone (optional) _____

Please charge my MasterCard VISA E-Mail (optional) _____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Sign check and mail to: P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

| | INDIVIDUAL | JOINT |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTORY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | |
| REGULAR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$47 |
| SUPPORTING | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| CONTRIBUTING | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 |
| LIFE | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| STUDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| LIMITED INCOME | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

○ **SHOPPING MALL**

○ **NATURE PRESERVE**

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed the following candidates for election. Please keep them in mind when voting in the general election in November. Make your "voice" is heard in this very important election!

President:

✓ Al Gore and Joseph Liebermann

U.S. Senate (MO):

✓ Mel Carnahan

U.S. 5th Congressional District:

✓ Karen McCarthy

Treasurer (MO):

✓ Nancy Farmer

Attorney General (MO):

✓ "Jay" Nixon

State Senate District 5:

✓ Ken Jacobs

State Senate District 13:

✓ Wayne Goode

23rd Legislative District:

✓ Tim Harlan

25th Legislative District:

✓ Vicky Riback-Wilson

Preserve The Future.

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in you will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sage Kuhn, Sierra Club
Planned Giving Program,
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



MOVING?

Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below.
(Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time.)

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

EcoTeams Build and Preserve:

One neighbor at a time. One neighborhood at a time.

by Mary Lockwood
THB Group Webmaster

The Household EcoTeam Program uses neighborhood groups to teach about resource-efficient lifestyles. With an easy-to-read workbook and a proven format even a veteran recycler like myself learned a trick or two. Better yet, I got to spend time with my neighbors.

Created in 1989 by Global Action Plan for the Earth, the Ecoteam program has worked with over 15,000 people and hundreds of neighborhood groups throughout the United States. Over its first 10 years and with more than 12,000 participants, the savings were dramatic:

14,557,200 pounds of garage recycled
48,524 trees saved
762,851,344 gallons of water saved
3,632,639 gallons of gasoline saved
87,988,178 pounds of CO₂ not dumped
Total: \$8,825,057 saved

If you doubt these numbers, consider one of the ideas from the workbook. For just one day a week take public transit or share the ride. You will instantly stop 20% of the pollution generated in your commuting.

Kansas City's EcoTeam program works by bringing neighbors together to encourage each other to follow new habits. The workbook presents a list of do-able actions to start today. Participants commit to specific tasks, then come back to report. Meetings are

times of shared experiences, pats on the back, and eating good food. Many good things happen; one EcoTeam built a neighbor's wheelchair ramp.

After about four months and seven meetings, the old team scatters like bees into the surrounding neighborhood to gather members for a new team or two. So it grows — one neighborhood at a time, one neighbor at a time; neighbors becoming part of an international effort operating in 17 countries involving over 150,000 people; neighbors becoming part of each others lives; small acts of consciousness making life simpler and richer.

Currently Kansas City has the only community EcoTeam campaign in Missouri or Kansas. But anyone can start an Ecoteam program, anywhere, with the support of the National office. More information can be found at <http://globalactionplan.org> under "sustainable lifestyle campaign."

Or contact KC's own June Holte
E-mail: Ecoteams@kcmo.org
Voice: (816)513-3480

A Sustainable Future...It Starts Where We Live

Americans make up only 5% of the world's population, yet we consume a third of the planet's resources. We waste up to 75% of what we consume due to inefficiency and lack of awareness.

In the U.S., between 35% and 85% of a community's natural resources are used at the household level. Even more resources are consumed indirectly through the purchase of products and services. Households are also a major source of air pollution from auto emissions and a source of water pollution because products with toxic chemicals are used and enter the ground water.

How we live is a big part of the problem. It can also be a big part of the solution.

If we exercise more care, or stewardship, in our use of the Earth's finite resources (trees, water, energy, minerals, land) we will develop more environmentally sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable lifestyles ensure that there will be enough resources left for our children and their children.

Global Action Plan's Household EcoTeam Program helps individuals lower their environmental impact by adopting more resource-efficient lifestyle practices.

"The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the industrialized countries. Developed countries must take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption."

— United Nations Agenda 21

—from the EcoTeam website at Global Action Plan
<http://www.globalactionplan.org/>



What I Learned at EcoTeam

by Mary Lockwood

I used to say that my mother was a Depression baby and for a long time a younger friend thought that I was saying she was a depressed baby. My mother grew up in the Great Depression on a farm in North Dakota. These were tough people who took nothing for granted. Everything came hard, and nothing was ever wasted. My aunt likes to say, "when we butchered, the only thing we didn't use was the oink" — which is to say my family was the first one on our block to recycle. My parents saved food cans in the garage, neatly washed with the label and ends removed and flattened. When there was a carload we'd drive them 25 miles to a neighboring town.

Not that I always understood. As a teen-ager it would make me furious that my mother washed and reused bread sacks. "We're not that poor!", I'd sulk. Later, away from home I realized, why wouldn't you wash and reuse bread sacks?

So I was exposed to recycling 30 years ago and have for the last twenty been an enthusiastic recycler. We know the mantra: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. So why did my husband and I join EcoTeam?

1. Someone asked. I never answer the door after dark. But my husband did and there was a pleasant couple who asked us to come to a neighborhood organizational meeting. They were sincere and likable and we said yes.
2. We like meeting our neighbors. My husband and

I consider ourselves lifers on our street. It's a smallish house in a pleasant neighborhood, close to the bus line with sidewalks and old trees. We might wish for a larger house someday, but the truth is our house holds a history of our work



and our lives. I don't like to think of leaving our smallish house.

How wonderful it is to grow old together. I am grateful for the gay people on my block. They do not have children and flee to the suburbs.

3. To learn a few new tricks. We were curious and figured you can always learn a thing or two. And we did. I hadn't considered, for instance, asking

for tin foil instead of Styrofoam for restaurant leftovers. This is a small behavior change that costs little more than awareness, but eliminates the need for a bulky substance that literally never degrades.

4. What I actually learned. Together my neighbors and I examined our small daily habits and the details of how we live. We learned not only do our actions matter, but our actions are at the core of the problem.

We learned to catch our water in plastic jugs. Our water gets hot enough for dishes in about one gallon. When both jugs are full, I know I'm remiss in watering something.

Sometimes the water goes out to the birdbath. Vegetable scrub water sometimes goes to the compost pile (biodegradable soap). I love the ritual of the compost pile, walking through the yard with my offering, a small gesture of gratitude for our abundance.

This was the true gift of my experience with the EcoTeam. Simple awareness. Increased mindfulness in everyday life, doing all the good things you were taught to do. Don't make a mess. Play fair. Share.

As a consumptive nation, no one does it better than the United States. I say we've conquered that quest. It's time to move to the next thing.

The time is ripe for anticonsumption. Let's honor our rightful place in the universe. No where does it read we have the right to pillage and destroy. Frankly, I'd rather have the universe on my side.

David and Mary Lockwood are currently volunteer coaches for the Kansas City EcoTeam. You can reach the author at Mary@Lockwoodwebs.com —



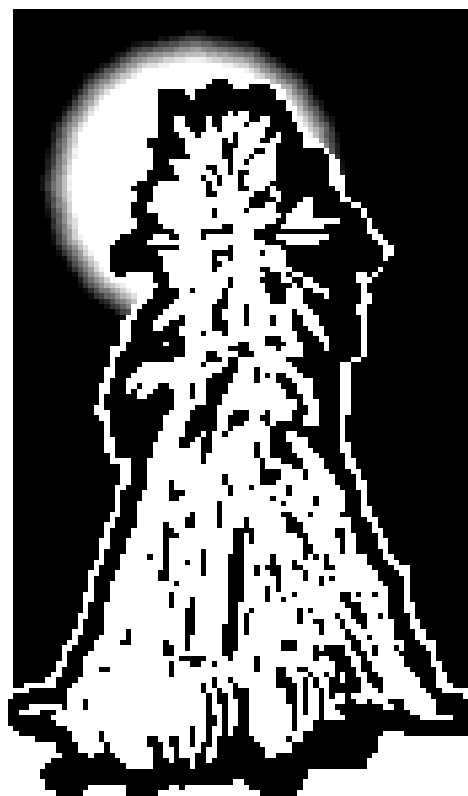
Plan Ahead for the Holidays

Reprinted from *Environmental Excellence* by Bridging the Gap, Kansas City, Mo.

Here's a checklist to saving money, resources, time, energy and frustration this holiday season. Choose Environmental Excellence wants to help you have a happy, healthy and environmentally friendly holiday season. Plan ahead and enjoy simpler times with your loved ones.

In October:

- n Shop at thrift stores and yard sales for outrageous Halloween costumes, or trade old costumes with a friend.
- n Assemble a list of email addresses for all of your family, friends, and guests for holiday events to save paper and postage on invitations.
- n "Green" any event in your home by:
 - ↳ Borrowing durable dishes from a neighbor or friend for parties to avoid buying disposable paper plates.
 - ↳ Ask your guests to carpool to your party—you know where they live, so match up those who live near each other—this can also help them designate a driver!
 - ↳ Need cloth napkins? Use worn tablecloths, sheets, and other used textiles to make napkins for large gatherings.
 - ↳ Turn down the thermostat shortly before guests arrive to keep the house comfortable while saving energy and heating costs.



- n Evaluate your home for energy loss. Weather stripping or caulking can keep you and your guests nice and toasty. Weatherizing your home for winter and save 20-40% on your energy bills and help keep our air clean.

In November:

- n Don't automatically give "stuff" for Christmas. Do something together or give a service, like a spa day or gift passes for a favorite activity. Set a budget, and see how far under budget you can get by giving recycled or reused gifts. Every dollar you spend creates demand on the market to produce more stuff.
- n Use last years' holiday cards to make garland or decorate gifts.
- n Use wrapping paper scraps for bows and house decorations.
- n Compost that pumpkin (or left-over pumpkin pie). Next spring's garden will thank you!

n Most wrapping paper isn't recyclable. Search for alternatives to non-recyclable wrapping paper, such as maps, fabric scraps, brown bags, or make your own from recycled paper!

n When shopping, take a canvas bag for purchases. If you forget your canvas bag, ask for a large bag at the first store and carry it with you to other stores so that you can refuse additional bags.

n No need for yard waste bags! Compost those gorgeous fall leaves in your backyard. It's so easy. Call us for a free brochure. (816)561-1087.

- n Bring fall inside the house. Use pressed leaves, acorns, and pinecones to decorate the house for the holidays.
- n Support local, environmentally friendly businesses with your holiday gift-giving.

In December:

- n Consolidate shopping into one day for local friends and family and order mail order items for long-distance friends. Caution: Mail order gifts are often over-packaged.
- n Carpool, shop with a friend, combine trips, and share the day gift wrapping items from old magazines scavenged from your local recycling center.
- n Christmas lights are gorgeous, but are huge energy hogs. Place lights on timers, look for energy efficient options, and replace older bulbs with new ones.
- n Make your Christmas wish-list reflect your environmental commitment. Request donations to your favorite environmental cause, ask for compact fluorescent light bulbs, or just choose to share time together.
- n Practice what you preach. Make gifts from used items or give edible gifts. Thermostat timers, low-flow showerheads, sink aerators and recycled-content clothing are all great gifts to teach your friends and family about protecting the environment.
- n Plan accordingly for guests at the dinner table. Cook less meat and more side dishes made from grains, fruits, and vegetables. Your waist will thank you, and you'll save valuable resources.
- n Did you still end up with a pile of unwanted stuff? Have a post-holiday swap for New Year's Day. Invite all of your friends to a get together where everyone brings unwanted or duplicate items. One person's trash is another person's treasure.

For more holiday ideas, call (816)561-1087 and request Holiday Hints for the Earth or Simplify the Holidays.

'TIS
THE SEASON
FOR
SAVINGS

Outings Continued

Theater. Tour led by zoo docent. Donna Clark Fuller (816)779-7284.



Nov 12 (Sun) Weston Bend State Park Day Hike. Two loop trails connect to make seven miles of hiking. You will enjoy lovely vistas, wooded areas, and grassland areas. Susan Fowler (816)531-8724.

Nov 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Caney Creek Backpacking. One of Arkansas' prettiest trails, in the Ouachita Mountains of west central Arkansas. Lots of water, not too many hills. Scott Hooper (816)561-0575.

Nov 25 (Sat) Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge, Mound City, MO. Birdwatching featuring bald eagles, ducks, geese, geese, and more geese.

Dan and Donna Clark Fuller (816)779-7284.

Dec 2 (Sat) Dayhike at Weston Bend State Park. Hike and then tour historic Weston to get a taste of old-time Christmas. LeeAnn Googe (816)453-8558.

Dec 2-3 (Sat-Sun) Devil's Den Car Camping / Day Hiking. This 2,000-acre park provides some of the most spectacular Ozark Mountain scenery in the state. Andrew Kolosseus (913)371-6629.

Dec 9 (Sat) THB Holiday Party. Melissa Blakley (816)741-8200.

Dec 9-10 (Sat-Sun) Cecil Cove Trail Backpack, AR. This 7.4-mile loop trail along Cecil & Cove Creeks on the Buffalo River is an early Christmas present. Easy to moderate. Bob Wilshire (913)384-6645.



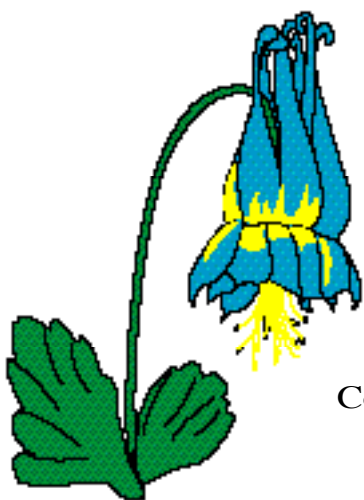
Dec 16 (Sat) Wyandotte County Park Bridle Trail, Kansas City, KS. Filling up on Christmas party goodies? Walk it off with us as we explore Wyandotte County Lake's trail. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028.

Jan 6-7, 2001 (Sat-Sun) Winter Campout. 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. Scott Hooper (816)561-0575.

Reflections on a Dry Year

by Donna Clark Fuller
Ozark Chapter ExCom, Treasurer

I'm sitting here thinking that I'm glad the heat has finally broken and fall seems to be here, but I'm also looking at cracked ground and a lawn that looks like if a match was set to it, a prairie fire would



Columbine

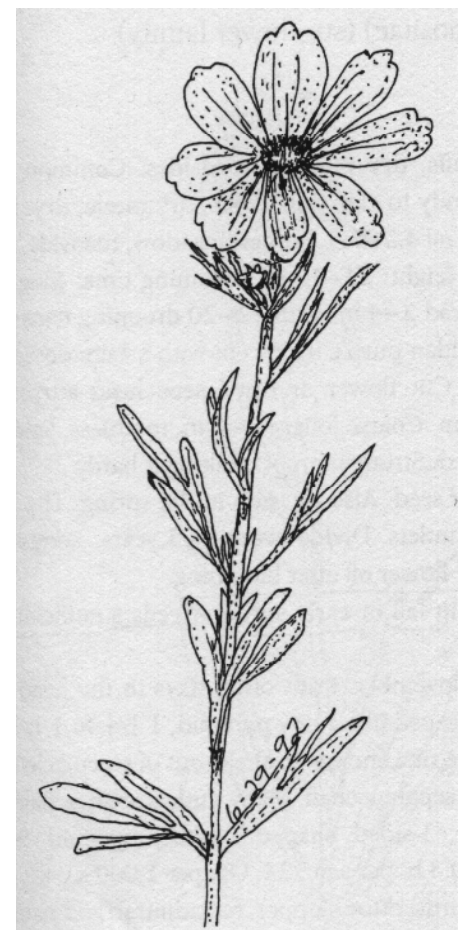
spread pretty quickly. We've not only had a hot summer, but a very dry one. We also had an incredibly dry spring. (Whoever heard of no rain in April!) And as I recall, there wasn't much precipitation, frozen or otherwise last winter. I notice I haven't heard much from the folks that think that global warming is just a myth and not worthy of our even considering as a possibility. I don't pretend to be an expert on that subject, nor do I think anyone can predict the future

completely. But I don't think it's rational to believe that continuing to pour car exhaust and other pollutants into the air won't have some unhealthy consequences.

However, even without global warming, Missouri weather is at best unpredictable. In looking at the various plants I have around our place, I think the native plants fared much better than the non-native ones. I think native prairie plants had to be able to put up with forty degree changes in temperature, floods, droughts, tornadoes, ice storms, heat waves, etc. in order to survive here in Missouri. During the dry spring, the non-natives were already looking stressed and had to be watered, while I have only recently watered the natives. Fall is the best time to plant these plants. If you are thinking of planting native perennials, here is a short list of some common ones:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Purple coneflowers | Goldenrod |
| Gray-headed coneflowers | Prairie coreopsis |
| Tall larkspur | Blazing star |
| Indigo | Phlox |
| Columbine | Asters |
| Wild geraniums | Missouri primrose |

These bloom at various times and can provide wildlife habitat as well as provide a beautiful spectacle for humans. —



Prairie coreopsis

OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Eastern Missouri Group

Nov. 3 (Fri) A night hike at the Shaw Arboretum will be safe now that the goblins are gone. Helen McCallie (636)742-4380 (h) or (636)451-3512 (w-toll free).

Nov. 3 (Fri) "Mini Sauk" is calling. Hike to Missouri's high point and Russell Mountain. Five to Seven miles. Cider and cookies afterwards. Should be peak fall colors. Optional overnight camping before Paul's backpack. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 p.m., weeknights only).

Nov. 4-5 (Sat-Sun) This Taum Sauk Mt. backpack trip takes us to a new area of the state park. We will see and enjoy great fall colors. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Nov. 5 (Sun) Enjoy prime autumn colors and spectacular vistas in the Bell Mt. Wilderness. We'll hike to the granite summit via the gentle northeast route. About six miles. Jill Miller (314)427-4226.

Nov. 11 (Sat) Highway cleanup. Are you experiencing those post election blahs? Let the full moon draw you to new experiences (trash) and new acquaintances (not trash). Diane DuBois (314)721-0594.

Nov. 11 (Sat) Lemonade volunteers party. Celebrate the close of another successful lemonade season. 6:30 p.m., 905 Lami, Souldard neighborhood. Jim Young (314)664-9392.



Nov. 16 (Thur) Members Slide Show. Show your outstanding slides at the November General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Missouri Botanical

Garden. Must call to get on the list of presenters. Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

Nov. 25 (Sat) Forest Watchers Field Trip. Find out the difference between a selection cut and a clear cut as we discuss various forestry practices in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Join us for an informative full day with dinner afterwards. Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560 or Hank & Katie Dorst (417)932-4623.

Nov. 26 (Sun) Meramec State Park day hike. Our wrong-side-of-the-river hike goes through Hamilton Hollow to Green's Cave and beyond. See springs, caves, bluffs, and historical sites. Wayne Miller (314)569-0094.

Dec. 2 (Sat) Help the Sierra club test water quality conditions on the still pristine Fox Creek. Half day activity. Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758 or jamarhodes@earthlink.net or Leslie Lihou (314)726-2140.

Be sure to check your GROUP newsletter for more or current outings!

Dec. 2 (Sat) We will hike a little used section of the Ozark Trail. Crossing Trace Creek, we will hike for about eight miles along bluffs and Trace Creek before ending back at our cars. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Dec. 2 (Sat) Holiday party and pot luck dinner. Bring a dish to share. Call for time and directions. Barb Wall (636)394-6549, Marilyn Harlan (314)966-8797, or Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

Dec. 3 (Sun) "The Morning After" the Sierra Club holiday party day hike. Six to seven miles at Rockwoods Reservation. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 p.m., weeknights only).

Dec. 8 (Fri) Get some exercise before those Christmas cookies start piling on the pounds. Hike six to eight miles on the hills and glades at St. Francis State Park. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 p.m., weeknights only).

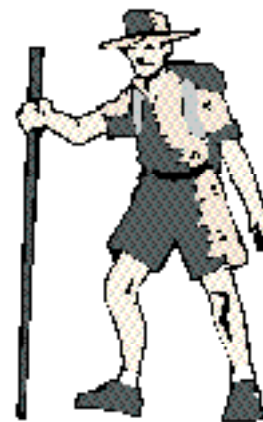
Dec. 9 (Sat) Warm up with an afternoon hike at Rockwoods. Finish with a fireside dinner at the Big Chief Dakota Grill. Please call by Dec. 6. Jill Miller (314)427-4226.

Dec. 9-10 (Sat and/or Sun) Glade restoration.

The tradition continues! Come join us in restoring native wildflower and animal habitat at Washington State Park. If you like bonfires, this work is for you! Come either or both days; stay overnight for free. Susan Farrington (636)583-0948 or leave a message at (314)577-9402.

Dec. 16 (Sat) Become a "highpointer" by visiting Taum Sauk Mountain with Jack Longacre. We will hike five-eight miles on the Ozark Trail to get up a good appetite for potluck dinner afterwards. Limit ten. Glenn Wolters (314)845-5859 or Ann Eggebrecht (314)725-1560.

Dec. 17 (Sun) This winter hike into Hawn State Park takes us to places that are rarely seen by park visitors. We will hike about eight miles, on and off of the trail. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.



Dec. 23 (Sat) For the fifth annual downtown Christmas walk, we will visit the White Castle, the Art Wall, Prairies, and many other works of art that dot the city landscape. We will walk about three to four miles. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Jan. 1 (Mon) For this New Years hike at Meramec State Park, we will add a new glade and about a half mile to our hike. Six or more great views, springs, glades, caves, and many other sites are waiting for us on this first day of 2001. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Nov 3 (Fri) Gastronomic Outing. Bo Lings, 4800 Main. Join us for our monthly dining out at a KC restaurant. Call by October 29 to participate. Gale Burrus (816)763-5120.

Nov 4 (Sat) Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. Join us for another episode in the continuing saga of Perry Lake Trail Maintenance series. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028.

Nov 5 (Sun) KATY Trail Bike Ride. Ride along the Missouri River. Bike rentals available in Rocheport. Bob and Doris Sherrick (816)779-6708.

Nov 11 (Sat) Kansas City Zoo and IMAX

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