



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT: To explore, enjoy and protect the planet. To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 2008

[HTTP://ARKANSAS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](http://arkansas.sierraclub.org)

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP GENERAL INFORMATION

The whole state makes up the Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club (SC). Visit the Arkansas Chapter's website at <http://arkansas.sierraclub.org> for information on local and national issues. The two groups within this Chapter are the Central Arkansas Group (CAG) and the Ozark Headwaters Group (OHG). Glen Hooks is the Regional Representative on staff for the national Sierra Club. Contact him at glen.hooks@sierraclub.org or (501) 301-8280 or at the Arkansas Chapter's office, 1308 W. 2nd St, Little Rock, AR 72201.

The Central Arkansas Group meets on the third Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise noted) in the party room at the Oyster Bar, 3003 W. Markham, in Little Rock. We usually do not meet in August or December. Come at 6:30 pm for social time before the program and discussion begin at 7 pm.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

The only hard copy of the newsletter that you will receive will be at the beginning of each year to comply with national Sierra Club regulations concerning annual election of officers. Otherwise, the remaining quarterly newsletters will be available electronically, on the website, and in hard copy at the monthly meetings.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS 2008

Chair: Kate Althoff ktalthof@aol.com
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Vice Chair & Membership: Dina Nash
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Treasurer: Fred Stanchi Fred.Stanchi@acxiom.com
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capturesunshine@comcast.com

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS APRIL 15, MAY 20, & JUNE 17, 2008

Hope to see you at the Oyster Bar on the dates below. Social time at 6:30 pm, monthly program and update on local initiatives at 7 pm. Please note that these programs are subject to change!



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April 15: Talk by Richard Davies, Head of the State Parks and Tourism Department, on the 75th anniversary of the National Park System.

May 20: Video on the Fayetteville Shale Forum held recently in Fayetteville concerning the growing impact of the massive projects to drill for natural gas in Arkansas' Fayetteville Shale Formation.

June 17: "The Death of Coal," video slide show by Van Warren, new representative on the Coal Campaign for the Central Arkansas Group. This presentation looks at the history of coal mining and its relationship to health issues.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP PARTY APRIL 12!!!

All are invited to our party on Saturday April 12, from 5:30 on, at the Grande Maumelle Sailing Club. Food and drink provided (but feel free to contribute finger food if you wish). Directions at <http://www.gmsc.org> RSVP appreciated (but not necessary) by Wednesday April 9th to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu

ARKANSAS CHAPTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: MARCH APPEAL

The Arkansas Chapter is conducting its annual March Appeal to raise funds. Hard copy letters will be mailed by the end of March to all Sierra Club members who live in Arkansas. Give generously!

ARKANSAS EARTH DAY APRIL 26, 11 AM TO 4 PM



Contact Cindy Fribourgh cfribourgh@yahoo.com who is coordinating volunteers to help at the Sierra Club booth at Arkansas Earth Day on April 26, from 11 am to 4 pm, in the grounds of the Clinton Presidential Center.

COAL CAMPAIGN POINT PEOPLE FOR CAG

Many thanks to Dina Nash, the CAG Coal Campaign point person for 2007, for all her hard work. And welcome to Van Warren, the Coal Campaign point person for 2008. You can contact Van at van@wdc.com

ONGOING LOCAL ISSUES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

LAKE MAUMELLE DRINKING WATER:

On December 19, 2007 the Pulaski County Quorum Court approved a four-month moratorium on further development in the Lake Maumelle watershed. This is good news to those of us interested in protecting the purity of Lake Maumelle drinking water, a major source of water for 360,000 central Arkansas ratepayers. Sierra Club CAG chair Kate Althoff is one of the leaders of the initiative to fight more development in what's known as Critical Area A, with support from the national Sierra Club. Further information is available at the website www.protectarkansaswater.org To help, contact Kate Althoff at ktalthof@aol.com or 223-2744.

COAL- FIRED POWER PLANTS:

The Sierra Club and other interested parties are continuing our effort to get calls and letters to the Arkansas Dept of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and to Governor Beebe to stop construction of new coal-fired power plants in the state. The longer approval for these plants is delayed—if not stopped—the more likely that SWEPCO will give up in Arkansas as the costs of construction are skyrocketing (up 30% in the last 1-2 years). Meetings with ADEQ and Governor Beebe as well as legal motions are being planned and prepared. Contact Glen Hooks glen.hooks@sierraclub.org for more information.



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BFI (ALLIED WASTE) LANDFILL:

The Certificate of Need to expand the BFI sanitary landfill on Mabelvale Pike is definitely under the radar. Pulaski County Regional Waste states that the BFI Certificate of Need is still in the POSTPONE stage. This is good news. The last entry in the ADEQ report dated February 8 looked at statistics on the leachate (groundwater) monitoring wells located at the landfill. Out of 15 wells covered in the report, 6 are out of compliance with such chemicals as Dichloroethane, Benzene, Chlorobenzene, Dichloroethylene, Tetrachloroethylene, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl chloride.

Does Little Rock really need a private landfill in the middle of town? Efforts to stop expansion and perhaps eventually close it down continue. We'll keep you posted on developments. Contact CAG point person Sharon Stark for further information BnFree2@aol.com

CANOE FLOAT ON LITTLE MAUMELLE

Very little skill required! Beginners welcome!

1 ½ hour canoe-"pick up trash" float on the Little Maumelle River from Pinnacle Mountain State Park down through some lovely woods on either June 7th or June 14th starting at 11 am with EVERYTHING (except food) provided by the park. Bring your own lunch & beverages. Let Bill Saunders know asap at wasaunders@aristotle.net or 664-2539 since space is limited by the 8 canoes the Park provides. Although there is no charge, we do ask for a \$5 per person thank-you donation to the Park. This will be the CAG's 6th annual canoe pick up outing.

OUTINGS

First, two Central Arkansas Group planned outings:

May 31 (Saturday): Big Dam Bridge and easy walk from River Trail to Emerald Park atop the Big Rock

Quarry: spectacular views from Ft. Roots V.A. Hospital hill in NLR.

Two segments can be chosen: first, walk the Big Dam Bridge and an easy trail, then be picked up at a

parking lot (one hour); second, walk up a woody hill from the Big Dam Bridge parking lot to the top of V.A. Hospital Hill to Emerald Park (two and a half hours).

Trip leaders: Bill Saunders and Dina Nash. Meet at Big Dam Bridge parking lot at 10:00 AM with water and walking shoes. Call Bill on or by May 30 to go: 664- 2539. Can anyone help with some 5-seater vehicles for shuttle back to starting point?

June 21 (Saturday): Two-hour or five-hour adventure:

Two-hour trip: Easy walk on boardwalk through swampy marshlands in the Lorange Creek Nature Area, 10 miles south of Little Rock off Hwy. 65 S.

Lorange Creek is a 525-acre nature preserve owned by the Arkansas Dept. of Natural Heritage and the Nature Conservancy: lots of birds and rare plants along the way.

Optional extra trip (total about five hours): Drive on to Pine Bluff to tour the Mike Huckabee Delta Nature Center, one of several official State Game and Fish Nature Centers around the state. Bring your lunch. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Arkansas Arts Center parking lot, southwest corner of the lot, and look for Bill Saunders' white van.

Trip leader: Bill Saunders. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and walking shoes. Call Bill on or by June 20 to go: 664-2539. We need volunteers to be assistant trip leaders: can you help?



Central Arkansas Chapter Sierra Club members are also welcome to join the Ozark Society on a variety of hikes. Check out their monthly schedule at www.ozarksociety.net For all these hikes, call or e-



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mail Steve Heye beforehand for information and to let him know you are coming at Steve_hey@aristotle.net or (501) 455-2210. Most hikes are the first Saturday following the first Tuesday of each month.

APRIL 5TH – OUACHITA TRAIL – OUACHITA PINNACLE TO ROAD 122 – WEST OF 7.

Another section of the Ouachita Trail, this stretch goes downhill from the highest point on the eastern half of the trail. We'll see some early spring foliage and views of Lake Ouachita. This piece can be steep in places, but you can see some of the best views on the trail as we work our way back toward Hwy 7.

Hike is 10 miles, bring a lunch and snacks and boots. Meet at the 430/630 commuter lot by 7 am or at Iron Springs on Hwy. 7 at 9 am.

MAY 10TH – OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL – CO. RD. 57 TO HAW CREEK FALLS.

This stretch of trail goes past some spectacular small waterfalls and streams. We'll be going down 2 valleys, with one good sized hill in between! Well worth the long climb to see these formations. We finish up at Haw Creek Falls campground. Bring good boots and WATER SHOES, a lunch and snacks. This hike is about 8 miles and is moderate. Meet at the Morgan Mc Donald's on I-40 by 7am, or be at Haw Creek Falls about 9 am.

2008 SC ARKANSAS CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET

The 2008 Arkansas Chapter Sierra Club Awards Banquet was hosted on February 28 by the Ozark Headwaters Group. Special thanks to the Banquet Committee. This is one of the Arkansas Chapter's most high profile activities in which it recognizes outstanding environmental achievements. The varied awards categories emphasize statewide accomplishments and recognize leadership within both of Sierra Club's Arkansas Groups. Awards were

given to eighteen volunteers/ organizations with twenty-eight additional Honorable Mentions.

Debbie Doss of Conway (Arkansas Conservation Coalition and Canoe Club Chair and also the Wildlife Federation honoree) is our Arkansas Conservationist of the Year!!

Other top awards are below:

Sierran of the Year: Dot Neely

Unsung Hero: Joyce Hale

Outstanding New Sierran: Adrienne Shaunfield

Central Arkansas Activist: Dina Nash

Top Elected Officials of Central Arkansas: David Johnson, Little Rock; Janet Johnson, Bryant; Will Bond, Jacksonville; and Johnnie Roebuck, Arkadelphia

ENERGY SHIFT CONCERT HELD MARCH 15

About 250 people attended the Energy Shift Concert at the Village in Little Rock which was organized to help publicize the No New Coal-Fired Power Plant campaign in the state. Of the acts on the bill, two were finalists in the Arkansas Times Musicians Showcase this year and two others were semifinalists. The Sierra Club is happy to have reached a more diverse group via this concert in terms of age, race, and background. Thanks to organizers James Burke and Amber Coffman. Concert T-shirts are still available for \$10 from James Burke. Contact him at james.burke@sierraclub.org