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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

JANUARY TO MARCH 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). The newly redesigned & regularly updated Arkansas Chapter's website at <http://arkansas.sierraclub.org> contains 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. Come at 6:30 pm for social time before the program and discussion begin at 7 pm.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

Our last newsletter said that we'd like to go to all-electronic delivery of the quarterly newsletter. However, to comply with national Sierra Club regulations concerning annual election of officers, we will probably need to send a hard copy at the beginning of each year with the slate of nominations to all CAG members. Below is the list of current 2007 officers. The slate of nominees for 2008 is in the insert to the newsletter. Since all positions are unopposed, you can assume that that the nominees on the insert will be your new officers for 2008.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS 2007

Chair: Kate Althoff ktalthof@aol.com

(501) 223-2744

Vice Chair & Membership: Dina Nash
dina_nash@yahoo.com
(501) 246-3026

Newsletter: Zabelle Stodola kzstodola@ualr.edu
(501) 664-8747

Outings: Bill Saunders wasaunders@aristotle.net
(501) 664-2539
Steve Heye steve_hey@aristotle.net (501) 455-2210
and Chuck Oberste chuckoberste@acioplastics.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Stodola
bstodola@hotmail.com (501) 664-8747

Conservation: Cindy Fribourgh
cfribourgh@yahoo.com (501) 224-3510

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS JANUARY 15, FEBRUARY 19, & MARCH 18, 2008

Hope to see you at the Oyster Bar on the dates below.

Social time at 6:30 pm, program and update on local initiatives at 7 pm. Please note that these programs are subject to change!

January 15: Martin Maner, Director of Watershed Management for Central Arkansas Water, will give a presentation and take questions concerning efforts to protect Lake Maumelle's water purity.

February 19: Talk by Richard Davies, Head of the State Parks and Tourism Department, on the 75th anniversary of the National Park System.



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March 18: Bob Brister, Interregional Outreach Coordinator of the Southern Utah Wilderness

Alliance, will present *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*, a multi-media slide show featuring stunning images and narrated by Robert Redford.



SIERRA CLUB AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO SPONSOR FORUM ON GAS DRILLING, JANUARY 23, IN FAYETTEVILLE

From Rob Leflar, Ozark Headwaters Group

The "Fayetteville Shale Play" refers to the massive projects to drill for natural gas in Arkansas' Fayetteville Shale Formation. Clean energy and increased severance tax revenue are important, but not enough attention has been paid to the environmental consequences of drilling operations using a technique called hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." The Arkansas Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters of Arkansas will hold an educational forum focusing on the environmental effects of gas drilling, on Wednesday evening, January 23, in the new courtroom at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville. Experts from the Natural Resources Defense Council and from Texas, where problems have arisen, will speak as well as representatives from other constituencies. For information contact me at rbleflar@uark.edu or Joyce Hale at joyhale43@sbcglobal.net

ARKANSAS CHAPTER CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET, FEBRUARY 16, IN FAYETTEVILLE

The Arkansas Chapter's annual Conservation Awards Banquet will take place Saturday evening, February 16, in Fayetteville. The Ozark Headwaters Group will host the banquet, and they hope lots of folks from Central Arkansas will drive north too.

The Banquet Committee seeks nominations for awardees. Please take a moment to send your nominations for any of the categories below, with a brief paragraph (or less) description of why the nominee is deserving, to Rob Leflar at 1495 Finger Road, Fayetteville 72701, rbleflar@uark.edu Include your name, phone and e-mail so we can contact you for details. The categories are:

1. Environmental Reporting (on issues or places of importance in Arkansas)
2. Public Servant (employee of any public entity)
3. Elected Public Official
4. Environmental Miscreant Anti-Award (a person, company, or organization)
5. Environmental Business (an enterprise supportive of environmental goals)
6. Environmental Educator (furthering appreciation of the Natural State)
7. Environmental Organization (other than a Sierra Club unit)
8. Activist of the Year (leader in getting citizens involved, spreading our message)
9. Student Sierran of the Year (a leader of any age through college)
10. Senior Sierran of the Year (a leader 65 or older)
11. Unsung Hero (working effectively behind the scenes for the environment)
12. Outstanding New Sierran (exceptional contributions in 1st 2 years as a member)
13. Sierran of the Year
14. Arkansas Conservationist of the Year

ONGOING LOCAL ISSUES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

LAKE MAUMELLE DRINKING WATER:

On December 19, 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. See article by Stacy Hudson in the Democrat-Gazette for December 20, 2007, "Moratorium on Lake Projects OK'd," 1B & 7B. Sierra Club CAG chair Kate Althoff is one of the leaders of the initiative to fight more development in



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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 Arkansas Public Services Commission has issued a permit for the SWEPCO Turk coal-burning power plant although many other states are refusing new construction of these dirty energy sources.

Because we want to see Arkansas' Turk Coal Plant and the second boiler at the Plum Point Coal Plant the 47th and 48th coal plants to be cancelled, the national Sierra Club has sent us a temporary community organizer, James Burke. James will stay until mid-April organizing public awareness campaigns to help impact the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the Governor, and the Global Warming Commission. Preventing permits to these two new plants will stop the 33% projected increase of CO2 levels we now create in Arkansas. James can be reached at the Sierra Club office at (501) 301-8280, and he can put you to work on a project right away! Or talk to Dina Nash or any of the CAG officers about helping with a letter writing campaign to Teresa Marks, Director of ADEQ, and Mike Bates, ADEQ Air Division Chief. The ADEQ permit is still pending, and a strong response from environmentalists and others is crucial. Read "The Dirty Truth about Coal" written by the Sierra Club at <http://www.sierraclub.org>

OUTINGS



Central Arkansas Chapter Sierra Club members are 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.

FEBRUARY 9TH – LOWER BENCH – MT. NEBO STATE PARK- DARDANELLE.

This is the lower bench trail at Mt. Nebo State Park, an almost flat loop about 200' down from the summit and about 4 miles long. Bring a lunch and snack. This hike is rated easy. You'll pass a small waterfall, a pond and rock formations. Meet at Mc Donald's at the Morgan exit of I-40 by 8 am.

MARCH 8TH – BUZZARD'S ROOST – S.W. OF PELSOR

A lot of us have never been to this area southwest of Pelsor. We'll try and find this area that has rock arches, deep cuts and bluff lines. We'll be leaving the Mc Donald's at Morgan/I-40 by 7 am and make our way up to Pelsor. Bring a lunch and snacks. About 6 miles total and trip is rated moderate.

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.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP PARTY IN APRIL!!!

Watch for information on a CAG party in April at the Grande Maumelle Sailing Club tentatively scheduled for the evening of Saturday April 12.



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Nominations for 2008 Officers for the Sierra Club, Central Arkansas Group (CAG)

These positions are all unopposed

CHAIR: Kate Althoff

ktalthof@aol.com I am currently Chair of the Central Arkansas Group and also a member of the Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee. The CAG has been involved in some key issues such as blocking the expansion of the BFI Landfill, fighting the proposed Turk coal-fired power plant near Fulton, and trying to protect the purity of the Lake Maumelle Watershed. I am an active member and point person in the group called Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed. See <http://www.protectarkansaswater.org>

VICE CHAIR & MEMBERSHIP: Dina Nash dina_nash@yahoo.com I have been an active Sierra Club member for about 23 years. In 2007 I served as Vice President and Membership Chair for the Central Arkansas Group and point person for the NO COAL PLANTS campaign. For this campaign I wrote a research report on coal-fired plants and have attended and coordinated numerous meetings and press releases. I organized the Sierra Club's tables at Earth Day and the Energy/Sustainability Expo.

NEWSLETTER/SECRETARY: Zabelle Stodola kzstodola@ualr.edu I am a faculty member in the English Department at UALR and (obviously!) have strong writing skills. Since being elected as Central Arkansas Group newsletter editor/secretary in 2007, I

have revived the newsletter and helped to organize several social events for the group. I enjoy hiking and the outdoors and have been a Sierra Club member for about a decade.

TREASURER: Fred Stanchi stanchman@sbcglobal.net I currently act as Treasurer for the Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. I am in my ninth year working as Production Manager at Acxiom for the Washington Mutual account. Previously I was Project Manager at Arkansas Systems and Vice President of Operations at Tioga State Bank in New York . In my spare time I enjoy playing golf.

COMUNICATIONS: Bob Stodola bstodola@hotmail.com I've been a member of Arkansas Sierra Club since 1991 and am currently Treasurer of the Central Arkansas Group and Secretary of the Arkansas Chapter. I also participate on the Chapter legislative committee. I'm interested in increasing communication and consensus among members of the CAG and helping participate in Sierra Club environmental campaigns in central Arkansas.

CONSERVATION: Cindy Fribourgh cfribourgh@yahoo.com As far back as the 1970s I was active in efforts to limit logging roads in the Ouachita National Forest and was involved as a concerned citizen in 2001, urging the Bush administration to defend legislation limiting roads. One of the Central Arkansas Group officers during 2007, I am interested in returning to work



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on conservation efforts utilizing my public relations skills.

OUTINGS: Bill Saunders

wasaunders@aristotle.net The other officers call me “the historian” because I have been part of the Central Arkansas Group for so long and am also a longtime member of other outdoors and environmental groups like the Audubon Society and the Canoe Club. I am on the committee at UALR overseeing efforts to clean up and green up Coleman Creek.

POLITICAL/LOBBYING: Stan Cothren

arkstan@cablelynx.com I am a registered Professional Engineer in Civil and Environmental Engineering, registered in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. I retired after thirty-two years as owner of a consulting engineering firm. I am currently a board member of Rural Community Assistance Partnership in Washington, DC. See <http://www.rcap.org>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Amber

Coffman capturedsunshine@comcast.com I am a Project Manager at Alltel and am very interested in improving Sierra Club’s outreach to schools and enhancing recycling initiatives in the central Arkansas area.