



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

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 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

Your Central Arkansas Group officers keep changing their mind about whether or not to mail hard copies of the quarterly newsletter. We do think that members like receiving a hard copy, and we also think it increases attendance at our monthly meetings. We can obtain partial reimbursement for printing from the national Sierra Club, so for the time being, we'll continue to mail hard copies. Copies of newsletters are also available electronically, on the website, and at the monthly meetings.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS 2008

Chair: Kate Althoff ktalthof@aol.com
(501) 223-2744

Vice Chair: Position to be filled

Treasurer: Fred Stanchi Fred.Stanchi@acxiom.com
or stanchman@sbcglobal.net (501) 960-8007

Outings: Bill Saunders wasaunders@aristotle.net
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Steve Heye steve_hey@aristotle.net (501) 455-2210

Communications & Membership: Bob Stodola
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Newsletter & Secretary: Zabelle Stodola
kzstodola@ualr.edu
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Conservation: Cindy Fribourgh
cfribourgh@yahoo.com (501) 224-3510

Political/Lobbying: Stan Cothren
arkstan@cablelynx.com

Community Outreach: Amber Coffman
capturedsunshine@comcast.com

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS JULY 15; NO MEETING IN AUGUST; SEPTEMBER 16

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!

July 15: "Aquifers of Arkansas." Power Point presentation by John Czarnecki of the U. S. Geological Survey.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST



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September 16: Debbie Doss, from the Arkansas Canoe Club, will talk about protecting the rivers and streams in Arkansas and may also give a slide presentation, "The Value of a River."

ARKANSAS CHAPTER MARCH APPEAL THANK YOU!

Thanks to the 104 donors across the state who contributed almost \$4,000 to the March Appeal, one of the Arkansas Chapter's main fundraisers.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all our new members! Are you interested in volunteering to help with various "green" initiatives? We need you! If you'd like to be more involved, contact Kate Althoff, CAG chair, at ktalthof@aol.com

SIERRA CLUB AT ARKANSAS EARTH DAY 2008



A report from Cindy Fribourgh, CAG Conservation Chair:

The Earth Day 2008 booth staffed by Sierra Club volunteers was a great success. Earth Day was held on the lawn of the Clinton Presidential Library April 26. To educate the public, we distributed free compact fluorescent light bulbs and information about the Sierra Club and gathered signatures for the "No Coal" campaign. Especially popular were the children's activities such as playing tic-tac-toe with forest creatures and dinosaurs and coloring sheets with native leaves. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Doug Anderson, Russell Black, Gary Cawood, Glen Hooks, Dale Ingram, Paul Kelly, Lisa Maher, Zabelle Stodola, and Bob Stodola.

Very special thanks to Fred Stanchi for help setting up and taking down the booth and for providing the canopy, and to Dina Nash for brainstorming activities, coordinating the tree giveaway, and providing information about global warming.

LIGHTBULBS TO LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Sierra Club announces a new initiative to educate the public about conservation. For more information, view this short video—the first of several—online, <http://www.sierraclub.org/lightbulbs/>

THE GREAT TREE GIVEAWAY

Thanks to Dina Nash, Earth Day and Sierra Club volunteers, many Master Gardeners statewide, representatives from the UALR, UA-Fayetteville, and Northwest Arkansas Community College Biology Departments, and the North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council who helped the Arkansas Forestry Commission distribute 28,500 young oak trees to 13 sites around the state in April. These trees were originally grown to replenish storm-damaged areas, but when the state became too flooded to plant them, they were offered to citizens. We know of one state park, two city parks, one cemetery, one brownie troop, one 5th grade, one county park, two arboretums, and many tornado victims in Clinton and in Little Rock, who ended up with these trees.

ONGOING LOCAL ISSUES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

LAKE MAUMELLE DRINKING WATER:

The water quality of Lake Maumelle can not be protected without new ordinances at the Pulaski County level. But proposed ordinances developed over the past few months are inadequate and place Lake Maumelle water quality at great risk. The gap between what the county is willing to do and what it needs to do shows a pure lack of political will. The Arkansas Constitution clearly gives Pulaski County the right to impose zoning. It only makes sense that Pulaski County now engage in zoning laws in order to protect a drinking water source that 95% of that county's population depends on. We will continue to lobby the county for the additional requirements needed, and we ask that you contact your representative to the Pulaski County Quorum Court and request that they: enact a zoning overlay in the Maumelle Watershed that requires minimum lot sizes of 5 and 10 acres, cluster development that maintains that same ratio of homes to land, and put a cap of 100,000 gallons per day on waste water systems. The deadline is July 10 and contact information for your county representative can be



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found by calling 340-8310 or at <http://www.co.pulaski.ar.us/quorumcourt2.shtml>. To keep informed as this issue develops, visit the website www.protectarkansaswater.org For updates and to help, contact Kate Althoff at ktalthof@aol.com or 223-2744.

COAL- FIRED POWER PLANTS:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has agreed to reopen the public comment period on the proposed Turk Power Plant. The Sierra Club and Audubon Society have filed a Petition with ADEQ, seeking to change ADEQ's regulations and allow them to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant.

The Sierra Club and other interested parties are continuing their efforts to get calls and letters to the Arkansas Dept of Environmental Quality and to Governor Beebe to stop construction of new coal-fired power plants in the state. To get involved, contact Van Warren, the CAG coal plant point person, at van@wdv.com, or Glen Hooks at glen.hooks@sierraclub.org

BFI (ALLIED WASTE) LANDFILL:

Sharon Stark at BnFree2@aol.com is the CAG point person on the BFI Landfill. Information below came from Sharon and from a [Democrat-Gazette](#) article (6/17/08). For many years much of Little Rock's residential garbage has been dumped at the BFI landfill across from UALR. Thankfully, BFI is no longer considering expansion at this site. Instead, BFI may be interested in the possible privatization of the city dump proposed by Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola. The city landfill is a more environmentally sound location and has enough space to take trash through 2074. A company spokesman said that BFI might be interested in running the city landfill were it privatized. Previous reports at the current BFI site show that its groundwater well report was out of compliance in January 2008. Maybe it's time for the BFI Sanitary Landfill to close and the city landfill to be utilized more.

CANOE FLOAT ON LITTLE MAUMELLE JUNE 28

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 June 28

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 to 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 PAST & PRESENT

The outing on Saturday May 31 across the Big Dam Bridge, up Hospital Hill to Emerald Park in N. Little Rock was enjoyed by a few hardy souls (it was very hot): Kevin Tennial, David Tennial, Fred Stanchi, Bob Stodola, Bill Saunders, and Bob's dog, Sunny. Below is the view from Emerald Park taken by Kevin.



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-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.

WIND TURBINE INITIATIVES

Our conservation-minded friends at ECO are spearheading a wind turbine project in Little Rock. For more information, contact James Burke at burke@ecoconservation.org Better still, attend the statewide all-day Energy Office WIND seminar on June 26 beginning at 9 am at the U of A Cooperative Extension Service Building on University Avenue in Little Rock.