

Missouri Valley Sierran

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

October 2008

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

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

October Program

Panel to Discuss Options for Green Jobs

By Mary Green
Program Director

"If we want to be a first-rate country, with a first-rate economy, and a strong middle class—a green energy future is the only viable path," says Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has teamed up labor and environmental groups to form a "Green Jobs for America" campaign.

The "Green Jobs for America" campaign wants to demonstrate that investing in clean, renewable energy is the best way to fight global warming, bring skyrocketing energy costs back under control, create new, good-paying jobs and put us back on the path toward economic growth and prosperity.

What does this mean for

Sierra Club Program: Green Jobs in Nebraska

Panel discussion with
Neb. Sen. Tom White, John Bourne (IBEW), and
Ken Winston (Neb. Sierra Club)

7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23

First United Methodist Church, 69th & Cass streets
(north door, education wing)

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

Nebraskans? Our panel discussion will explore just that.

Nebraska state Sen. Tom White will describe his goals for the Nebraska unicameral, which focus on creating legislation to achieve energy efficiency and economic develop-

ment, and expanding the economy with renewable energy.

John Bourne, international representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), is

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Choices Growing to Work Green

By Steve Andrews
MVG ExCom Chair

Green jobs are the place to be, green living is the life for me.

That is for those old enough to remember the late-1960s show Green Acres and its theme song. It was my attempt to start this article with a little humor. More on the Green Acres later. What I briefly want to talk about is the emergence of a green jobs sector and its impact on economic development and environmental protection.

Ever so slowly society is real-

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Annual Chapter Banquet, Silent Auction Nov. 22

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

We are still finalizing plans for the program, so look for details in the November newsletter or check our web site <http://nebraska.sierraclub.org/movalley/>

Cost for the banquet is \$20. Price includes dinner with all the pasta you can eat with 12 different choices of sauces, salad bar, bread,

coffee, tea, or soda.

In conjunction with the dinner, the Missouri Valley Group will hold a silent auction. The new 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 street parking, there are several public parking lots nearby with prices ranging from \$5 to \$8 per car.

For reservations, mail the form below with your check by Monday, Nov. 17. The Spaghetti Works Party Room only seats 60, so get your reservation in early! **Reservation forms on page 3.**

Items Needed for Fundraising Auction

Donations are needed for the fundraiser silent auction to be conducted as part of the annual banquet.

Think about possible donations, whether it be an item or a service.

Items donated do NOT need to have an environmental theme. Previous years' donations, for example, included art works, jewelry, CDs, books, concert tickets, games, gift baskets, baked

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Alliance Eyes Energy in Green Jobs for America Project

izing that our current practices and industrial structure aren't fundamentally sustainable. Green-collar jobs, energy efficiency and renewable energy aren't opportunities reserved only for the rich or those in large cities. Cities of all sizes, as well as most consumers, are starting to realize they can be part of the solution.

Just this past April the United Steelworkers (USW), the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources

Defense Council (NRDC) and the Blue Green Alliance (a partnership of the USW and Sierra Club) launched the national Green Jobs for America campaign.

The campaign will focus on a serious commitment to clean, renewable energy to increase energy independence, help end a dangerous dependence on fossil fuels and create more than 820,000 new green jobs nationwide. The Green Jobs for

America campaign will show that by investing in clean, renewable energy we can better address global warming, bring skyrocketing energy costs back under control, create new jobs that pay well, and put us back on the path toward economic growth and prosperity.

The effort encourages the private sector to invest in more sustainable practices. In addition the campaign will also focus developing policies that fight global warming, expand clean energy production and reform unfair trade agreements.

You can find more information at the following web sites.

<http://www.bluegreenalliance.org>

<http://www.usw.org>

<http://www.sierraclub.org>

<http://www.nrdc.org>

<http://recyclenebraska.org>

A recent report released by the Political Economy Research Institute shows that investment in a rapid green economic recovery program will strengthen the economy, increase energy independence, and fight global warming as well as create the two million jobs. You can find the report at http://www.peri.umass.edu/green_recovery.

Another group working on this issue is the Apollo Alliance, which has joined forces with the Center for American Progress, Green For All, and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. The alliance is asking mayors and other local leaders around the country to sign a green-collar jobs pledge. Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez introduced the pledge at the ICLEI meeting in May 2008 with County Executive Ron Sims of King County, Wash., as a co-signer. The pledge asks

mayors to focus on green-collar jobs as a central strategy for advancing environmental, economic, and climate protection goals; to grow an inclusive sustainable economy that creates green-collar jobs; and to execute tangible actions that place a priority on genuinely building an inclusive green economy.

Apollo Alliance is a coalition of business, labor, environmental, and community leaders working to:

- develop energy revolution in America to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil;

- cut the carbon emissions that are destabilizing the climate;

- and expand opportunities for American businesses and workers.

Inspired by the vision and technological achievements of the early Apollo space program, which was the result of President Kennedy's visionary call to meet the challenge of the Sputnik launch with an aggressive national commitment to land the first man on the Moon, these groups are developing policies and initiatives to speed investment in clean energy technology and energy efficiency, put millions of Americans to work in a new generation of well-paid, green-collar jobs, and make America a global leader in clean energy products and services.

Americans have a can-do spirit, bulging with optimism and pride, a feeling that we can achieve great things when we put our minds to it.

I envision a remake of Green Acres, this time starring Al Gore and Heidi Klum.

Look for more on this issue in future newsletters.

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Oct. Program on Green Jobs


enthusiastically embracing the push for green jobs for electricians and tradesmen in his five-state region, which includes Nebraska and Iowa. The IBEW has built a center in Omaha to train workers for the new green jobs. "We don't want to have to bring in workers from Texas to do these jobs (in Nebraska)," Bourne said.

Ken Winston, Nebraska Sierra Club lobbyist, will present the Sierra Club's vision for a clean energy economy.

Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. Please join us for this informative panel on bringing green jobs to Nebraska.

Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mary Green at 556-1830, or mary.green@nebraska.sierraclub.org or the Sierra Club office at 551-9480.


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Backyard Fire Pits Popular, Polluting, Unhealthy

With fall setting in and the mercury starting to drop, many of us want to extend our time outdoors, and sitting around a backyard fire pit has become one of the most popular means to do so. But even though it may be fun, it is not good for the environment.

It's hard to assess the larger impact of fire pits on local or regional air quality, but breathing in wood smoke can be irritating if not downright harmful. According to the EPA, fine particles, also called particulate matter, are the most dangerous health com-

ponents of wood smoke, as they can affect eyes and respiratory system, causing burning eyes, runny noses and illnesses such as bronchitis.

Fine particles also aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases, and have been linked to premature deaths. The EPA advises that anyone with congestive heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma should steer clear of wood smoke. Children's wood smoke exposure should also be limited, as their respiratory systems are still developing

and they breathe more air (and air pollution) per pound of body weight than adults.

If you must light that backyard fire pit, take some precautions to limit your friends' and family's exposure to wood smoke. Use seasoned firewood and burn it in a way that promotes complete combustion to minimize the amount of harmful smoke: Small, hot fires are better than large smoldering ones. The moral of the story: If you need to burn, burn responsibly.

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

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Continued from page 1 Silent Auction Supports Club

goods, antiques, and gift certificates to restaurants, stores and museums.

The only limit is the imagination! Instead of giving that unused or unneeded item to charity, why not donate it to the silent auction and help the environment? Almost everybody has something around the house they don't use or need. We hope to have 50 items up for bid, so your participation is important!

To donate to the auction, drop off the item at the Sierra Club office a couple doors from Gerda's between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday (you might want to call Cammy at 551-9479 first to let her know you'll be coming). If you wish, indicate the value of the item, and whether you want it back if it doesn't sell. Very rarely has an item not sold. You can also drop your item off at Spaghetti Works the night of the auction, but please arrive at least 15 minutes early so it can be logged and priced.

Donating is only the first step. Please come and bid on items in the silent auction. The auction begins at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Sierra Club Annual Banquet Reservation

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me at the Sierra Club Annual Banquet on Nov. 22, at a cost of \$20 per person. I am enclosing a check for \$_____.

Name(s) as they will appear on name tags:

Phone Number _____

Please return this form, and your check made out to Nebraska Sierra Club by Monday, Nov. 17 to Sierra Club Banquet, c/o Clyde Anderson, 7020 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132.

For more information, call Clyde at (402) 932-7225 or email ClydeLAnderson@cox.net

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

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October 2008

Events

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m., Obesity, Vegetables and the Environment, City Sprouts, SW corner 40th and Franklin


Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m., Kids program, Halloween Party with a pumpkin-carving contest, City Sprouts, SW corner 40th and Franklin

Thurs. Oct. 23, 7 p.m., "Green Jobs for Nebraska" Sierra Club panel discussion with Ken Winston (Nebraska Sierra Club lobbyist), Sen. Tom White, and John Bourne (IBEW), First United Methodist Church, 69th & Cass streets.

Saturday, Nov. 1, noon, Pot-Luck Clean-up, City Sprouts, SW corner 40th and Franklin

Saturday, Nov. 22, Annual Sierra Club Banquet and Silent Auction at Spaghetti Works Restaurant, southwest corner of 11th and Howard streets.

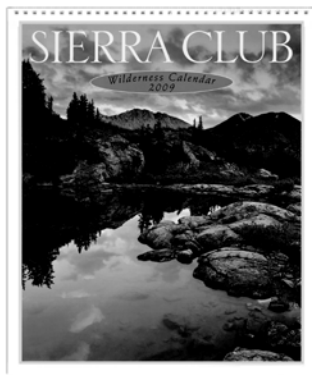
To list an event or activity in this space, e-mail the particulars to MoValSierraNews@yahoo.com, or mail it to 5170 Leavenworth St., Omaha, Neb. For more information, call Scott at 981-7819 or Cammy at 551-9480.




SIERRA CLUB
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

2009 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

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

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