



# The Heartland Sierran

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

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

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

Vol. 23 No. 4

November 2010 – January 2011

## FIRE/WATER Benefit Proves Successful



Taken as a muse, even an environmental disaster like the BP oil spill can yield beauty — say, in the form of an artist swinging and contorting on a giant silk swath, well above the heads of her audience, as she metaphorically embodies the element of fire.

That happened at FIRE/WATER, an August 14 benefit for the Sierra Club in the Uptown Theater's Conspiracy Room. The event was produced by Crystal K. Wiebe and named for the method of removing oil from the ocean by lighting the water on fire.

Aerial fabric performers Voler — Thieves of Flight interpreted the FIRE/WATER theme during two haunting performances. Kansas City musician Heather Thornton and six local graphic artists also debuted new works for the night. The artists designed posters, which were auctioned, in addition to

retail items.

FIRE/WATER also included videos about the oil spill and a mini eco fair featuring local environmental groups and businesses. Bicyclists, bus riders and those who arrived on foot were rewarded with a free beer from Pabst Blue Ribbon.

However they came, FIRE/WATER attendees were generous. Silent wars broke out on bid sheets at both auction tables, with more than one item fetching above \$100.

In total, FIRE/WATER generated about \$1400 in contributions, with \$525 from door sales going directly to the Sierra Club Foundation's BP Oil Disaster Relief Fund. Thomas Hart Benton Group received nearly \$900 from the silent auction proceeds. *THB*

## UMKC is a National Sierra Club "Cool School"

Kaye Johnston, Sustainability Coordinator at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, will present at the THB General Meeting, November 2 on how UMKC was named one of Sierra Club's 100 Coolest Schools for 2010. *Sierra* magazine's "Coolest Schools" ranking is open to all four-year undergraduate colleges and universities in the United States. The survey was constructed by *Sierra's* editorial team and was made up of ten categories: Energy Supply, Efficiency, Food, Academics, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste Management, Administration,

Financial Investments, and Other Initiatives. Where appropriate, standards like the United States Green Building

Council's LEED certification were used.

Kaye will present a slideshow on specific campus sustainability initiatives such as energy management, building design, recycling, and many others, that the students, staff and faculty are doing together as the right thing for the school and the community.

After the presentation, Sierra Club members may gather at the Jazzman Coffeehouse at the New Student Union which is in line with the US Green Building Council's LEED certification. *THB*

