

Exhibit C



The Cumberland

SIERRA CLUB • KENTUCKY

Join our Reforestation Event on April 9th in Pike County

by Mary Miller

We are getting ready for the April 9th tree-planting event near Fishtrap Lake in Pike County. Several people have already signed up for the event.

Patrick Angel with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative took Sierra Club members Nancy Bonhaus and Mary Miller to see the site the first part of March, and it is something to behold. To reach it one must travel over 3 miles up a rough, single lane road, and then what a view! We are hoping to arrange to have a bus take most of us to the site.

The site, owned by the Corps of Engineers, is primarily covered with an herbaceous ground cover and encompasses 16,000 acres. The Corps of Engineers would eventually like to plant trees on 200 acres, and our group will start on the first 25.

When we were there, we saw the bulldozer ripping the soil in preparation for our event. It takes approximately 1 hour for the bulldozer to rip one acre, and it costs \$350 per hour. A coal company is paying for the ripping.

On April 9th the goal is to start planting at 9 A.M.. For those of you who do not want to drive several hours very early on Saturday morning, there are several motels in the Pikeville area, and the First Presbyterian Church in Pikeville has graciously given us permission to stay in their facility Friday night.

We should finish planting trees by mid afternoon, so everyone should be able to drive home that evening.

If you have questions or want to volunteer for the event, please contact Mary Miller, 859-858-9983, jomar9983@windstream.net. Or Nancy Bonhaus, 859-263-3246, nbonhaus@hotmail.com.



Photo at Right: UK student Logan Nutt and members of the Berea based group Samara (Michael Dunn on left and Clem Pearson on the right) plant trees on an old mine site in Harlan County in March, 2011. Samara, a small group of home-schooled youngsters, are proud supporters of GFW and have provided their time (and a donation!) to bring back the forest on Appalachian coal-mined lands.

Green Forest Work for Appalachia

by Christopher Barton

In fall 2009, Chris Barton (University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry) joined a panel of international dignitaries when the United Nations kicked off its Global Climate Week with a Billion Tree Campaign press conference in New York City. The UN's Billion Tree Campaign set a goal of planting one tree for every person on the planet.

Barton, science team leader for the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), announced in 2010 that they would fulfill a pledge of planting 38 million trees on mined land in—the largest pledge in North America. Barton also announced the creation of the Green Forests Work (GFW) program, an economic development plan for Appalachia

(continued on page 7)



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Correction to March 7, 2011 Fund Appeal Letter

See Page 5

Group News

APRIL PROGRAM: BOUNDARY WATERS

The Executive meeting of the Bluegrass Group will be held on Monday, April 4, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be at our usual place, Faith House, 836 Melrose Ave. adjacent to Faith Lutheran Church in Lexington. Everyone is welcome to come, participate and help guide the group. Call Bill Pierskalla, Group Chair, at 859-951-4443 for details.



gram on their National Sierra Club canoe trip to the Boundary Waters. They will be discussing some of the ecological issues that threaten this beautiful area. Our meetings are held at Second Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Main St and Ransom Ave. in Lexington. Please enter the church from the Ransom Ave. side. For further details, call Bill Pierskalla, 859-951-4443.

Book Group

The Bluegrass Book Club selection for April is *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, by Bill McKibben. The discussion will be lead by Oscar Gerald and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. The book club will meet at 7:00 pm. at the home of Ray and Mary Barry, 3415 Snaffle Road, Lexington, phone: 859-223-0180.

Conservation Committee

The Bluegrass Conservation Committee is on hiatus.

Dinner Out

The "Dinner Out with Sierrans" group is back and going strong. This month's outing will be on Thursday April 28, at 7:00pm. This is a great way to meet new people in an informal setting and have a great meal. If you are interested, please contact Holly Shipley, 859-381-9818 for more information or a reservation.

"SAVING KENTUCKY"

AUTHOR IN APRIL

Please join us on Tuesday, April 19 for a presentation



and book signing by Sally Campbell, author of *Saving Kentucky: Greening the Bluegrass*. The book, beautifully illustrated with photographs by Thomas Hart Shelby, profiles Kentuckians working to preserve Kentucky's heritage and land. Our program begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Center in Louisville and is free and open to the public.

Louisville Group Social Dinner

When: Friday, April 22, 2011, 7:00PM Where: Queen of Sheba, 2804 Taylorsville Rd. Louisville. Please contact Gloria Kemper-O'Neil (502) 458-5253 or Judy Lyons (502) 585-3806 by Thursday evening prior to the dinner in order to make accurate restaurant reservations. We'll take a short walk following the meal (maybe for coffee), weather and area permitting.

JOIN OUR EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Members of KFTC and the NKY Sierra Club group have teamed up to monitor the "Hills Project", a study of hill development in Kenton Co. by the NKY Area Planning Commission. If you wish to be involved, contact Ruth Bamberger at rbamberger@fuse.net or 291-2976.



Call for Outings Leaders

Enjoy getting outdoors or want to use your outdoor skills to serve your communi-

ty? Outings leaders plan and lead outings: locally, nationally and internationally. Some outings are just for fun while others are designed to provide service to local parks, etc. The Northern Kentucky group has opportunities for you to share your love for the outdoors with others by becoming an outings leader. Contact Ron Colwell (859-261-5314 or roncolwellky@lycos.com) for more information.

April 16 Celebrate Earth Day

On April 16 the NKY group will be at both the Cincinnati Earth Day Celebration at Sawyer Point (12 pm to 5:30 pm), Cincinnati, OH at the Earth Fair at Ft. Thomas Clock Tower Plaza (10am-3pm) in Ft. Thomas, KY. Come and join us - we need volunteers to be at the tables to give out Sierra information and some free "goodies" or stop by. If you can volunteer for a couple of hours that day, contact Ruth at rbamberger@fuse.net or phone 291-2976.

April 25 meeting - "Gunpowder Creek Watershed Initiative"

Gunpowder Creek flows through the heart of the most populated areas of Boone County and is a vital resource to its citizens. The land that drains into Gunpowder Creek is home to approximately 50% of Boone County residents. But did you know that sections of Gunpowder Creek are considered unfit for human contact? Tom Comte, Boone County Conservation District's designated representative will tell us what we can do to help protect and restore

Come to the Open House!

There will be an "Open House" for new members (and old) on April 7, at 7:30pm, at the home of Frankie and Oscar Gerald, 2173 Palomar Trace Dr. Lexington. If you are a new member, information about the club will be available. All members, come out and make the new welcome. Please RSVP to Frankie and Oscar, 859-264-8903.

Inner-City Outings

Our Lexington Inner-City Outings group will meet at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month, April 11, at the home of Lane Boldman and Joey Shadowen, 114 Woodford Dr., Lexington. The group is planning some exciting outings for the spring and can always use some extra help. Call Joey Shadowen, 252-3422 for further details.

General Meeting

At our general meeting on April 18, Robin and Ken Green will be giving a pro-

The Cumberland

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Change of Address

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:

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

Deadlines

The deadline for all materials is the second Thursday of this month. The deadline date for submission of articles to the May issue of The Cumberland is April 14, 2011

Contributors' Guidelines

Please submit articles typed, on disk, or e-mailed to address above, according to the following:

1. Double-spaced, not to exceed 700 words (3 double-spaced pages.)
2. Author's first and last names, day and evening phone numbers at the top.
3. Articles on disk or e-mailed should be accompanied by double-spaced hard copy.

The editor reserves the right to trim or revise for reasons of clarity, space or libel.

The Cumberland is printed on recycled paper.



Visit us on the web at www.kentucky.sierraclub.org

Hold the Date October 15, 2011

The 11th annual Healthy Foods, Local Farms Conference will be in Louisville on October 15 with author and climate-change activist Bill McKibben as the featured speaker. The site will be announced soon. Be sure to mark your calendar NOW for this event.

It Pays to Advertise in The Cumberland

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Column sizes

1 column = 2.29" 3 columns = 7.20"
2 columns = 4.75" 4 columns = 9.66"
Depth of page = 11"

Deadlines

Camera ready ad or digital file must be submitted by the second Thursday of the month for the next month's issue.

For advertising info contact:

Oscar Gerald Jr.

2173 Palomar Trace Drive,
Lexington, KY. 40503. 859-264-8903

Sincere Thanks to Our Generous Supporters

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to all of our members and supporters who responded to our year-end fundraising appeal. Whether you donated \$10 or \$1,000, your gift has made a big impact on our ability to take on the growing environmental challenges Kentucky is facing. Your generosity not only creates a financial bedrock of support for our programs, but it provides encouragement to our volunteers who donate their time to implement these programs. Every contribution matters and is very much appreciated. On behalf of the Chapter Executive Committee, our other volunteer leaders and staff — thank you very much for your support and encouragement.

our beautiful stream. For location details, visit our website at nky.sierraclub.org.

May 3 Book Club

In May we will discuss *Eaarth: Making a Life On a Tough New Planet* by Bill McKibben.

Amazon.com's review says "Since he first heralded our era of environmental collapse in 1989's *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben has raised a series of eloquent alarms...In *Eaarth*, he leads readers to the devastatingly comprehensive conclusion that we no longer inhabit the world in which we've flourished for most of human history. McKibben pulls no punches, and swaths of this book can feel bleak, but his dry wit and pragmatic optimism refuse to yield to despair. Focusing our attention on inspiring communities of 'functional independence' arising around the world, he offers galvanizing possibilities for keeping our humanity intact as the world we've known breaks down." For more information, contact Marcia Gardner (859 426-1850 or mgardner88@fuse.net) or Chris Comte (859 586-9043 or Chris@Chris-Comte.com).

Book Sales

Our book sales remain a viable fundraiser for our group, helping us send students to Activist weekend and conduct our programs and tables at local events. If you have some books you no longer wish to read, Marcia Gardner is collecting them to sell through Amazon and Half-Priced Books. She will turn the proceeds over to the NKY group. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia at mgardner88@fuse.net.

STAND BY FOR EARTH DAY

The Group meeting in March was held at the Owensboro Museum of Science and Industry. Direc-

tor Kathy Olson presented the new Caves and Karst exhibit which includes information and exhibits on

our geology, soils and watersheds. She also described a new Biologist in Training Program: Adventures in Water. This summer program is designed for up to twenty 6th and 7th grade girls interested in experiencing the out of doors through water related learning and activities.

Plans for Earth Month are not finalized, but we are hoping to include Dick Shore's reenactment of John Muir.

The Pennyrile Group was saddened by the unexpected death on March 5th of Samantha Durham, our group secretary. She will be missed. Contact: Ben Taylor, benataylor@earthlink.net.

PENNYRILE



Ben Taylor (270) 264-5270

Sierra Club Board of Directors Election

The Chapter voted during a special meeting of the Executive Committee in February to endorse candidates.

The Cumberland Chapter recommends a vote for Jonathan Ela (WI) in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors.

National Club Election This Spring...VOTE!

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership.

This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you'll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

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 \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible. We support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

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F94Q W 2600

“The Place that God Forgot”

by Dave Cooper

While dining in January with some Tennessee Sierra Club members, we reflected on the aging of the mainstream environmental movement. I thought of the black-and-white photos of the first Earth Day in 1970 – the crowd was so young it looked like Woodstock. While there are some healthy pockets of youth and climate activism today, the membership of the traditional environmental organizations today are definitely graying. Why aren't there masses of youth joining the big environmental groups today?

“Well, we won,” said my dinner companion. “People have forgotten how bad things really were in the 1960s.”

I think my friend may be right. Last week I picked up the book “Citizen Nader” by Charles McCarry, first published in 1972, and read a grim account of industrial pollution in Appalachia in the 1960s and early 70s.

Chapter 13, “The Place That God Forgot” focuses on Anmoore, West Virginia, located just east of Clarksburg in north-central West Virginia. Union Carbide opened the plant in a lightly-populated area in 1904 to make graphite and ferroalloys, and people moved close to the factory to live and work. By 1970, Anmoore was in bad shape. The town was so poor that there was only one paved street, and sewage flowed in open ditches. Every year the sewage was shoveled out of the ditches and used to fill the ruts in the dirt roads. There was no money to fix the roads or provide for the townspeople's needs: in 1969, Union Carbide paid \$9,000 in property taxes.

In an admission that seems astonishing by today's public relations standards, Phillip Hufford Jr., Union Carbide's Director of Environmental Affairs, stated “The reason we went to Anmoore was because it was a no place. It was nothing. We knew we'd have this lousy situation. But there were no people there ... it was the place that God forgot.”

Union Carbide – perhaps best known today as the company respon-

Dave's Soapbox



sible for the 1984 Bhopal gas leak in India that killed as many as 15,000 people – was a bad neighbor in Anmoore. The town was covered with fly ash from the plant: “It will eat the paint right off a car.” said Anmoore Mayor Buck Gladden. “Most places on Sunday, you come home from taking the children to church and you sit down to dinner in a white shirt. You can't do nothing like that here because your shirt'll turn black right on your back. The kids can't go out and roll in the yard. If they do, they come in looking like they've been down in a coal mine.”

Union Carbide also operated a similar plant in Alloy, West Virginia, east of Charleston on the Kanawha River, that had worse air pollution than New York City. People familiar with West Virginia history will remember that Union Carbide's New River aquaduct through the mountain near Alloy resulted in what's been called the worst industrial disaster in history, the Hawk's Nest Tunnel tragedy, in which 1,500 miners died from silicosis after tunneling through a mountain made of almost pure silica. (To learn more about the tragedy, check out “The Hawk's Nest Tunnel – An Unabridged History,” by Patricia Spangler, published in 2008).

Nader's strategy was to expose and humiliate the company. Union Carbide was highly visible, thanks to an advertising campaign called “The Discovery Company.” Although Nader never actually visited Anmoore, he sent two of his young Raiders, Larry Silverman and Willy Osborn, and gave them \$5,000 to launch a one-year campaign against

Union Carbide. The Raiders succeeded, and working with Appal and the town's leaders, Union Carbide promised to install air pollution equipment, and Anmoore increased Union Carbide's property taxes to \$100,000 a year.

Nader made big news often and fairly easily in the 1970s, and was a celebrated public figure. His reports caused major waves in the press and in Washington. His 1965 book, “Unsafe At Any Speed” about auto safety – particularly the dangerous 1960-63 models of the Corvair, humbled mighty General Motors and helped the passage of numerous auto safety standards that we take for granted today, such as seat belts and laminated safety glass. Nader was also a friend to Appalachia's miners: his work on mine safety with Congressman Ken Hechler and Davitt McAteer helped strengthen the 1969 Mine Safety Act. And Nader was a strong environmental advocate.

Today, Nader's name and reputation is somewhat tarnished after his stubborn refusal to withdraw from the 2000 presidential election campaign, which some feel cost Al Gore the presidency. But Nader's work continues and he is still formidable, an astonishing public speaker who carries in his head a staggering amount of information.

In Anmoore, Mayor Gladden had this to say: “I have never met Mr. Nader, but I'll say this: he has helped a town that nobody even cared to hear about before.”

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We're Not There Yet, But...(Our Clean Energy Bill)

by Rick Clewett

OK, progress is gradual and it takes a lot of work. Still, the Cumberland Chapter Sierra Club has reason to feel that it is making progress in Frankfort on several of our priority issues—not victory, understand, but progress.

Take the Sustainable Energy bill that the Cumberland Chapter Sierra Club and its partner organizations of the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance worked so hard to get written and introduced in the House in 2010, but that languished without a hearing or publicity. Our bill called for a renewable and energy efficiency portfolio standard that required electric utilities to begin getting increasing, but modest, amounts of their electricity from renewable sources, and to initiate modest but increasing programs to help customers save money by using less electricity. We also had a provision that the utilities offer programs to help low income people weatherize their homes and repay the cost through some of the savings on their monthly bills. We argued that a number of surrounding states had enacted similar

bills and that they were working well without causing disruptive increases in customers' bills or utility's costs. The coal industry, however, claimed that the passing the bill would be the downfall of coal in Kentucky.

Things were not much different this year, of course, but we found a sponsor, Representative Mary Lou Marzian, willing to help us strategize and work hard to gain support for our bill, now HB 239, among fellow legislators. The Cumberland Chapter had a lobbying grant from the national Sierra Club, part of which it used to help fund a highly successful, full-day sustainable energy conference this January attended by 150 people from around the state. That day brought us new allies and allowed us to explain our revised bill to people from organizations belonging to KySEA who would be lobbying legislators and trying to drum up support in their communities.

We had our lobby day on February 10th, when roughly 40 people from around the state went to Frankfort to talk to their legislators about the importance of renewable energy, energy efficiency programs, and our House Bill 239.

Clearly, we were better organized than last year and clearly we were getting more legislators and staff to listen, but the suspense was building.

When our sustainable energy bill was introduced in the 2010 session by Representative Harry Moberly, we were so focused on getting the bill written, finding a sponsor, and getting the bill filed, that we did not think about committee assignment. But when our bill was assigned to the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, Chaired by Jim Gooch, it died. Chairman Gooch would not allow it to be mentioned in committee, let alone discussed.

So this year we worked hard to get the House leadership to assign the bill to another committee—one that was more appropriate and where it would have a chance of a fair hearing. The natural committee assignment for an energy bill was Tourism Development and Energy, and, to our joy, that it where House leadership sent it.

For several weeks, though, we thought we might fall short of our goal for this session, which was simply to get a committee hearing—not a vote, just an informational hearing. Finally,

at the last committee meeting of the session, we got the chance to make our case, with Chairman Leslie Combs going out of her way to create a positive, receptive atmosphere.

It may not seem like much from the outside, but it certainly made us feel good. And by the end of the session we had made connections with a number of legislators and others that we will work to nurture in the coming months. So, two weeks off from our weekly coordinating calls, and then back to work improving the bill, strategizing, reaching out, and adapting to changing political and economic environments.

To sum it up, let's say (1) those of us who have been working for the KySEA energy bill are pumped, in a quiet, determined kind of way and (2) we can use all the help we can get. For more information on the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance and our bill, go to KySEA.org.

(Next month: the early episodes of another success story in the making, the Cumberland Chapter's efforts to lobby for real regulation of dangerous coal ash impoundments such as the one at Cane Run in Louisville.)

Supporting our Unions



Photo courtesy of Wallace McMullen

Supporters of unions, including Sierra Club members Tom Pearce and Wallace McMullen (holding a Sierra Club Beyond Coal banner) gathered at a union support rally in Louisville on March 2

Correction to March 7, 2011 Fund Appeal Letter:

We wish to correct a reference in our March Appeal letter that we have found was in error. EKPC did not promise to invest \$5 million in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. EKPC did set up an advisory group of industry representatives, environmental representatives, and co-op members to look for ways to increase the use of renewable energy and improve demand-side management. Our apologies to EKPC for this inaccuracy.



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Sandhill Cranes ... to Hunt or Not to Hunt

by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Last month's issue of *The Cumberland* contained an article by Dave Cooper describing some of the life history and several of his experiences with the Sandhill Crane, one of 15 crane species found in the world. Sandhill Cranes occur across much of North America, nesting primarily through central and western Canada as well as five parts of the United States: central Florida, southern Mississippi, the northern tier of states in the western Great Lakes region, the interior west, and Alaska.

During the 18th Century, Sandhill Cranes—like many other birds—were harvested in an unregulated fashion by market hunters and the general population. The number of cranes in North America at the beginning of the 20th Century had plummeted to an extraordinary low. However, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 established protection for birds from uncontrolled hunting activities. As a direct result of MBTA protection, the crane population began to rebound.

Sandhill Cranes are one of the slowest reproducing birds in North America. Studies by the International Crane Foundation (ICF) during recent years in Wisconsin have shown that only 40% of nesting pairs successfully raise a young bird each year; to put it another way, for every 10 pairs that nest each year, only 4 young survive to migrate south with their parents. In addition to the low level of productivity, it requires at least four years for the young birds to reach reproductive age.

This remarkably slow rate of what biologists call "recruitment" resulted in a very slow recovery from overhunting, and it was not until the middle of the 20th Century that the crane population returned to near its original status. Because the Sandhill Crane is regarded as a game bird, as soon as populations in distinct geographical areas recovered



Photo by Ellis Lauder milk

to the point of apparent sustainability, wildlife managers completed "management plans" for those populations designed in large part to allow for regulated hunting opportunities for the public. The "Mid-Continent" population of the Sandhill was the first to recover to a sustainable level, and those birds have been hunted for several decades.

The Sandhill Cranes that migrate through Kentucky each spring and fall are part of what is considered the "Eastern" population. These birds nest primarily in southern Ontario, Michigan, and Wisconsin and used to winter primarily in central Florida. In more recent years increasing numbers have not migrated all the way south, but instead have stopped to overwinter at places like Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and at Barren River Lake in south-central Kentucky. This is the main reason why it may appear to some that crane numbers have increased so rapidly.

Several years ago, when wildlife officials decided that there was a "sustainable" number of birds in the Eastern population, biologists within a multistate entity called the Mississippi Flyway Council drafted and then

approved a "Management Plan for the Eastern Population of Sandhill Cranes." Within this document were guidelines for many states in the eastern U.S. to establish hunting seasons for the species. As a result, the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) drew up a proposal for a hunting season that was submitted to and given preliminary approval by the Flyway Council. This plan was finalized early this year and is available at the following link: <http://fw.ky.gov/sandhillcraneproposal.asp>

KDFWR biologists designed a hunting season for Kentucky that is conservative in its approach. The season is set from mid-December to mid-January to avoid the period when most birds usually stop in the state during migration (which typically occurs from mid-January to late February); setting the season to close in mid-January would also reduce conflicts with attempts by the Ky. Dept. of Parks and KDFWR to host "crane watching" events.

While the Kentucky season has been designed in a conservative manner, there are still concerns among many wildlife enthusiasts. Perhaps of

foremost importance is the failure of the Mississippi Flyway Council to address several concerns voiced by the ICF as the Eastern Population Management Plan was being developed. The ICF is an internationally recognized and uniformly well-respected organization that employs individuals who are among the most knowledgeable about crane biology in the world. Yet a number of concerns that included possible misperceptions about how rapidly the species has increased, the lack of a biologically sound model of the population, and the magnitude of hunting impacts in multiple states across the migratory path were not addressed in the final Management Plan. Much of their concern hearkens back to that extremely low recruitment rate noted above.

Also, the real impact of the hunting season on the behavior of the birds and how "watchable" they may remain continues to be an unresolved issue. And finally, some of the reasons used to justify hunting cranes, such as that their numbers are soaring to a level that will impact crops and human health, simply are not true. As a result, there has been a substantial grass roots effort among some wildlife enthusiasts to express opposition to the establishment of a hunting season on the cranes.

Although KDFWR has proposed the hunting season, it will be up to the 9-member Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission (KFWC) to decide whether or not there will actually be a Sandhill Crane hunting season in the state. The KFWC will hear the proposal at a meeting in May and then will vote on the issue at their quarterly meeting in June. Readers of this newsletter are encouraged to make their opinion about the proposal heard. The following link includes contact information for both staff of KDFWR and the nine commissioners who serve on the KFWC: <http://kyc4sandhill-cranes.wordpress.com/call-to-action/>.

...Green Forest Work

(from page 1)

styled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. The GFW program will focus on restoring ecosystem services on mine-scarred lands and creating jobs in the process. Successful reestablishment of the hardwood forests that once dominated these lands will provide a renewable, sustainable multi-use resource that will create economic opportunities while enhancing the local and global environment. The jobs would include everything from nursery jobs, equipment operators, tree planters,

forest managers, and wildlife biologists to those that may manage these sites for renewable energy and climate change mitigation.

Since the announcement of the GFW program, ARRI has partnered with state and federal agencies, watershed groups, coal operators, conservation groups, environmental organizations, faith-based groups, and numerous universities, colleges, and K-12 schools to coordinate 22 volunteer tree planting projects/events throughout Appalachia. In 2009 and 2010 those events involved over 2,500 volunteers

and resulted in the planting of over 175,000 trees. GFW is gaining momentum and the tree planting events are now evolving into large scale projects funded by grants, cost share programs, utility companies seeking carbon credits, corporate and personal donations. By the end of 2011, nearly 1 million trees will have been planted.

Forests are a renewable resource. By recreating forests where no forests currently exist, the economic opportunities provided by this program will not only provide for the Appalachian people today but will put those lands on a trajec-

tory that will ensure that a forest is available for use by future Appalachian citizens. The Appalachian forest is one of the most beautiful in the world, is one of the region's most valuable assets, and has played an integral part in the rich cultural heritage of the mountain people. As support for the program grows, GFW can proceed in developing a skilled green workforce to restore, protect, and manage this natural resource that is so vital to the region's current and future prosperity.

For more information on GFW and ARRI see www.greenforestswork.org and www.arri.osmre.gov.

Harvard Study: Coal Costs Americans \$330-500 Billion

by Dave Cooper

A Harvard University study published on Feb 17, 2011, has determined that the true costs of using coal to generate electricity in America are between \$330 and \$500 Billion dollars annually. The study, "Mining Coal, Mounting Costs – The Life Cycle Consequences of Coal" by the Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment, examines the costs for so-called "cheap coal" that don't show up on your monthly electric bill: the so-called "externalities" or hidden costs. In a time of huge budget deficits, Americans - and our leaders in Washington - should be looking at these costs.

If you are a business owner, you try to externalize your costs. For example, Toyota requires its auto parts suppliers to warehouse their parts and deliver them to the assembly line on a "just-in-time" basis, so that Toyota doesn't have to build huge storage warehouses. Toyota's just-in-time system thus externalizes their costs for warehousing the parts onto their suppliers.

In the 1960's, soda manufacturers sold their product in returnable bottles. There was much less litter, because people would pick up the bottles and return them for the 2 cent or 5 cent deposit. In order to increase their corporate profits, Coca Cola and Pepsi

switched to aluminum cans and then to plastic soda bottles. Today our roadsides and streams are filled with trash, and over 40 percent of the litter is drink containers. The taxpayers foot the bill when highway workers clean up the trash, and the soda companies make bigger profits: they have externalized their costs onto the public.

Coal companies are adept at externalizing their costs. For example:

- When Appalachian streams become polluted with sediment and heavy metals because of mountaintop removal mining, the public pays to clean up the water so it's safe to drink - but they don't pay the cost on their electric bill, they pay it on their water bill!
- When a child in North Carolina suffers an asthma attack or ear infection because of a coal-burning TVA power plant in Tennessee, the North Carolina family pays the cost of the child's medication - not TVA.
- When a community in the Appalachian Mountains suffers from depreciated property values because a coal company is showering the town with coal dust, the homeowners pay the cost when they sell their homes and move away.
- And when big, heavy coal trucks destroy the roads and bridges in the mountain towns, the taxpayers

have to pay to fix the roads - not the trucking or coal companies.

According to a Grist article by Joseph Romm about the Harvard study:

"In terms of human health, the report estimates \$74.6 billion a year in public health burdens in Appalachian communities, with a majority of the impact resulting from increased health-care costs, injury and death. Emissions of air pollutants account for \$187.5 billion, mercury impacts as high as \$29.3 billion, and climate contributions from combustion between \$61.7 and \$205.8 billion."

According to the study, the price of coal-generated electricity would be \$.18 per kW-Hr higher if it actually included these externalized costs. Currently Kentuckians pay about \$.08 per kW-Hr for their electricity.

A few years ago the Indiana University School of Medicine did a study and determined that the public health cost of burning coal for Hoosiers was \$5 billion annually - pollution from burning coal causes heart disease, lung disease, puts mercury into the environment and increases asthma. The American Lung Association estimates that 13,000 excess deaths nationally are caused by pollution from coal-fired power plants every year. 1 out of 5 babies born in America has a lower IQ due to mercury pollution.

In Kentucky, the Mountain Asso-

ciation for Community Economic Development (MACED) did a study which found that in 2006 coal generated \$528 million in revenue for the state of Kentucky, but it cost \$643 million in state expenditures. Similarly, in West Virginia, Downstream Strategies issued a report which determined that coal's net costs to West Virginia for 2009 were \$97 million.

The numbers in the Harvard study are just astronomical, and will hopefully stir some public debate about coal's true costs. About five years ago, in the Province of Ontario, when leaders calculated the public health care costs of burning coal and compared them to other forms of electricity generation, they found that burning coal was overwhelmingly more expensive than renewables and hydro-power. Because they have a public health care system in Canada, Ontario is now phasing out the use of coal.

Here in America, we just put the costs of coal on the backs of poor people without health insurance and little kids with asthma, while the coal company makes huge profits.

The important lesson here is that we often hear that alternative sources of energy, such as wind power and solar power are "too expensive" and not cost-competitive with "cheap" sources of energy like coal. Now we know that is not true.

Cumberland Chapter Annual Meeting

Save these Dates—November 11-13, 2011

by Tim Guilfoile

This is very important. Please block out your calendars now for November 11-13, 2011. We want your participation, your attendance at the Cumberland Chapter Annual meeting and if you plan now, then you won't miss the programs, outings and festivities.

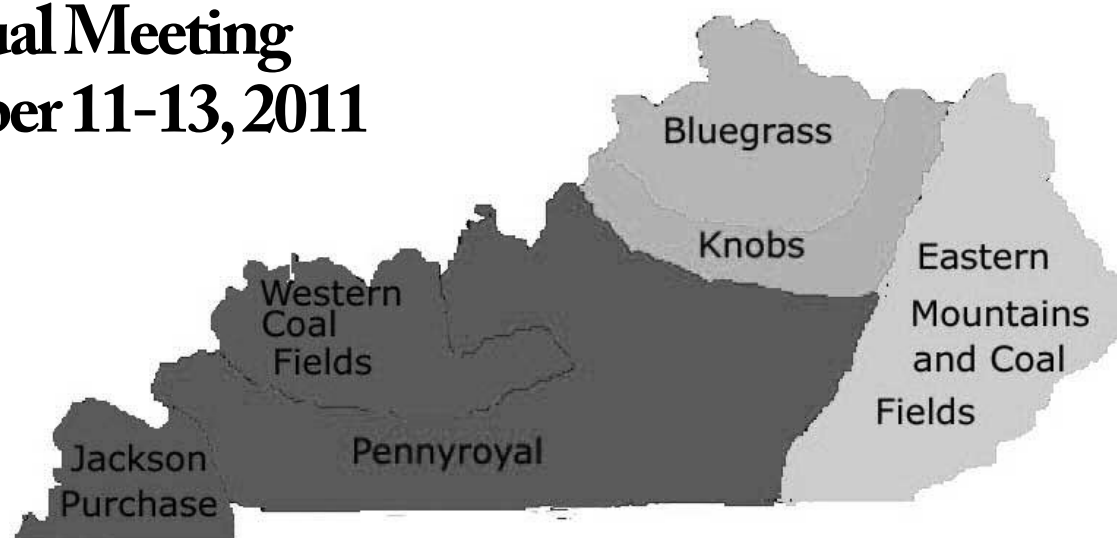
This year we will venture to Western Kentucky and for three days make our home at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, one of the most beautiful, modern and spacious of our state parks. Kentucky Dam Village also occupies a beautiful setting overlooking Kentucky Lake and right around the corner from Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

Western Kentucky is a landscape, topography and geology all its own.

The Pennyroyal Plateau (or more commonly called the Pennyrile in Kentucky) is a large area that features rolling hills, caves, and karst. It is also called the "Mississippi Plateau". The Pennyrile is bordered on the north by Muldraugh

Hill, the geological escarpment that forms the transition from the geologically older Bluegrass to the Pennyrile. The Pennyrile is largely farmland where the bedrock is limestone. In some areas, the limestone is capped with a soft sandstone. This kind of formation—sandstone over limestone—is featured in the Mammoth Cave area, and has enabled the formation of the world's most extensive cave system. Numerous other caves exist in the Pennyrile, where some of the most intensely cave-forming limestones of the world are to be found. The Pennyrile is bordered on the west by the geologically younger Jackson Purchase, a mostly alluvial area.

The Jackson Purchase or Mississippi Embayment Region is a region in the far southwest corner of the state bounded by the Mississippi River to the west, the Ohio River to the north, and Ten-



nessee River to the east. Andrew Jackson and Isaac Shelby purchased it from the Chickasaw Indians in 1818 for \$300,000. The Jackson Purchase is the northeastern part of the upper Mississippi Embayment, a part of the Gulf Coastal Plain. This part of Kentucky is relatively flat and includes the lowest elevation in the state (260 feet above sea level), with numerous lakes, ponds, sloughs, and marshes. This region is underlain by faults of the New Madrid Fault Zone, the most active earthquake zone in the central United States. The New Madrid earthquakes of the winter of 1811-1812 were the strongest in recorded United States history and were

caused by movement along the fault including extreme western Kentucky.

Western Kentucky is a fascinating place to visit.

The Great Rivers, Pennyrile and Mammoth Cave Groups will roll out the welcome mat and show us a part of Kentucky that we as a Chapter have not visited in a long, long time. Please join us.

We have reserved the entire Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park and it is not too early to make your reservations. Please call the Park at 800-325-0146 and book your reservations for November 11-13. Tell them you are with the Sierra Club.

Emmylou Harris Sings in Support of Appalachia

Woodsongs concert for the mountains to be broadcast on PBS later this year



Grammy-award winning singer Emmylou Harris performed coal mining songs and spoke out against Mountaintop Removal recently at the Lexington Opera House, as part of the Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour. Emmylou is pictured here with Lane Boldman, Sierra Club Board Director and Chair of the Chapter's Mountaintop Removal committee.



Kentucky authors Jason Howard and Silas House speak with Emmylou Harris after the concert. Our thanks to our friend, filmmaker Mari Lynn Evans ("Coal Country") for sponsoring this concert at the Lexington Opera House.

Does God Support Those Denying Climate Change?

by Gene Nettles

In the American Civil War both the North and South were reported to hold the view that God was on their side. Does this same belief hold true with environmentalists and those who do not see the world the same way? A hefty question, well above the pay grade of this author. However, as a more practical matter do environmentalist seek support exclusively from groups and individuals of like mind while not really seeking support of their greatest potential allies—churches and religious groups.

A rudimentary search of the Internet reveals a treasure trove of church activities that parallel the activities of environmentalist in the protection, preservation and enjoyment of the world around us. The breadth and depth of understanding of such issues as climate change in the three great western religions—of Christian, Jew, and Islam alike—is mind boggling. Their statements and position papers read like they were prepared by a huge meeting of the minds of the best environmental organizations. Churches, such as Southern Baptist, The United Church of Christ, and Lutheran, and Catholic, and Methodist and the list goes on, have issued comprehensive faith statements and resolutions on climate change.

“Churches” are more or less governed by conventions, conferences, or boards that meet periodically, and these meetings serve to bring about a meeting of minds on spiritual as well as such matters as the attendant role of religion in respect to the environment. The church governing bodies do magnificent work developing positions on environmental issues while environmentalists suggest these do not appear to speed down to where, so to speak—the rubber meets the road—the pulpit. Churches have “outreach” programs, environmental groups may need to “reach out” to churches and religious organizations. For example, reaching out might be giving an invitation to a Southern Baptist Minister to attend an event on coal along with a copy of the Southern Baptists Convention’s declaration on climate change. Similarly, an invitation to a clean water event to a Methodist Bishop might be accompanied by a copy of the General Board’s in-depth analysis and position regarding water quality. There are many other techniques that could be used in enlisting help from the religious community. Reaching out may produce untold numbers of allies; after all, there are many more church, synagogue, and mosque members in Kentucky than coal mine owners and their toady supporters in Frankfort or other mass polluters.



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Sustainable Communities Network Spring 2011 Workshops

Community Garden Workshop: How to plant...how to grow...how to harvest...how to glean...When: Sat. April 16 9am-12noon. Cost: \$25.00

Build Your Own Rain Barrel: When: Saturday April 16, 2011, 1-3pm. Cost: \$70.00 includes a 55 gallon rain barrel. Participants will learn about the value of rain water harvesting for home use in gardens and lawns. Each participant will have a hands-on experience of creating a rain barrel using plastic 55 gallon containers and take the rain barrel home.

Create a Home Rain Garden: Participants will learn about the value of rain gardens in reducing the amount of storm water runoff into our streams and river. Each participant will have a hands-on experience of creating a rain garden and gain experience in duplicating the efforts at home. When: Saturday April 16, 2011, 3-5pm, Cost: \$ 20.00

Bluegrass Local Food Summit—Eating From Our Own Soil

EDUCATE MOTIVATE POLLINATE, April 21, 2011, 8am-4:30pm.

\$45. Crestwood Christian Church, 1882 Bellefonte Dr. Lexington KY.

The conference aims to bring together policy makers, planners, public health professionals, environmentalists, community developers, academics, farmers and ordinary citizens to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise with regard to developing and maintaining local food systems in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

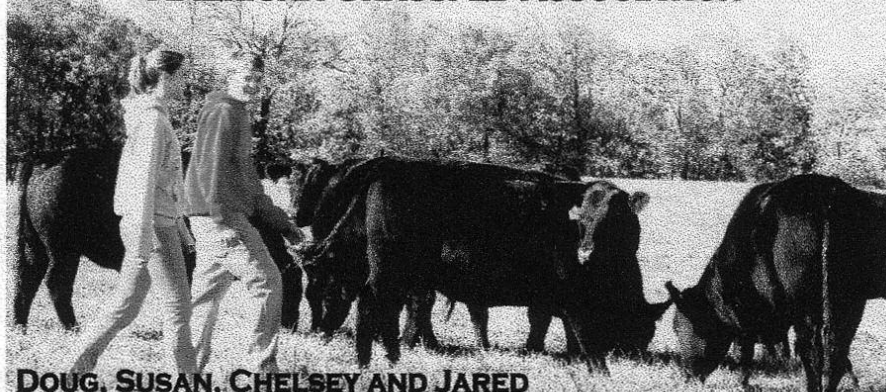
For more information: <http://sustainlex.org>, email: sustainlex@gmail.com. 859-379-9046. Sustainable Communities Network, <http://sustainlex.org>.

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Deer Me

Inevitably, when humans try to change the natural ecology of a place, we are bound for unintended consequences.

by Tim Guilfoile

There is an environmental threat lurking among us that is dangerous and destructive, responsible for injuring and killing hundreds of humans each year, wiping out forests, song birds and many other species and seriously reducing biodiversity.

I'm talking about the whitetail deer. In what may be one of the greatest wildlife management blunders in our nation's history, we are permitting deer populations to grow to the point that they are destroying the very ecosystems upon which they and other species depend.

The magnitude of the problem is staggering. There are over 50 million deer in the United States and the numbers are rising. In Kentucky, the estimate is about 1 million. If you just look at the aggregate number of square miles in Kentucky that means there are 30 deer per square mile. But wait just a minute. There are 700 miles of water in Kentucky and if you include development including housing, urban centers, suburban strip malls and other major disruptions to the landscape including mountaintop removal, we may be approaching 60-75 deer per square mile. The distribution is not evenly divided by county with central, western and northern.

There are some exceptions to this trend. Maine's deer population is plummeting and California's herd is also on the decline. But overall, we are on an uphill trend.

A study done by the U.S. Forest Service in Pennsylvania determined that at 20 deer per square mile, there is complete loss of cerulean warblers (on the Audubon WatchList as a species of global concern), yellow-billed cuckoos, indigo buntings, eastern wood pewees, and least flycatchers. At 64 deer per square mile, eastern phoebes and even robins disappear. There are no saplings or underbrush for ground nesting birds. In general, studies have found that as the number of deer increase the number of plant and animal species decline.

Forests are experiencing severe damage. The deer are eating every-



thing. Forests are being denuded and undergrowth and vital food sources upon which other animals rely are being decimated. There is a noticeable reduction in red oak, sugar maple and white ash seedlings. We are losing all the major tree species and virtually all the herbaceous plants. Bracken fern, hay-scented fern, striped maple, beech brush, none of which contribute to the vibrancy of the forest, now dominate the normal forest understory. There is great concern among foresters that there may no longer be regeneration capacity within the forests. In 40 to 50 years, as current forests die, there may be nothing to replace them.

And then there is the collision of humans and deer. There are about 1.5 million deer and vehicle crashes per year resulting in 15,000 injuries and 400 fatalities. About 10.5 percent of vehicular accidents involved deer.

So how did we get where we are today? Although the dates and specific circumstances may vary, the Kentucky story is pretty typical of every state.

When settlers first came to Kentucky, commercial hunters followed. These were not folks who hunted for food, they were after hides, antlers, hoofs and feathers. They made their living selling these goods to traders in Europe. They hunted 24/7 and by 1790, bison, elk, deer, wild turkey and many other species had been extirpated from the state.

In 1912, sportsmen in Kentucky convinced the legislature to ban hunting of red tail deer and support a reclamation project. In 1935, because of concern about license monies being

diverted into the state's General Fund, the League of Kentucky Sportsmen was formed leading the way to the Reorganization Act of 1936, and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife was born. In 1945, thirty-four years after the deer reclamation was begun, a limited deer hunting season began.

That little bit of history is important because today the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources still receives no money from the General Fund and is completely dependent upon the sale of hunting and fishing licenses for its revenue. Therefore, it is important to the Department that the deer population be robust, because that sells more hunting licenses.

Hunters contribute significantly to the threat biodiversity poses to the burgeoning deer population. Kentucky hunters, who fund the Fish & Wildlife Commission with their license dollars, dictate policy and have demanded that the commission produce more deer than the woods can sustain. Today it's more like a shooting gallery than a hunt.

Animal rights activists bear a fair share of the responsibility for deer over population as well. Insistence upon contraception as a method of population control is clinging to a method that is not practical and just plain doesn't work. Trap and relocate approaches are like trapping and relocating rats, no place wants more deer.

What about predators? Coyotes, although they are everywhere, have a negligible effect on deer herd populations. Although there have been a few

reports of mountain lions being spotted in Kentucky, none have been confirmed and reintroduction is, well....not going to happen.

You might think that destroying habitat through urban development would slow the growth of deer herds. Paradoxically, land development tends to improve deer food supplies. Because the reproduction and survival of deer depend directly upon the quality of the food available to them, the improved food has led to more deer. Deer browse on leaves, and require large quantities of new growth with high nutritional content to maintain normal reproduction. Deer populations forty years ago rarely grew large for the simple reason that most of the trees in an undisturbed forest are old, and only the undergrowth provides suitable food. It is because land development usually involves clearing land that urban development leads to increased deer food supplies. There are far fewer trees, but the trees are new growth, and very munchable. So are garden shrubs. Deer eat very, very well in suburbia. Many residential areas are reporting as many as 200 deer per square mile, three times what a forest will support.

A few years ago, things were so bad in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, that the city council approved residents hunting on their own property. I grew up in Fort Thomas and thought long and hard about sitting on my back porch and discharging a bow or a crossbow trying to hit that small target just behind the shoulder blades of a deer. And although I am sure I would have been very careful not to hit any of the neighborhood kids, it's just not a good idea.

We are in a bit of a quandary. We have reintroduced a species, have worked very hard to successfully grow its population, have thwarted attempts to control its growth and it is now destroying nearly everything in its path. Look at our birds, forests, orchards, soybean and vegetable crops, gardens, parks, greenways, our edges and understories and you can see we are in serious trouble. We have to take measures, drastic measures, to manage deer populations by consciously and deliberately reducing the deer herd.

This is a tough one though. The fact that hunters and animal right activists may actually agree on something says something about the complexity of the problem.



Feature Outing for April: Anderson Falls

Day Hike: Anderson Falls Park / State Nature Preserve – Southern Indiana, about 15 miles east of Columbus, Indiana; Saturday April 23rd, 2011; Easy to moderate 2.5 mile loop trail; Hike leaders: Joe Bina & Charlie Mitch. Join us for a spring wildflower hike along a section of the Fall Fork of Clifty Creek where the water plunges over a ledge more than 10 feet high and 100 feet long forming Anderson Falls. The Winding Waters Group of Indiana was instrumental in getting the area designated a State Nature Preserve several years ago. It is necessary to cross the creek (usually ankle deep) to reach the trail. Contact Joe Bina at 812-923-6974 or e-mail stirsitup@gmail.com for more details.

“Rally for the Rivers” Statewide Action: Lead an Event on June 25th

The Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club is planning a statewide “Rally for the Rivers” on June 25th, 2011. Where is the rally going to be? EVERYWHERE! We want to encourage individuals and groups of our members and supporters to help come up with fun, creative ideas on how to celebrate your favorite Kentucky waterway.

How about a flotilla on the Kentucky River? A splash-a-thon on Lake Cumberland? A parade along the Green River? We’re looking for any and all ideas on ways YOU would like to celebrate our streams, and help us to bring attention to how the cycle of coal affects them.

We’d like to have HUNDREDS of these events statewide, so if you belong to a church group or have a classroom of kids who want to create a water activity, let us know! More information will be coming in the May edition of *The Cumberland* and on our website. If you want to lead or participate in an event, contact Lane Boldman (lanebold@earthlink.net) or Lauren McGrath (lauren.mcgrath@sierraclub.org) or register at: <http://action.sierraclub.org/Rally4Rivers> and we’ll contact you.

Come join us at Anderson Falls this April 23rd!

Volunteer Help Wanted!

Watch for volunteer opportunities on our Chapter website at: <http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/volunteer.asp>

To volunteer, contact Sherry Otto at (859) 296-4335, or sherry.otto@sierraclub.org, or the individual listed in the posting.

- **Administrative Services Team:** Our Chapter is developing a team of volunteers to help take on some of the daily routine administrative duties of the chapter office. Some of the tasks for which we need volunteers include mail processing, listserv administration, media monitoring, returning phone calls, and database administration. All of these positions require reliable and secure broadband internet access, a home computer, home or cell phone, and the ability to check Email on a daily basis. The

mail processing task will also require a scanner. Training will be provided.

- **Volunteer Interest Survey:** Our Chapter has a variety of volunteer needs. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to our Chapter website volunteer page at www.kentucky.sierraclub.org/volunteer.asp and follow the link to complete our Volunteer Interest Survey. Your survey responses will help us connect you with volunteer opportunities that fit with your interests, skills, and resources.
- **Volunteer Webmaster/Blogger:** The Bluegrass Group is looking for people to help update our website on a regular basis. If you’d like to volunteer, contact Bill Pierskalla at 859-951-4443.

“Burning the Future” Film Showing and Panel

The anti-Mountaintop Removal film “Burning the Future” will be shown in Lexington and possibly also in Louisville during the month of April. Film director/writer David Kovack will be available at both showings. We invite you to attend this important film that tells the story of Maria Gunnoe and her neighbors in West Virginia as they travel beyond the coalfields to tell their story of what price we pay for our cheap electricity.

- **Lexington:** Lexington Public Library Downtown (Central) branch, April 26th at 6:30 with panel discussion following.
- **Louisville:** We are working on a Bellarmine University showing. Watch the Louisville Group website for updates: <http://louisville.sierraclub.org>.

Photo by Joe Bina

Outings *(All outings are open to the public)*

Note to Outings Leaders: Please notify Oscar Geraldts (cumberlandnews@kentucky.sierraclub.com) as soon as possible if there are changes that need to be made to your outing.

April 2011

Northern KY Group Outings: Visit the N.KY Website for April's Outings Dates & Information. During this time of year, we usually have spring wildflower dayhikes and backpack outings, dinner with Sierrans at local eateries, trail service outings at Big Bone State Park, and urban outings, such as city dayhikes or visits to museums. Please check the N KY Group Website (<http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/nky>); Facebook Page (NKY Sierra Club), and Meetup.com Page (Northern Kentucky Sierra Club) for details on all outings and events planned for this month. Keep in mind that it is required that you contact the outings leader via phone or email to register for the event. The leader's contact information will be posted on the event details, as well as information regarding difficulty ratings, experience level needed, equipment required, and facts about the location. If you cannot access these electronic media, please contact the N KY Group Outings Chair Ron Colwell, 859-261-5314 (evenings), or roncolwellky@lycos.com.

April 2 (Saturday) Birding at Joe Ford Nature Trail, Owensboro, KY. Marilee Thomas will lead us in early morning birding. We will meet at Joe Ford Nature Trail at 8:00AM. We will then meet at Moonlite B-B-Q for breakfast. Please bring water, binoculars and appropriate footwear. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Leader: Brad Smith, 270-929-2388, tsmith3713@bellsouth.net.

April 3 (Sunday) Dayhike: Jessamine Creek Wildflower Walk, Jessamine County, KY. Join us for a leisurely stroll through fields of spring wildflowers in the Jessamine Creek Gorge at the Kentucky River. Rating: easy, one big hill. Leader: Dave Cooper, davecooper928@yahoo.com 859-299-5669.

April 5, 7, April 12, 14 (Tuesday and Thursday evenings for two consecutive weeks) Beginning Backpack Class: Lexington, KY. This is a beginning backpack class, taught by members of the Bluegrass Group. You will learn about proper equipment, safety, orienteering, survival skills and "Leave No Trace" ethics. Classes run for two weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm, and will conclude with an optional weekend trip on April 16-17. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Fees: This class is a fundraiser for the Bluegrass Group. A fee of \$25 will be charged for materials. Co-Leaders: Joey Shadowen & Lane Boldman, 859-252-3422, jshad65@earthlink.net.

April 7 (Thursday evening) Bluegrass Group Open House: Lexington, KY. Want to learn more about the Sierra Club in a relaxed party setting? Join us at 7:30 pm for a Bluegrass Group Open House graciously hosted by group members. We have three open houses yearly (January, April, and October). This is an opportunity to learn more about our local group in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome, current members as well as those who are just curious to learn more. Refreshments are provided. This will be held at the home of Oscar & Frankie Geraldts, 2173 Palomar Trace Drive, Lexington. Rating: Easy — too fun to miss! Leaders: Terese Pierskalla, 859-327-5291 and Frankie & Oscar Geraldts, 859-264-8903.

April 9 (Saturday) Reforestation of an MTR site: Fishtrip Lake, Pike County, southeast of Pikeville. Volunteers will be planting trees on a mountaintop removal site for approximately 6 hours. However, the work is satisfying, and the camaraderie is uplifting. Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes and bring rain gear and work gloves. Lodging will be provided on Friday night, as well as Friday evening dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Details related to housing and directions will be provided closer to the date of the event. Rating: Moderate, suitable for beginners. Leader: Mary Miller, 859-858-9983 (home), 304-615-3464 (cell), jomar9983@windstream.net Co-leader: Nancy Bonhaus, 859-263-3246.

April 15-17 (Friday-Sunday) Backpack: Red River Gorge, Slade, KY. We will visit Creation Falls, Timmons Arch, Turtle Back Arch, Hells Kitchen, Pygmalion Rock, La Petite Niagra, Signature Rock and other natural wonders. Expect up to eight miles a day. We will be crossing bigger streams here and there. Rating: Moderate-strenuous. Leaders: Jerry Redden, 606-768-2400 and Nancy Bonhaus, 859-263-3246.

April 22 (Friday) Social Dinner: Queen of Sheba, Louisville, KY. Join the Louisville Group for dinner (and maybe a short walk afterwards) and an evening of socializing. Call for directions and meet us at the restaurant at 7:00pm. Rating: Easy. Leaders: Judy Lyons 585-3806 or Gloria Kemper-O'Neil 458-5253.

April 16 (Saturday) Owensboro Azalea Dogwood Trail, Owensboro, KY. We will meet at 4:00 PM at Lee and Aloma Dew's home. You can continue the day by joining us at El Toribio's in Wesleyan Park for dinner, fun and fellowship. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Leader: Brad Smith, 270-929-2388 tsmith3713@bellsouth.net.

April 16-17 (Saturday-Sunday) Beginner's

Backpack Trip – Location TBA. The Bluegrass Group's beginning backpacking class will take their "graduation trip" this weekend. Anyone interested in a beginner's level backpack is welcome to join us, subject to available space in addition to students. (If you are interested in the class as well, please see listing under April 5th.) Our hike will be about two miles to a scenic area of the Daniel Boone Forest. This will leave plenty of time to set up camp and relax, or do additional dayhiking. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Co-Leaders: Joey Shadowen, Lane Boldman & faithful dog Mac, 859-252-3422, jshad65@earthlink.net or lanebold@earthlink.net.

May 2011

Northern KY Group Outings: Visit the N.KY Website for May's Outings Dates & Information. During this time of year we usually have dayhike & backpack outings, trail service outings at Big Bone State Park, dinner with Sierrans at local eateries, bicycle rides, and kayaking/canoeing outings. Please check the N KY Group Website (<http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/nky>); Facebook Page (NKY Sierra Club), and Meetup.com Page (Northern Kentucky Sierra Club) for details on all outings and events planned for this month. Keep in mind that it is required that you contact the outings leader via phone or email to register for the event. The leader's contact information will be posted on the event details, as well as information regarding difficulty ratings, experience level needed, equipment required, and facts about the location. If you cannot access these electronic media, please contact the N KY Group Outings Chair Ron Colwell, 859-261-5314 (evenings), or roncolwellky@lycos.com.

May 14 (Saturday, 9am – 1pm) Trail Service: Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County, KY. Trail service at Big Bone Lick SP covers all park trails, 4.5 – 5 miles, mostly wooded & hilly, including two blazed by NKY Group. Work over several dates is easy to moderate, self-paced, mostly trail cleanup, sign repairs, trimming weeds, bushes & trees. The work crew can be 30-40 minutes from cars or restrooms. Wear work & weather-tolerant clothes, shoes with good treads, and work gloves. Bring liquids & snacks. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please provide email & phone # in RSVP by noon of the last Friday before. Expect a call or an email from the leader @ mid-day

on the last Friday before about the next-day's tasks, tools, meet-up location & timeline. Requested donation: none. Rating: easy to moderate hiking & work, sometimes in cool-damp or hot-humid conditions; suitable for beginners. Leader: John F Robbins, 859-363-0376, johnfrobbs@insightbb.com.

May 14 (Saturday) Dayhike: Douglas Trail: Red River Gorge, Slade, KY. The Douglas Trail is the trail that Oscar Geraldts took Supreme Court Justice, William O. Douglas, on when the Red River Gorge was about to be dammed. Justice Douglas was swayed by the natural beauty and I'm sure a few comments from Oscar. The justice declared the gorge was too pretty to be dammed. We will be crossing bigger streams and there will be a couple miles of fairly rough off-trail hiking. We will experience a couple of very remote, beautiful waterfalls. Rating: Moderate-strenuous, suitable for beginners in good shape. Leaders: Jerry Redden, 606-768-2400 and Nancy Bonhaus, 859-263-3246.

May 20 (Friday) Social Dinner: August Moon, Louisville, KY. Join the Louisville Group for dinner (and maybe a short walk afterwards) and an evening of socializing. Call the leader by Thursday prior to the event so that we can make reservations. Rating: Easy. Leaders: Heather Lamb 502-499-9798 OR Judy Lyons 502-585-3806.

May 21 (Saturday) Western Kentucky Botanical Garden Tour and Dinner, Owensboro, KY. Join us at 4:00PM for a guided tour of the Botanical Garden. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors. We will meet after the tour at Pangea Restaurant for an early evening dinner. If you are new to the Sierra Club, this will be a great time to learn more about the Pennyrite Group. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Leader: Brad Smith, 270-929-2388, tsmith3713@bellsouth.net.

May 26 (4th Thursday) Urban Outing, Lexington, KY. DOWS- Dinners Out with Sierrans - is an informal group of Sierrans who meet for dinner at various restaurants around Lexington. We meet at 7:00pm on the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of November & December, when we don't meet due to the holidays). There's no agenda, except for good food and conversation with Sierra friends! If you would like to be included on the DOWS email list, please contact Holly Shipley (information below). Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Leader: Holly Shipley, 859-381-9818, hshipley@qx.net.

The Cumberland Chapter's Outings Program exists primarily to make participants aware of the natural areas and resources the Sierra Club works so hard to preserve. Outings provide a valuable source of fun and relaxation. The Cumberland Chapter's Outings Program is managed by the chapter and asks for a donation of \$1/day/member or \$2/day/non-member. This helps defray the cost of our Outings Book and covers the outings leaders for liability and insurance reasons. Meetings, urban/social outings, service trips, etc. are excluded from collection of fees. Each leader serves in a volunteer capacity. Each participant must get permission from the trip leader to attend the trip. Outings will take place regardless of weather unless otherwise specified. If you are unable to attend an outing which you have signed up for, please have the courtesy to inform the outings leader as soon as possible. Pets, smoking, radios and guns are not allowed on trips. Guests and children are always welcome. If you have any questions about our outings program, or publicizing any outings, please contact the Cumberland Chapter Outings Chair Panaena Bina at (812) 923-6974 or sc.outings@gmail.com. Happy Trails!!!