



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# The Heartland Sierran

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

The Newsletter of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club

Vol. 26 No. 1

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/thb>

February – April 2013

## The “Do The Math” Tour



A delegation of Kansas City Sierrans went to Omaha to attend the “Do the Math” Tour event on December 1, 2012. Bill McKibben (front row) calls group to action. Additionally, a large rally is planned in Washington, DC on February 17. Please keep checking our website for local actions.

Photo courtesy of 350.org

By David Mitchell

In an effort to generate a mass movement on the global warming crisis, Bill McKibben and his 350.org campaign recently completed a 20-city tour of the United States. A number of us from Kansas City attended the “Do The Math” Tour in Omaha on December 1, 2013,

and were impressed with the seriousness of the issue. The main speaker was Bill McKibben, founder of the 350.org organization, and a longtime global warming activist. He introduced himself as having to play the role of “professional bummer outer.”

and in this he did not disappoint.

He stated there were three numbers the public needed to know: two degrees Centigrade, 565 gigatons of carbon, and 2795 gigatons of carbon. The two degrees Centigrade number is the maximum limit **Do the Math**, continued on page 4

## Help plan Celebration of Wilderness Act’s 50th

By Eileen McManus

The Wilderness Act was signed into law in 1964. Already the Sierra Club is planning for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014. We invite you to get involved and be part of this big national celebration to acknowledge and applaud what a major



Above is a beautiful vista from the Hercules Glades Wilderness Area near Branson, MO, an Ozark Mountain ecosystem protected by the Wilderness Act.

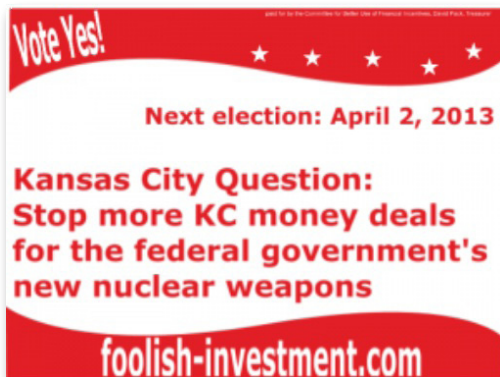
Photo: Richard Spener

**Wilderness Act**, continued on page 3

## Peace-and-environment initiative backed by Sierra Club comes to voters April 2

By Jane Stoeber

The Sierra Club has supported several petition drives to stop Kansas City’s financial involvement in the new local facility for making parts for nuclear weapons. Each petition had 5000+ signatures; thanks to all who signed! The latest measure, blocking future financial involvement in making nuclear weapon parts, will be on KC’s April 2 ballot.



The measure bars the city in the future from funding or subsidizing a nuclear-weapon-parts plant “through taxes, bonds,

loans, tax credits, credit, or any other financial scheme or mechanism.”

Why is this important? Well, KC’s City Council, on Feb. 4, 2010, allowed the city to sell up to \$815 million worth of municipal bonds to private investors to fund the new plant at Mo. Hwy. 150 and Botts Road, south of Grandview. KC’s Planned Industrial Expansion Authority (PIEA), an independent agency,

holds the title to the new “campus” to replace the current plant at Bannister Federal Complex.

At the current Bannister Complex

plant, The Sierra Club has blown the whistle on contaminants polluting waterways. The government has identified hundreds of toxins at the current plant, such as uranium and beryllium (a strong, lightweight metal used in weapons, but with airborne particles that can cause respiratory disease). In late 2010, I asked Scott Dye, director of Sierra Club Water Sentinels, whether the new plant was likely to use uranium and beryllium. He said, “I don’t have any reason to believe otherwise.” NBC Action News, channel 41, lists 154 persons who reportedly died from contaminants at Bannister Federal Complex, and about 250 workers who are sick from the toxins.

The April 2 ballot measure will let Kansas Citians vote to stop future **Ballot Measure**, continued on page 4

# Sierra Club Outings

**We are now on Meetup!**

## Sierra Club Outings

We now have our most recent outings on our Meetup Sierra Club Outings Group. Please visit us there for the most up-to-date information on any outings:

[Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings)



## Sierra Club Friends

We are now listing Sierra Club events and social activities on Meetup. Please join us if you like:

[Meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club](http://Meetup.com/KC-Metro-Sierra-Club)

**Feb. 16 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class Series, Kansas City, MO.** Have you wanted to try backpacking or at least learn more about it? We'll cover gear from head to foot and everything in between. This is the first 5-hour classroom session. The second is March 2. Participation in both ensures a place on the backpacking trip (Mar 22-24). Cost is \$50 per person with participation limited to 25 people. Paul Gross, [wildwoodp@hotmail.com](mailto:wildwoodp@hotmail.com), (816) 228-6563.

**Feb. 23 (Sat) Perry Lake Hiking Trail Maintenance, Perry KS.** Help get the trail ready for the spring hiking season. Bring a lunch, water, and bow saws or loppers if you have them (we do have extra). Steve Hassler, [hassler@planetkc.com](mailto:hassler@planetkc.com), (913) 707-3296.

**Feb. 23 (Sat) Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, Lexington, MO.** Tour one of the best antebellum homes in MO that was at the center of a bloody three-day Civil War battle in 1861 as well as the battleground itself. Eat at a pub built in the 1890's and afterwards spend time viewing exhibits at the visitor's center with an afternoon presentation optional. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, [eileen250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen250@sbcglobal.net).

**Feb. 24 (Sun) Wildlife Walk - Eddy-Ballentine and Blue River Glades trails, Kansas City MO.** About 2 miles. \$2 donation requested. Michael Reed, [mereed@runbox.com](mailto:mereed@runbox.com).

**March 15-17 (Fri-Sun) Backpack Irish Wilderness, South Central MO.** Spend St Patrick's weekend looking for leprechauns. \$10 donation requested. Michael Reed, [mereed@runbox.com](mailto:mereed@runbox.com).

**March 23 (Sat) Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Columbia, MO.** Explore a wide diversity of natural and cultural resources. Some of Missouri's finest examples of karst topography, restored grasslands, forests and

streams rest within park boundaries. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, [eileen4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net).

**April 6 (Sat) Bike Ride.** This will be a round trip bike ride that will start at the Corporate Woods trail head and go east on the Indian Creek Trail and will cross into Missouri. From there, we will connect to the Greenway Trail and will end at Blue River Road. We will eat lunch at the park by lakes close to Blue River Road. Total time for this outing will be approximately 4 hours. John Haynes, [jhaynes5018@everestkc.net](mailto:jhaynes5018@everestkc.net), (913) 742-0100.

**April 13 (Sat) Wildflower Hikes at Lake of the Ozarks State Park & Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Kaiser, MO.** Hike the interpretive Coakley Hollow Trail, Spring Trail and Natural Bridge trail to see woodland wildflowers and spring ephemerals. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, [eileen4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net).



**April 19-21 (Fri-Sun) Backpack the Three Creeks Conservation Area (Central MO).** As the name states, there are three creeks running through the area. The features include limestone bluffs, small glades and old eastern red cedar trees. The area has many characteristics of a karst landscape, including caves, sinks and losing

streams. We will camp two nights. We will hike approximately 8 miles. John Haynes, [jhaynes5018@everestkc.net](mailto:jhaynes5018@everestkc.net), (913) 742-0100.

**May 11 (Sat) Wildlife Walk - Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Liberty MO.** A casual walk through a variety of habitats. 3-3.5 miles. \$2 donation requested. Michael Reed, [mereed@runbox.com](mailto:mereed@runbox.com).

**May 11 (Sat) Lost Valley Fish Hatchery and Harry S Truman Lake State Park, Warsaw, MO.** Tour Lost Valley Hatchery which is the largest warmwater state-owned hatchery in Missouri and one of the ten largest in the nation. The hatchery building houses a visitor center which includes a 12,700 gallon aquarium. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail at the state park. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, [eileen4250@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eileen4250@sbcglobal.net).

**June 8 (Sat) Bike Ride to Powell Garden, Kingsville, MO.** Cycle 25 miles of rolling hills & rural settings from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will lunch at Café Thyme, followed by a hike through the gardens. A trailer for bikes and car rides will be available for our return. \$5 donation requested. Paul Gross, 816 985-2339,

## The Heartland Sierran

P.O. Box 32727

Kansas City, Missouri 64171

The Heartland Sierran, the newsletter of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club, is published quarterly for members in western Missouri.

### Executive Committee

**Claus Wawrzinek, Chair,** (816) 517-5244, [claus@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:claus@missouri.sierraclub.org)

**David Mitchell, Vice Chair,** (816) 931-7372, [david5483@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david5483@sbcglobal.net)

**David Anderson,** 816-678-4359, [david.anderson@missouri.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.anderson@missouri.sierraclub.org)

**Patty Brown,** Conservation Chair  
[pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbbbrn5@sbcglobal.net), (816) 737-2804

**Richard McBroom,** [rsmcbrum@juno.com](mailto:rsmcbrum@juno.com)

**Ellen Brenneman,** [ebrenn1@yahoo.com](mailto:ebrenn1@yahoo.com), (816) 274-8062

**Crystal K. Wiebe,**  
[crystalkwiebe@gmail.com](mailto:crystalkwiebe@gmail.com)

**Treasurer,** Richard McBroom  
**Secretary,** Ellen Brenneman

### Committees

**Conservation,** David Anderson  
**Education, Hospitality, Population/Consumption,**

Patty Brown

**Membership,** Ellen Brenneman

**Newsletter,** Ellen Brenneman

**Newsletter Mailing,** Dennis Gredell,  
(816) 926-1067, [gooseman-2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gooseman-2@sbcglobal.net)

**Outings,** Michael Reed,  
[MichaelR42@runbox.com](mailto:MichaelR42@runbox.com)

**Political,** Claus Wawrzinek

**Programs,** Claus Wawrzinek

**Urban Issues,** Claus Wawrzinek

**Electric Vehicles,** Tom Kutscher

## Upcoming Presentations

**February 5 (Tue) Great Outdoors Slideshows.** We will present four slideshows from backpack-related outings.

**March 5 (Tue) Jackson County Transit Initiative.** Find out the latest on Jackson County's commuter rail initiative and what it might mean for the expansion of transit, parks and sustainable communities in the KC region.

**April 2 (Tue) Green Stormwater Solutions in Kansas City - how do they work?** How do green stormwater solutions help the environment? Come and find out as our presenter Lora Ish with KCMO's Water Services Department explains Kansas City's Overflow Control Program.

**Monthly presentations** are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost unless otherwise indicated. Programs are open to the public and begin at 7 p.m.

**Executive Committee meetings** are held the last Tuesday of every month at Central United Methodist Church.

For information: call **Claus, 816-517-5244.**

## Outings, continued from page 4

wildwoodp@hotmail.com

**June 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Overnight canoe/kayak trip. Join us on a less traveled stream within a 4-6 hour drive from KC.** Enjoy the campfire as we camp along the river Saturday night. Some experience required. Canoe rental may be available, depending on the river. Water conditions at trip time will determine the river. Terry DeFraties, theerustbucket@aol.com, 913-385-7374 (texts are blocked).

**June 15 (Sat) Long Branch State Park, Macon, MO.** Hike through a native prairie, into a savannah and on to woodlands. The Bee Trace Peninsula contains the 384-acre Bee Trace Natural Area offering impressive views of these different terrains plus views of the lake. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net.

## Energy-Saving Mad Libs

You know how to play "Mad Libs," right?

Ask partner to supply the parts of speech listed below. Write the words in the blanks of the corresponding sentences. Then read back the "ways to save energy" with the wacky words. You can find the real answers on page 4.

1. NOUN (person, place or thing)
2. -ING VERB (action word ending in -ing)
3. PLURAL NOUN
4. NOUN
5. NOUN
6. NOUN
7. PLURAL NOUN
8. VERB (action word)
9. NOUN
10. VERB
11. ADJECTIVE (Description word)
12. VERB
13. NOUN
14. NOUN
15. VERB
16. PLURAL NOUN
17. NOUN
18. -ING VERB
19. 2 - ING VERBS
20. NOUN

**Use the words in the blanks below:**

1. Install a programmable \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Use lids on pots and pans to reduce \_\_\_\_\_ time.
3. Use hand towels instead of paper \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When using the fireplace, turn down

## Wilderness Act, continued from page 1

achievement the National Wilderness Preservation System is for our country. Help make our celebrations a memorable part of 2014. For a really big splash, let's start planning NOW.

Nationwide there are over 100 million acres Congress has added to the Wilderness Preservation system so far, with more to come over the years. Wilderness designation is the strongest and most permanent protection that can be extended to our Federal public lands. For nearly 50 years volunteers in the Sierra Club along with dedicated Club staff have been successful in convincing Congress to add nearly 71,000 acres of our local Federal lands to the national system. Wilderness areas include wild places in National Parks, National Forests, wildlife refuges, and western lands of the Bureau of Land Management. Closer to home, we can be proud of our accomplishments in our state in preserving wilderness areas like Piney Creek, Bell Mountain, Devils Backbone, Paddy Creek, Rockpile Mountain, Mingo, Hercules Glades and the Irish.



*Dogwood Leaves from Devils Backbone Wilderness, one of eight wilderness areas protected and preserved in Missouri, thanks to the Wilderness Act.*

*Photo: Richard Spener*

During 2014, we plan to have our own local celebrations in Kansas City. There will be public events such as wilderness exhibits and outings in Wilderness

areas. These will be coordinated with the national Sierra Club, other interested environmental organizations, and the agencies that manage our Federal wilderness areas. We will keep you posted in the Chapter newsletter as our plans for 2014 develop.

As 50th anniversary coordinator for the THB Group, I am looking for some helpers who are enthusiastic about wilderness and who are interested in helping us celebrate and who may have

some ideas about ways we can promote and publicize wilderness during 2014. We hope that means you! Please contact Eileen McManus at 816-523-7823 or online at eileen4250@sbcglobal.net. We seek involvement by many Group members to make all of 2014 the year for wilderness in Missouri. *E*

- the furnace, or all the \_\_\_\_\_ will go up the chimney.
5. Plant a \_\_\_\_\_ next to a west-facing window to reduce cooling costs.
6. A ceiling fan should blow \_\_\_\_\_ down in the winter and up in the summer.
7. If \_\_\_\_\_ sneak in under a door, replace the threshold.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ the refrigerator coils about twice a year.
9. Don't put a small \_\_\_\_\_ on a large stove burner.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ the lint screen on the dryer every time you use it.
11. Remove clothes from the dryer while they're still \_\_\_\_\_ and hang them up.
12. Before you go on vacation, \_\_\_\_\_

- all the appliances you can.
13. Make sure your furnace is the right size for your \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Put your \_\_\_\_\_ to sleep when you're not using it.
15. Be sure to check your tires and \_\_\_\_\_ them properly.
16. Use small plastic \_\_\_\_\_ filled with water in the toilet tank to take up space.
17. Leave the chopped-up \_\_\_\_\_ clippings on the lawn.
18. Start a backyard \_\_\_\_\_ bin.
19. Don't let water run while you're \_\_\_\_\_ your hair and \_\_\_\_\_ your teeth.
20. Ride your \_\_\_\_\_ or walk instead of taking a car.

**Real "Mad Libs" answers on page 4**

1. thermostat
2. cooking
3. towels or napkins
4. warm air or heat
5. tree
6. air
7. drafts
8. vacuum
9. pan
10. clean
11. damp
12. unplug
13. house
14. computer
15. inflate
16. bottles
17. grass
18. composting
19. shampooing, brushing
20. bike (could be scooter, skates, pony, whatever!)

**Ballot measure, continued from page 1**

contracts related to nuclear weapons production. What can you do to support the ballot measure?

- Post a yard sign saying “Vote Yes!”
- Gather friends to hear a speaker on the initiative.
- Leaflet in public areas.
- Call Rachel MacNair at 816-753-2057 for info on these efforts.

Jane Stoever, a THB Chapter member, serves on the Board of PeaceWorks, Kansas City.

**Do the Math, continued from page 1**

the majority of the world has agreed the planet can manage without catastrophic consequences for civilization (per his July 19, 2012 *Rolling Stone* article). He indicated that since the Industrial Revolution, humanity has burned enough fossil fuels to warm the planet almost one degree Centigrade. There was some discussion on the damage the planet has already suffered, including the ongoing collapse of the Arctic ice sheet and the pattern of increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events around the world (U.S. heat, drought, wildfires, and Superstorm Sandy).

The *Rolling Stone* article explains that the 565-gigaton carbon figure, derived from the most sophisticated climate-simulation models available, is the amount of fossil fuels we can burn before the two-degree-Centigrade limit is reached. Unfortunately, Bill McKibben reports the current rate of the world’s fossil fuel use will reach the 565-gigaton limit in 16 years. He reports the 2795-gigaton figure as the estimated fossil fuel reserves of all the fossil fuel corporations. This is five times the amount of carbon humanity can safely burn. Ultimately, McKibben argues, fossil fuel corporations must be persuaded to leave 80 percent of their future value in the ground.

The 350.org campaign is launching the strategy of divestment, encouraging entities of all kinds to divest their investment funds from fossil fuel corporations. This tactic was influential in getting rid of apartheid in South Africa. McKibben admits getting

the world off of fossil fuels in time will be very difficult. However, he believes that with enough economic and political pressure, fossil fuel companies can be persuaded to be energy companies that will not be harmful to the planet. Civil protest will be part of the political pressure, and the 350.org campaign plans a massive rally in Washington, D.C. on February 17 to protest the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, as well as advocate for a clean energy economy.

Individuals can take all sorts of actions on this issue, including writing letters to Congressional representatives and editors, joining an environmental group, reducing carbon footprint (there are myriad ways of doing this), participating in a divestment campaign, or maybe joining a protest. Transformation of the use of energy in the world will involve all of us at some level, and now is the critical time in history to begin that transformation. *E*

We need to walk to know sacred places, those around us and those within.

— Joseph Bruchac



facebook.com/THBSierraClub



FOUNDED 1892

SIERRA CLUB



Kansas City, MO 64171-5727

P.O. Box 32727

Thomas Hart Benton Group

Sierra Club



NEWSPAPER  
DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 2514