

# Missouri Valley Sierran

Publication of the Sierra Club's Missouri Valley Group, Nebraska Chapter

November 2008

<http://nebraska.sierraclub.org/movalley>

*Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet*

## Annual Banquet

# Neb. Sen. to Speak on Legislative Goals

By Clyde Anderson

The Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club will hold its Annual Banquet on Saturday, Nov. 22 in Omaha. The banquet will be at the Spaghetti Works Restaurant on the southwest corner of 11th & Howard streets in the Old Market. The evening will include a social hour and silent auction at 6, dinner at 7, a brief presentation of awards, and a program.

The guest speaker will be Nebraska Sen. Tom White, who will describe his goals for the 2009 Unicameral session, especially those goals that are common with Nebraska Sierra Club's agenda to improve energy efficiency and promote renewable energy.

Cost for the banquet is \$20, which includes dinner with all the pasta you can

### Sierra Club Banquet:

**Neb. Sen. Tom White**

*to speak on*

**upcoming Legislative agenda**

*Silent Auction, drinks*

*at 6 p.m.,*

*Dinner at 7 p.m.,*

*followed by the program*

**Saturday, Nov. 22**

Spaghetti Works,

11th and Howard streets

**The public is welcome at Sierra Club's educational events**

eat with 12 different choices of sauces, salad bar, bread, coffee, tea, or soda.

The Missouri Valley Group will hold a silent auction during the event, and 2009 Sierra Club calendars will also be on sale.

Join us for a fun evening of socializing, fine dining, and an outstanding program. In addition to free street parking, there are several public parking lots nearby with prices ranging from \$5 to \$8 per car. Please save energy and expense by carpooling!

For reservations, mail the form with your check by Monday, Nov. 17. The Spaghetti Works Party Room only seats 60, so get your reservation in early!

The reservation was printed in the October Missouri Valley Sierran and will appear in the November Nebraska Sierran.

## Auction Donations Needed

By Carole Larson

The annual banquet will be held in Omaha on Saturday evening, Nov. 22, and donations are still needed for the silent auction, which is a big part of this event. Please think about what you could donate, whether it be an item or a service. The only limit is the imagination!

Money raised from the silent auction is a very important part of our local group's budget, and will be used primarily for participation in the political process. Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. We not only hope you will donate to the silent auction but also that you will attend the banquet and participate in the auction,

the good food, and the camaraderie. The banquet is a great place to meet fellow environmentalists of the Sierra Club not only from the Omaha area but also from the rest of Nebraska.

To donate to the auction, please take your item (or hopefully, items) to the Sierra Club office on Leavenworth Street just east of 52nd Street near Gerda's by Nov. 21. Call first to make sure someone is in the office. Questions? Call Carole at 558-4663. To make reservations for the banquet, contact Clyde Anderson at 932-7225 or [ClydeLAnderson@cox.net](mailto:ClydeLAnderson@cox.net), or fill out the form in this newsletter.

Thanks in advance for any donation, and we hope to see you Saturday night, Nov. 22!

## ProRail Studies Amtrak in Nebraska

By Clyde Anderson  
Transportation Issues Chair

ProRail Nebraska is a not-for-profit organization founded to inform the residents of Nebraska about the benefits of railroads and to promote balanced, efficient transportation - both freight and passenger - in Nebraska and the nation.

ProRail Nebraska (PRN) and the Sierra Club share the goal of advocating for better public ground transportation to offer travelers an energy-efficient alternative to private automobiles. In addition to being Sierra Club's Transportation Issues Chair, I am a PRN board member.

Nebraska is poorly served by the existing Amtrak service. The daily California Zephyr passes through our state at nighttime hours inconvenient to most passengers.

ProRail is studying two new Amtrak operations serving our state: a second Chicago - Denver train on the CZ route, and a new service between Kansas City and Omaha that might also serve Lincoln.

If you are interested in improved

public transportation in Nebraska, come to ProRail's Fall Membership meeting on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Douglas County Extension Office located at 8015 West Center Road in Omaha. Registration and refreshments at 9 a.m., and the meeting commences at 9:30 a.m. There is no registration fee.

The featured speaker will be Marc Magliari, Media Relations Manager for Amtrak. There will also be presentations about Lincoln's study to relocate railroad tracks and its passenger station, the Quad Cities (Iowa) Passenger Rail Coalition, the Midwest Interstate Rail Coalition, and expanded Amtrak service for Nebraska. PRN is the Nebraska affiliate of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (<http://www.narprail.org>), and there will be a report on NARP's national programs.

For more info, contact Clyde Anderson at (402) 932-7225 or e-mail [ClydeLAnderson@cox.net](mailto:ClydeLAnderson@cox.net). PRN's web site is <http://www.trainweb.org/prorailnebraska>.

# Events

Saturday, Nov. 8, Ponca State Park Day Hike, meet at 7:30 a.m. in Canfield's parking lot, just west of 84th Street and W. Center Road. Bring water and snacks. We will carpool, so expect to chip in for gas if you ride. Foodstop probable after hike. \$1 Sierra Club fee. Please RSVP to MVG Outings Leader/Chair John Calandra, johndcal@cox.net, 402-991-8314

Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. for refreshments, 9:30 for ProRail meeting to discuss possible Amtrak options for Nebraska, Extension office, 8015 W. Center Road.

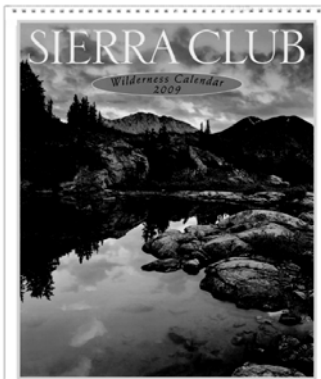
Saturday, Nov. 22, 6 p.m., Annual Nebraska Sierra Club banquet, silent auction, and a presentation by Neb. Sen. Ted White on the goals of the 2009 Unicameral, and how those goals relate to the goals of the Sierra Club

Saturday, Dec. 6, Waubonsie State Park Day Hike, about 6 miles with breaks. Dress appropriately for the conditions (if the weather is bad then the hike will be rescheduled). Bring water, snacks. Meet at 8 a.m. in the northeast corner of the SuperTarget parking lot in Papillion on the west side of 84th street about half a mile south of Giles Road. We will carpool, so expect to chip in for gas if you ride. Foodstop probable after hike. \$1 Sierra Club fee.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## 2009 Sierra Club Calendars




Wilderness Wall Calendar






Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Ship To	Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter.
Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13.95	_____	_____	Name _____	
Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12.95	_____	_____	Address _____	
		Subtotal	_____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
		Shipping (\$3 per calendar)	_____	Phone (_____) _____	
		Sales tax	_____	Email _____	
		Grand Total	_____		


For a calendar, contact Valerie Murray at 345-5668, or send this form and a check to 1935 S. 37th St., Omaha, NE 68105



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## Missouri Valley Group Sierra Club Officers

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*Secretary, Urban Sprawl & Transportation Chair; Listserv Administrator*

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*\*Wendy Harrison*

*Membership Chair;*

*\*Albert Lierz*

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*453-2933*

*ExCom Member*

*\*Greg Bernhardt*

*gbernhardt@windstream.net*

*707-6171*

*\*Voting Members of the Executive Committee*

*Vacant Positions: Eco-Kids, Endangered Species/Wildlife, Conservation,*

Missouri Valley Sierran  
P.O. Box 4664  
Omaha, NE 68104

Place  
first-class  
stamp here

Missouri Valley Group - Sierra Club  
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Omaha, NE 68104

Nick Randall

I am an Omaha native who has always had a profound interest in environmental issues. I am a 2000 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I received a bachelors of arts in psychology. Post college, I moved to Dallas, Texas, where I began in the insurance industry. I remained in the industry for nearly six years in Dallas, Tyler, Texas, and Middletown, Conn. Ultimately, I returned back to Omaha and in 2006 I founded Element Distributing. I decided that the best way for me to have an impact on more people on an issue so important to me was to start a company on my own that promoted environmentally responsible choices. Element promotes sustainability by providing businesses with packaging alternatives to Styrofoam, plastic and virgin fibers. The goal and vision of Element is to manage waste and reduce the amount being sent to landfills. Ultimately, my and Element's goal is a community with zero waste. These core values would be key to my addition to the Executive Committee of Sierra Club's Missouri Valley Group.

slot. But I have 100 percent attendance at ExCom meetings and this helps achieve quorums. I attend all state ExCom meetings as an observer, so I can better understand the relationships between Missouri Valley Group, the Nebraska Chapter, and the National Sierra Club. I have graduate training in community organization and organizational development and practical experience in these fields. I hope to use this background in my decisions as a member of the MoValley Excom.

Candy Bless

Missouri Valley Group Vice Chair

I serve as the vice-chair for the Missouri Valley Group and I am starting my fourth year as volunteer coordinator for Earth Day Omaha. In the past I have served as the membership chair and this is my third round as vice-chair. Being a voting member of the executive committee keeps me up on the current issues and I enjoy serving on the committee. I have just started a new position at WasteCap Nebraska which will bring me closer to green industry leaders. I look forward to serving you for another term!

Albert Lierz

Missouri Valley Group Membership Chair

I am the membership chairperson. My responsibilities include recruiting, orienting and retaining members, recording membership data in HELEN, the Sierra Club membership database, and staffing events with volunteers. I also serve on the Political Committee and help the Chairperson with things such as determining which candidates to endorse. I am a former newspaper editor so I serve as the backup person to do the newsletter. I am currently a voting member of the ExCom but have only been so for about a year. I was not elected but appointed to fill a vacant

Scott R Kemper

Editor, Missouri Valley Sierran newsletter

A major role of the Sierra Club is educating the public, and I try to be a part of that, using my skills in the fields of journalism to make people aware, get them involved and encourage them to be active in helping to save the environment. Many events are scheduled at times that are not easy for people to attend, for various reasons. I try to bring knowledge of those events and the issues to our members, either by attending myself or by getting an article from someone who did attend.

Please fill out the ballot below,  
fold over so the address on the reverse is visible,  
and mail by Wednesday, Nov. 26.  
BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Monday, Dec. 1.

Vote for four candidates (including any worthy write-in candidates).  
(The second column is provided for joint members, so that both members can vote)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Candy Bless \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Randall \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scott R Kemper \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Albert Lierz \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_