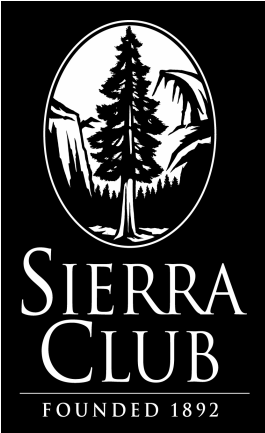


# Oklahoma Sierran

Volume 5, Issue 2

June 2005



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## Our Nation Faces a Critical Choice

by Doug La Follette, National Sierra Club BOD

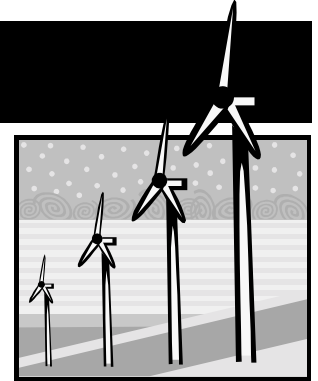
America's economic engine is built on and driven by technology. From North Carolina's Research Triangle to California's Silicon Valley, the "can do" approach of technology development has solved problems while creating millions of jobs and enormous wealth in the United States

Unfortunately this is not the argument we hear from industry leaders and many members of Congress and the Bush administration when it comes to public policies to protect our environment and improve our health. Instead of endorsing the ability of American ingenuity to get things done, these defenders of the status quo claim our economic prosperity will suffer if we take even modest steps toward cleaning up our air and easing global warming by shifting away from

fossil fuels.

Over the past year, the Union of Concerned Scientists examined the links between environmental solutions and economic prosperity, and found that the claims of fossil fuel supporters could not be further from the truth. In fact, an aggressive nationwide effort to increase our use of renewable energy resources such as wind or sun and build more fuel efficient vehicles would not only reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, but also reduce our dependence on imported oil and create high quality jobs that strengthen America's economy.

Increasing renewable energy generation creates jobs because the available technologies are relatively capital intensive; dollars invested in clean energy go toward high-wage

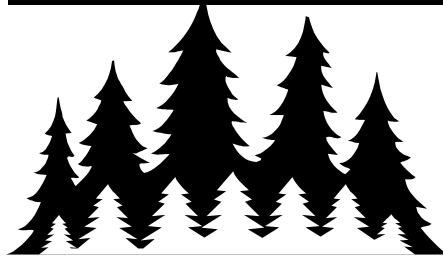


manufacturing and construction jobs rather than fuel imports from other regions or countries.

In addition, bioenergy fuels for electricity (switchgrass, agricultural wastes) can be locally grown. As a result new renewable energy facilities create more jobs per megawatt-hour of electricity generation and dollar invested than new fossil fuel-fired power plants.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Citizens' Forest Plan for the Ouachita National Forest



floating, biking and other family related activities. They want their streams protected and their watersheds intact. No one goes to the Ouachita or Ozark-St. Francis National Forests to look at logging operations or to float in streams choked with silt.

The Sierra Club has examined all of the alternatives put forth by the U.S. Forest Service and does not feel that they answer the public's demands that they have, for years, been repeating – protect our forests and streams, our wildlife and our natural heritage. For this reason the Sierra Club and the citizens of Arkansas have formulated their own plan for managing our National Forests – The Citizens' Forest Plan. We request that this plan be adopted by the U.S. Forest Service to guide the management of both the Ouachita and Ozark-Saint Francis National Forests. *(Continued on Page 2)*

The Oklahoma Chapter has signed on in support of the Arkansas Chapter's management plan for the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Following is their account of this matter.

For years the citizens of Arkansas have asked the Forest Service to change their management priorities on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests to emphasize recreation, wildlife and watershed protection and to de-emphasize timber production and other extractive activities. When it comes to what uses are emphasized on our public forests, timber production always trumps all other uses and that one activity causes harm to all of the other forest resources that the people of Arkansas value so highly. The vast majority of the users of our National Forests want these public lands protected from the abuses of logging and road building. They want to see more opportunities for hiking,

## Ouachita National Forest Citizens' Forest Plan *(Continued from Page 1)*

U.S. Forest Service is given the following task – “In developing alternatives for analysis in forest planning the Forest Service is obligated to formulate a wide range of alternatives that reflect and respond



to major public issues.” (36 CFR §219.12[f]4.) However, the U.S. Forest Service only accepts public comments from a limited spectrum of people over only a short period of time and refuses to take into account the huge amount of public input that it receives over the years in response to proposed logging projects or other agency actions such as the Roadless Area Program. Despite repeated attempts to persuade the U.S. Forest Service to change the emphasis it puts upon logging and resource extraction of our public lands, the current Preferred Alternatives for both the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests again emphasize logging and resource extraction over all other uses.

The Sierra Club believes that we have no other choice than to put forth our own plan for managing the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests. The Citizens' Forest Plan will de-emphasize logging and resource extraction in our two National Forests and replace it

with emphasis on watershed protection, dispersed and non-dispersed recreation, stream protection and restoring the native biodiversity to the forest.

The public's desire to see logging ended on National Forests is well reflected in the public opinion polls conducted on that subject, including those commissioned by the USDA Forest Service. For example, a 1998 nationwide poll found that 69% of registered voters opposed continued timber extraction on Forest Service lands (Market Strategies Inc. and Lake, Snell, Sosin, Perry, and Associates, Inc., June 22-25, 1998). When asked whether they agree or disagree that “natural resources in public forests and grasslands should be made available to produce consumer goods,” 58% of Americans disagreed in a Forest Service Values

Poll conducted as part of the 1994 Architecture for Change process under former Chief Jack Ward Thomas (Hammond, Bruce, Ph.D. Senior Consultant Kaset International, May 1994). Finally, American Viewpoint, one of the country's top GOP polling firms, found that 60% of Americans oppose allowing logging, mining, and other industrial activities on Forest Service lands ([www.heritageforests.org](http://www.heritageforests.org), 2000).

In case the U.S. Forest Service is loath to examine our plan we wish to remind them that, by law, they must. The agency must analyze a “full spectrum” of alternatives that respond to public concerns, even if it would require a change of existing policy or law. “An alternative that is outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency must still be analyzed in the EIS if it is reasonable. A potential conflict with local or federal law does not necessarily render an alternative unreasonable, although such conflicts must be considered. Section 1506.2(d). Alternatives that are outside the scope of what Congress has approved or funded must still be evaluated in the EIS if they are reasonable, because the EIS may serve as the basis for modifying the Congressional approval or funding in light of NEPA's goals and policies. Section 1500.1(a).”

## The True Cost of Food *by Bonnie Webber, National Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee*

The most significant—and encouraging—change in the American diet today is an ever-growing interest in eating local food. More and more Americans are preparing meals of vegetables, fruit, meat, and other ingredients grown and raised on nearby farms, rather than from distant agribusinesses. School districts, hospital chains, foodservice providers, and even the nation's top grocers are also seeking out food that has been raised nearby.

The Sierra Club has sponsored a short film called “The True Cost of Food”. The Sierra Club National Sustainable Consumption Committee is using the film as the centerpiece of a campaign to educate the public about food issues. The 15 minute animated film is a light-hearted thought provoking video intended to be used as an introduction to a discussion on the environmental costs of the way agribusiness is raising our food. It encourages people to buy local and organic food and eat less meat. Check it out at [www.truecostoffood.org](http://www.truecostoffood.org).

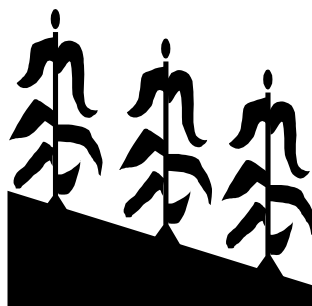
The benefits and re-emergence of local food are documented and examined in *Eat Here: Reclaiming Home-grown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket*, a new book from the Worldwatch Institute. *Eat Here* describes how this simple shift in eating habits not only delivers superior taste, but is also better for people's health, the livelihoods of small farmers, and the global environment. The book shows how people have responded to concerns about mad cow disease, urban sprawl, and heavy pesticide use

by taking control of their food supply and demanding locally grown fare. Learning more about how food is produced and connecting to food sources allows consumers to make decisions that are better for us and for the planet.

Many readers have used the book to organize “local food dinners,” meals built around local ingredients, where attendees can discuss the book and its implications for their local food economy. Attendees at these dinners might be inspired to start a farmers market, sponsor an edible schoolyard, or lobby their elected officials to support local agriculture. (For information on getting discounted copies of *Eat Here* for hosting one of these dinners, please contact [cberner@worldwatch.org](mailto:cberner@worldwatch.org).) The book and film complement each other beautifully and can be used together to run a lively meeting that appeals to people of varying commitment levels.

The book and video feature things you can do to promote local foods in your own life or community:

- Learn what foods are in season in your area and try to build your diet around them.
- Shop at a local farmers market.
- Ask the manager of your favorite restaurant or supermarket how much of their food is locally grown, and then encourage them to increase that share.
- Take a trip to a local farm to learn what it produces.
- Host a harvest party at your home or in your community that features locally available and in-season foods. Invite a local farmer to speak at your party. *(Continued on Page 3)*



## Legislative Committee Update *by Charles Wesner, Chapter Legislative Chair*

As I write this article the legislative session is entering its final two weeks. What a relief. Although we have not had any five-alarm fires to deal with, there have been numerous grass fires that could have sprung out of control at any point. I will try to hit the highlights so far.

The Farm Bureau and their client the poultry industry started the session off on the Super Bowl with a slick and crassly false ad portraying themselves as 'just folks carrying on the fine tradition of their forbearers who settled Oklahoma to make a living for their families while being good stewards of the land'. Now they were being persecuted by Attorney General, Drew Edmondson who was forcing them off the land by his unreasonable demands that they meet regional water quality standards. (Standards that the Sierra Club help put in place.)

As a result of that ad, Edmondson broke off negotiations with the poultry corporations and began preparations to take them to court. The industry struck back, introducing a bill that would prohibit the Attorney General from initiating any lawsuit on behalf of the public without the permission of the legislature or the governor—an outrageous act that was actually passed by the new Republican House of Representatives. The bill was eventually killed in the Senate but not before the Farm Bureau

and House leaders had felt the fury and scorn of many newspaper editorials and the public. The Sierra Club did our part to fan the flames.

Although it is increasingly clear that the poultry industry is the major cause of pollution of the waters in eastern Oklahoma, they found another strategy to stall any regulation. Senator Lerblance of Harts-horne introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 22. It would force state environmental agencies to come before a special legislative meeting and prove that they were not unfairly singling out the poultry industry. This managed to pass both houses and the conference committee before it could be defeated on the Senate floor.

We are also working to defeat HB1588, which will mostly benefit Chesapeake Energy Corp. giving massive tax breaks to explore for deep gas. This is a company that is enjoying record windfall profits. Chesapeake is already exploring for deep gas. It is estimated that it will cost the state \$100 million over the next 5 years and do nothing to help the state while important environmental programs are under funded or eliminated.

And so it goes. I would like to thank our lobbyist, Keith Smith, staff member Billie Brown, members of the Legislative Committee and many others who have helped make this a successful effort.



## The True Cost of Food (Continued from Page 2)

- Produce a local food directory that lists all the local food sources in your area, including CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) arrangements, farmers markets, food co-ops, restaurants emphasizing seasonal cuisine and local produce, and farmers willing to sell direct to consumers year-round.

- Join the Oklahoma Food Cooperative and support Oklahoma producers: [www.oklahomafood.org](http://www.oklahomafood.org).

- Buy extra quantities of your favorite fruit or vegetable when it is in season and experiment with drying, canning, jamming, or otherwise preserving it for a later date.

- Plant a garden and grow as much of your own food as possible. Plant a row for the hungry (a program run through the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma).



For information about The True Cost of Food, visit [www.truecostoffood.org](http://www.truecostoffood.org) or to order a copy contact us at [truecostoffood@aol.com](mailto:truecostoffood@aol.com). For more information about Eat Here, including discussion questions and activity ideas, visit [www.worldwatch.org/features/food](http://www.worldwatch.org/features/food).

## Save the Planet Fun Facts

**Q: Computer equipment can use a lot of electricity; some devices can drain power even when they're turned off. How can this energy waste be eliminated?**

A: Connect your PC, monitor, fax machine, and computer peripherals to a single power strip; when they're not in use, turn the strip off. This will put a stop to "leakage" from nominally switched-off electronics. Use the same technique for your home entertainment components.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Planning to attend the National Sierra Summit 2005 in September?

The first-ever large-scale convention of the Sierra Club is set for September 9-11, 2005 in San Francisco's Moscone Center. The summit will feature speakers and entertainment — comedian Bill Maher will headline Saturday night and pundit Arianna Huffington will speak Sunday at lunch. An exposition featuring more than 150 green and outdoor businesses as well as a cooking stage, a climbing wall, and an on-site eco-house. And at this activity will be an unprecedented gathering of delegates from chapters, committees and task forces all over the country who will work together to plot the direction of the Club for the coming years.

If you are planning to attend and are interested in being an Oklahoma Chapter delegate, please contact Tom Libby, Chapter Chair, at 405-615-6390 or [tomlibby@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlibby@yahoo.com). The only available funding to assist delegates is for the conference registration fee.

For more information on the Summit, go to: [www.sierrasummit2005.org/](http://www.sierrasummit2005.org/).

## Oklahoma Chapter 2004-2005 Awardees

### Outstanding Public Servant



This award is given to an Oklahoma government official for outstanding commitment and/or public service consistent with the conservation ideals of the Sierra Club. The 2004-05 recipient, Attorney General Drew Edmondson, has proven himself time and time again, resulting in his re-election to a third term in 2002. He is only the second Attorney General in Oklahoma history to win re-election without opposition. Following are some of the highlights of his recent acts to protect Oklahoma's water.

- May, 2003: States the Ritchie dairy should be punished for past environmental transgressions and should be shut down until it could obtain a state license.
- October, 2003: The Ritchie dairy announces plans to shut down after repeated violations.
- September, 2003: States he will defend the state law prohibiting the sale of water from the Arbuckle Simpson.
- December, 2003: A long fight over water ended when Oklahoma and Arkansas agreed to cut pollution of scenic rivers they share. "We look forward to signing a formal agreement with the cities and to working toward a similar agreement with the poultry industry," Attorney General Drew Edmondson said.
- September, 2004: Daily Oklahoman Editorial page states in part: "Edmondson deserves praise...[he] talks tough and appears to mean what he says in taking on the poultry industry. That industry is not solely responsible for water quality issues in northeastern Oklahoma, but it's certainly a major source of problems."
- January, 2005: Writes in his op-ed piece: "Protecting the waters of eastern Oklahoma is important to me and to Oklahoma...much remains to be done. The most significant issue is pollution caused by over-application of poultry waste, which experts have identified as a major cause of environ-

mental damage."

- March, 2005: Calls chicken litter hazardous for the first time in a public document and demands poultry companies "immediately cease all disposal and releases of poultry waste to the environment."
- April, 2005: Proposes resuming negotiations with the poultry industry in early May on water quality issues. "Recent correspondence from the companies has been encouraging," Edmondson said. "They are saying the things we need to hear."

*Oklahoma Chapter Chair Tom Libby is shown in the photo on the right presenting an award to Adam Wilmoth. He is also shown presenting awards to volunteers on Page 6.*

### Outstanding Journalist

Award given to an individual or organization, generally in the print, TV or radio media for outstanding reporting on environmental issues. Adam Wilmoth, of the Daily Oklahoman, was recognized this year for his efforts to include the environmental impact of economic decisions in his stories.

Some examples of his work include:

- October, 2004: Arctic Wildlife Refuge discussion of energy includes impact of drilling
- June, 2004: Discussion of oil refineries includes discussion of fuel efficiency as an option.
- December, 2003: Discussion of clean air act provided counterpoints to Bush statements.



## Sierra Club 2004-2005 Awards

### Environmental Education Award

Award given to an individual, special group, or institution providing the greatest effort to inform citizens with information that would be valuable to their process of critical thinking and decision-making in the areas of environmental education. This year's recipient, Gina Lagaly, exhibits an unequalled passion and commitment to environmental education which inspires all of the students she touches.

The Eco-Motion EE Program, featuring Edison the Bus, that Gina has created (and serves as the bus driver) is certainly unequalled in our state and possibly in any other. Transforming a broken down old bus into a magnificent artistic inspiration was an amazing feat. Gina never lost sight of her vision until she made it into a reality. Road bumps along the way simply made Gina more committed than ever to get the program underway and to keep it running smoothly.

Although Edison is an important part of Gina's vision, what sets this EE program apart is the way Gina involves the community in the program. She takes the time to go into the community a day early to train local volunteers, generally high school students in a service learning program, thus expanding her sphere of influence further than just the participating elementary students. With local folks trained, the program could then be replicated without her assistance. She has also collected a fabulous set of resources to leave with the schools following the presentation.

Gina has incorporated many fabulous "hands-on" activities into the sessions presented at the schools. Many small pairs of eyes have been brighter and smiles have been larger upon discovering a connection to nature. She has searched and researched many resources to prepare a website for extended use and support of the activities presented as well as to encourage and prepare new participants in the program. She never runs out of energy or ideas. The students and teachers she has served feel as though she is a friend and invite her back for all sorts of events.

During the past couple of years, Gina has expanded her vision to include an energy tour, recycling assembly and high school water outreach program. She has made several presentations at national and state conferences. During 2004, she increased her number of programs from 41 to 127, touching the lives of over 2,000 Oklahoma students. Edison the Bus has appeared at many events including ScienceFest and SeptemberFest, providing "hands-on" environmental experiences to thousands of attendees. Her latest undertaking is "environmental birthday parties" in the Oklahoma City metro area. (See website: [www.edisonthebus.org](http://www.edisonthebus.org) for more information.)



### Earth Care Award

This award is given to an environmentally conscious business or organization. This year's recipient, Robert Waldrop, is the power behind the Oklahoma Food Cooperative. The Co-op provides a marketing network of farmers and their customers that can bring authentic locally and regionally grown foods to your family table. All items sold through the cooperative are grown or produced here in Oklahoma and are sold by their producers.

The three core values of the Co-op are:

- Environmental sustainability
- Economic viability
- Social justice

Oklahoma Food Coop pick-up sites are available in Oklahoma City (northwest and central), Norman, Tahlequah-Muskogee, Tulsa, Enid-Waynoka and Stillwater. You may join on-line at: [www.oklahomafood.coop](http://www.oklahomafood.coop) or e-mail [customer@oklahomafood.coop](mailto:customer@oklahomafood.coop).

Bob himself has dedicated his life to assisting the poor and protecting the environment, delivering food to the needy, taking homeless men into his home (Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House) to help them get on their feet, and much more.



## Chapter Awards Presented (Continued from Page 5)



### Outstanding Service Award

Traditionally given to one Sierra Club member who has worked consistently and outstandingly at the Chapter or Group level, contributing his/her time and talent in a way which has been of significant benefit to the Oklahoma Chapter.

Suzette McDowell, Red Earth Group, was recognized this year for her tireless political work in 2004 on behalf of candidates at the local, state and national level.

As a member of the Chapter Political Committee, Suzette put together a solid base of committed Sierra Club volunteers that she was able to mobilize to work in the campaigns of our endorsed candidates. Suzette and her volunteers made phone calls to voters, walked door to door and talked with voters. She could always be counted on to get the job done. Suzette also helped contact and interview candidates seeking Club support.

Last year The Oklahoma Chapter endorsed more candidates, invested more resources and involved more volunteers in state political races than ever before. As a result of Suzette's dedicated work, we now have a stronger and more effective Chapter.

### Distinguished Service Award

Award given to individual members for work done at the Group or Chapter level which is beyond the normal call of duty and makes particularly outstanding contributions in some way.

Nancy Smart, member of the Building Environmental Communities Steering Committee and the Red Earth Group, is the only recipient of this award for 2004-05.

If you think of someone who is compassionate about the environment and ready to step up and meet the challenge of protecting it from all angles it is Nancy. She is eager to learn and share her knowledge about environmental issues with others. She attends functions and helps brainstorm for upcoming events. If she is not discussing the issues with others, she is busy working behind the scenes to prepare for them. Nancy is always doing her part in a BIG WAY!



## Building Environmental Communities Update

*"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."*

—Gaylord Nelson (Founded Earth Day April 22, 1970)

The Oklahoma Chapter had 45 folks in attendance for a festive celebration on April 23, which included live Celtic music, food, fun and enlightenment. The 20 Earth Day walkers were out the week end of April 16, talking to neighbors in Tulsa, OKC and Norman. Volunteers also distributed materials at the Norman Recycling Center; it was a beautiful sunny day and perfect for door knocking. The week ended with an educational forum at Saint Paul's Cathedral, with the State's Secretary of Environment in attendance. It was a great Earth Week of events.

Billie Brown  
Oklahoma Chapter Conservation Organizer  
Building Environmental Communities  
575 S University Blvd.  
Norman, Oklahoma, 73069  
405-366-5694/Billie.brown@sierraclub.org

## DVDs Available for Loan from the Sierra Club Oklahoma Chapter for Discussion Groups and Meeting Programs (not for individual use)

Advance e-mail reservation required: [sshields@cox.net](mailto:sshields@cox.net)  
Summaries of each DVD are available on our Oklahoma Chapter website: [www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org](http://www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org) under environmental education.  
(\$25 deposit required—to be refunded upon return of DVD)

- The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream (87 minutes)
- Blue Vinyl (90 minutes)
- The Future of Food (90 minutes)
- Future Car (60 minutes)
- Oil on Ice (60 minutes)
- World Population (7 minutes)



# CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The Chapter Election Committee, chaired by David Franklin, recently counted the ballots for this year's Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) election. Congratulations to Earl Brewer, Red Earth Group member, who is our new freshman member of the ExCom. Winning re-election to a third term is Tom Libby, our Chapter Chair. The third candidate, Cimarron Group's Esther Houser, was appointed to fill the spot vacated by Merritt Ford, Green Country. Brewer is shown on the right and his first newsletter article follows.

We thank all the candidates for agreeing to submit themselves to the scrutiny of the membership. Our grassroots election process is another factor that sets the Sierra Club apart from other environmental organizations. Thanks also to the other members of the Election Committee and, thanks to all of you . . . our members who exercised your right to vote!!!



Thanks to members for their support in electing me to the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club. I take great pride in belonging to the Sierra Club and at no time since it was founded by John Muir has this organization been more important. Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests and Fisheries are being dismantled and our natural resources are being plundered by greedy profiteers through the very people we elected to be the good stewards of our country.

After being elected to the ExCom, I agreed to serve as Membership Chair. I agreed to do so because I believe that the most urgent mission any member can perform is to recruit new members. If we are to be heard by our state and federal elected officials, we must increase our numbers. Our greatest strength comes from members working together for common causes and we can become a real force in Oklahoma by taking our membership from around 3000 to 6000. That can be easily accomplished by each member signing up one friend or neighbor as a new member. Our efforts on local volunteer service projects for the benefit of our communities are very beneficial. However, if we are to have an impact in saving our natural resources, we must become stronger. Politicians understand the power of grassroots movements when driven by large groups publicly making themselves heard. I cannot succeed as Membership Chairman without the help of each of you. Let's make the Oklahoma Sierra Club a force to be reckoned with when decisions about our environment are made. I would appreciate any ideas and suggestions for making our Chapter grow.

**Please make the commitment to recruit new members!**

—Earl Brewer

Increase your environmental IQ with each Sierra Club Knowledge Deck you buy!  
Order some for Christmas or birthday gifts. (For ages 10 -- adult.)

SIERRA CLUB KNOWLEDGE DECKS ORDER FORM - 2005	
Name	E-mail
Address	City/ST/Zip
Notes:	

(\$8 each includes shipping. Items should be received within six to eight weeks.)

ITEM	QUAN TITY	ITEM	QUAN TITY	ITEM	QUAN TITY
Animal & Bird Tracks		Extreme Nature		Trees	
Animals of the Rainforest		Menagerie of Animals		What's the Difference	
Baby Animals		Nature Photography		Where in World Are You?	
Birds		Save the Planet		Wilderness Survival Skills	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF DECKS ORDERED _____ @ \$8.00/EACH = Amount PAID</b>					<b>\$</b>
<i>Mail completed order from with check payable to Sierra Club to: Susie Shields, P.O. Box 180, OKC, OK 73101-0180</i>					

**Thank You!**



Explore,  
enjoy and  
protect  
the planet

Oklahoma Chapter  
P.O. Box 60644  
Okla. City, OK 73046-0644



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY	
CHAIR:	Tom Libby, 405/722-2367, <tomlibby@yahoo.com>
VICE-CHAIR:	David Franklin, 405/789-5377, <dfranklin@ussok.com>
SECRETARY:	David Franklin, 405/789-5377, <dfranklin@ussok.com>
TREASURER:	Mark Derichsweiler, 405/297-0179, <mderichsweiler@cox.net>
MEMBERSHIP:	Earl Brewer, 580/371-5262, <tbluedog@swbell.net>
POLITICAL CHAIR:	Charles Wesner, 405/321-2204, <Wesner@okiemail.net>
OUTINGS CHAIR:	David Franklin, 405/789-5377, <dfranklin@ussok.com>
CONSERVATION CHAIR:	Paul Moore, 918/584-6447, <pfmoore@sbcglobal.net>
CONSERVATION ORGANIZER:	Billie Brown, 405/366-5694, <Billie.Brown@Sierraclub.org>
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:	Charles Wesner, 405/321-2204, <Wesner@okiemail.net>
STATE LOBBYIST:	Keith Smith, 405/840-2219, <keith@oklahomalobbyist.com>
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:	Susie Shields, 405/297-0179, <sshields@cox.net>
WEBMASTER:	David Franklin, 405/789-5377, <dfranklin@ussok.com>
TRAINING COORDINATOR:	VACANT
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Susie Shields, 405/297-0179, <sshields@cox.net>

## Our Nation Faces a Critical Choice

*(Continued from Page 1)*

These sensible approaches would produce over 350 thousand jobs from renewable energy by 2020 and another 340 thousand jobs by building autos that get 40 mpg by 2015.

TOYOTA PRIUS



Developing new renewable energy generating capacity would also provide much needed competi-

tion to natural gas – currently the most popular choice for electricity generation and home heating. An unprecedented surge in natural gas consumption by power plants over the past four years has contributed to rising gas and electric prices, which have had a negative impact on the economy, even driving some manufacturing jobs overseas.

### The Case for Fuel Economy

Investing in renewable energy is not the only way we can improve our environment and the U.S. economy at the same time. Reducing our oil dependence would have similar benefits. The fastest and most effective way to achieve this goal is to increase the fuel economy of the cars and trucks we drive. That requires investing in technologies such as efficient engines and transmissions, high-strength steel and aluminum, low rolling resistance tires and hybrid-electric powertrains.

If auto makers took full advantage of these technologies, they could create jobs for people in the auto industry who would make and assemble the new materials and components. Cleaner cars would also save consumers money, leading to new jobs in other economic sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, construction, finance, retail and service.

### More for Consumers to Spend

In addition to creating thousands of new jobs, renewable energy and efficient vehicles can strengthen the economy through consumer savings. Increasing our use of renewable energy to 20 percent by 2020 would save consumers a total of \$49 billion on their gas and electric bills, and provide a tremendous boost to rural communities where most renewable energy facilities would be located.

Increasing the fuel economy of the new car and truck fleet to 40 mpg would also benefit consumers by saving tens of billions of dollars in gasoline expenditures.

### The Future Awaits

Homegrown energy sources and auto industry ingenuity could not only create high-quality U.S. jobs, but also open up vast new markets for American business overseas. And, by reducing our dependence on fossil fuel imports, a serious national commitment to renewable energy and efficient vehicles would make our energy supply more affordable, reliable and secure. We cannot realize those benefits, however, if our industry and political leaders continue to create roadblocks by misleading the public with doom and gloom scenarios. Instead we need real leaders who will tackle our country's serious energy and environmental problems while investing in our economic future.