



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 2009

[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 local and national information. The two groups within this Chapter are the Central Arkansas Group (CAG) and the Ozark Headwaters Group (OHG). Glen Hooks is the Senior Regional Representative on staff for the Sierra Club with special responsibilities for the national Coal Campaign. Contact him at glen.hooks@sierraclub.org or (501) 301-8280. Joe Sundell, joe.sundell@sierraclub.org, works on coal issues specifically within Arkansas.

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. We offer programs that are educational as well as entertaining!

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS April 21, May 19, & June 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. Our programs are both educational and enjoyable! (Note that these programs are subject to change.)

April 21: Chuck Dovish of AETN's "Exploring Arkansas" will give a presentation on scenic Arkansas.

May 19: Patty Barker, the environmental lobbyist partly funded by the Arkansas Sierra Club, will

discuss environmental initiatives in the 2009 Arkansas legislative session as it wraps up.

June 16: Glen Hooks, Regional Representative (Eastern US), will give an update on the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.

ARKANSAS SIERRA NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP OUR DRINKING WATER CLEAN

The Central Arkansas Group is conducting its own 2009 March Appeal as we ask for your support in addressing local environmental issues facing the Natural State, especially the threat to water purity posed by development around Lake Maumelle. See the Lake Maumelle update in this newsletter and help us spread the word about keeping our water source as pure as possible. Enclosed is an envelope for your donation.

GET INVOLVED: SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



We need volunteers for a variety of environmental issues. Please contact CAG Chair, Dale Ingram, at dale.ingram@sbcglobal.net, or CAG Vice Chair, Cindy Fribourgh, at cfribourgh@gmail.com, if you can help.

2009 ARKANSAS SIERRA CLUB CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET A SUCCESS



Molly Rawn (under banner) receives the award for Outstanding New Sierran. At left, Dale Ingram, CAG Chair, and Zabelle Stodola, CAG Newsletter Editor.

The 2009 Conservation Awards Banquet held on February 28 at the Little Rock Woman's City Club celebrated and publicized conservation efforts in the state. Thanks to the many supporters who turned out despite the snow flurries swirling outside!

We also thank the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event, especially Holly Vines, Rel Corbin, Lisa Maher, Glenda Lovett, Gary Cawood, Emily Althoff, Ellen Ingram, Suzi Parker, and the Univ. of Central Arkansas contingent.



Volunteer Lisa Maher, left, and CAG Outings Chair, Bill Saunders, right.

We are very grateful to the following donors of silent auction items:

Acadia Restaurant; Arkansas Dept of Parks and Tourism; Arkansas Earth Day; The Clinton School of Public Service; Community Bakery; Dr. Lisa Sherwin; Dr. Phillip Vines; Dr. Terry Trevino-Richard; Dr. Gary Cawood; Green Irene; Heifer International; Holly Vines; J'Ne and Adrianna Hutson; John Kushmaul; Lilly's Dim Sum Then Some/Rep. Kathy Webb; Max Recordings; Mayor Mark Stodola; River

Valley Horticultural Products/Tom Neal; Scott Lyon Landscape & Design; Sen. Blanche Lincoln; Serenity Nail Spa/Jonda White; Silhouettes Hair Salon/Terri Reddin; Starving Artist Café; The Community Bicyclist; The Nature Conservancy; Tipton & Hurst/Stacy Hurst; Trent Stewart; US Pizza; Bill Saunders.

Finally, thanks to Glazer's Distributors and Diamond Bear for donating wine and beer.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 Arkansas Sierra Club Conservation Awards:

1. Environmental Reporting AETN
2. Public Servant CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
3. Elected Public Official REP. KATHY WEBB
4. Environmental Large Business MOLEX LITTLE ROCK CONNECTOR
5. Environmental Small Business GREENHOUSE GRILLE
6. Environmental Organization WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
7. Activist of the Year STEVE SMITH
8. Student Sierran of the Year CODY HOOKS
9. Unsung Hero FRED STANCHI
10. Outstanding New Sierran MOLLY RAWN
11. Sierran of the Year KATE ALTHOFF
12. Arkansas Conservationist of the Year ANTI-TURK POWER PLANT COALITION (SIERRA CLUB/AUDUBON ARKANSAS/HEMPSTEAD COUNTY HUNTING CLUB/ECO)

INTERESTED IN AN OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT AT PETIT JEAN ON JUNE 20?

We're trying to gauge interest in a Central Arkansas Group campout on June 20. Call Bill Saunders, Outings Chair, if you're seriously interested in doing this and we'll keep you posted and send details: wmsaunders@att.net or 664-2539.

SATURDAY APRIL 25: TWO ACTIVITIES FOR YOU TO SUPPORT—EARTH DAY AND A PARTY AT THE GRANDE MAUMELLE SAILING CLUB



Arkansas Earth Day 2009 will be held on the grounds of the North Little Rock Riverfront Park. Help staff

the Sierra Club booth by contacting Cindy Fribourgh at cfribourgh@gmail.com. For information about Earth Day itself go to www.arkansasearthday.org.

In the evening, come to the Central Arkansas Group's party, from 5:30 on, at the Grande Maumelle Sailing Club. Food and drink provided including Bob's famous burgers. Directions at <http://www.gmsc.org>. RSVP appreciated (but not required) by Wednesday April 22 to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu.

LITTLE MAUMELLE CANOE PICK-UP FLOAT JUNE 6

Pinnacle Mt. State Park has again agreed to provide free canoes, gear, and shuttle service for Sierra Club's annual trash pick-up. This 2-mile float is mostly shaded under 100-year-old trees and is easy enough for absolute beginners. Meet at the big flat field's launch ramp at 10 am with a bag lunch and drinks. Rain or shine! You'll be headed back home by 2 pm. Contact Bill Saunders, Outings Chair, at wmsaunders@att.net or 664-2539.

ONGOING LOCAL ISSUES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

LAKE MAUMELLE DRINKING WATER:

The water quality of Lake Maumelle is currently so high because the watershed is 90% forest land and 5% in an open natural state. Computer modeling and scientific analysis clearly concluded that preserving undeveloped land was critical to maintaining high water quality. But practically all the elements of land conservation that the Watershed Management Plan called for were omitted from the County ordinances (Chapter 8) that Judge Villines proposed recently. We believe that if Chapter 8 were amended to require the minimum lot size of 5 acres, upon enactment it would immediately begin to protect the lake by limiting dense development. Judge Villines said that such a lot size amendment would be unconstitutional, but the Arkansas Attorney General disagrees. Unfortunately, what Judge Villines proposes in Chapter 8 will not stop man-made structures around the lake from proliferating and threatening water quality.

It's true that Judge Villines and Central Arkansas Water are going to develop a land use plan which is required by state law to enact zoning-type land use regulations. But during the interim of 15 to 18 months, developers will be able to file plats with Pulaski County Planning under Chapter 8 and become grandfathered in, therefore avoiding the more restrictive future zoning provisions. A land rush of sorts may develop once Chapter 8 passes and before zoning becomes law.

On April 14, Pulaski County legislative subcommittees will consider Chapter 8. On April 28,

Pulaski County full Quorum Court will consider Chapter 8. We need to ask our representatives to the Quorum Court to amend Chapter 8 to include minimum lot size of 5 acres.

For electronic notification of updates, contact Kate Althoff at ktalthof@aol.com or 223-2744 or check the website www.ProtectArkansasWater.org.

COAL- FIRED POWER PLANTS:

Here's an update from Joe Sundell, our local Sierra Club staffer focusing on coal issues in Arkansas:

As plans for Louisiana's Little Gypsy Plant were canceled on Friday March 6, the total number of halted or delayed plants has now come to 96 nationally in the past three years, making Arkansas one of only 21 states still considering coal. The big news in mid March came from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, where a three-judge panel threw out a suit being brought against SWEPCO by the Hempstead County Hunting Club which sought to block construction of the John W. Turk Jr. Power Plant. Sierra Club's efforts have been focused on the company's ability to finance the plant, fighting a proposed rate increase at the Public Service Commission, and a legislative measure which would streamline the process for future increases. Contact Joe at joe.sundell@sierraclub.org for more information.

2009 CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS

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