



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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.

www.sierraclub.org

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

The whole state makes up the Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club (SC). The two groups within this Chapter are the Central Arkansas Group (CAG) and the Ozark Headwaters Group (OHG).

Glen Hooks is the Regional Director (Eastern US) on staff for the Sierra Club with special responsibilities for the national Coal Campaign in 23 states. Contact him at glen.hooks@sierraclub.org or (501) 301-8280. Robert Huston is the Hunter/Angler organizer working on bridge building between Sierra Club and sportspersons. Reach Robert at robert.huston@sierra.club.org or (479) 474-7242. Benn Davenport does grassroots organizing work for Sierra Club around climate change legislation in Arkansas and Missouri. Reach Benn at benn.davenport@sierraclub.org or at (501) 301-8280. Lev Guter is the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Organizer, Arkansas. Contact him at lev.guter@sierra.club.org or (501) 301-8280.

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. No meetings in August or December.

NOTE: Your national SC dues cover membership in the local group too. Join at www.sierraclub.org

See you at the Oyster Bar on these dates. Social time at 6:30 pm, monthly program and update on local initiatives local initiatives at 7 pm. Our programs are both educational and enjoyable!

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS

January 19, February 16, and March 16

January 19: Lawyer Eddy Moore will bring us up to date on recent and forthcoming legislation affecting the Coal Campaign in Arkansas. His presentation is titled "Update on Clean Energy in Arkansas."

After working in the US Senate and at the California chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, Eddy came to Arkansas in 2005. He has written the book *Getting Greener: Progressive Environmental Ideas for the American South*. During the 2009 Arkansas legislative session, Eddy lobbied on behalf of the Arkansas Public Policy Panel to pass clean energy legislation to reduce climate change emissions, and he now argues for improved energy efficiency policies before Arkansas regulators as a representative for Audubon Arkansas.

February 16: Botanist Theo Witsell from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission will speak on the use of fire as a tool to restore native habitat.

March 16: Bob Blanchard of the United States Geological Survey Arkansas Water Science Center will give a presentation on the USGS streamflow and water quality monitoring network in Arkansas.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER, NAO UEDA

In October 2009, the Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) met in Little Rock. Thanks to hard work by all the ExCom members, the meeting went very smoothly. Dawn Farver with the Ozark

Headwaters Group (OHG) took on the role of updating our website. Now the website is almost ready. I've taken a sneak peak, and it looks beautiful! Stay tuned, folks, for a new and revamped Sierra Club – Arkansas website!

At the October meeting, the ExCom adopted three environmental issues as its top conservation priorities – global warming, water, and shale drilling. I have selected seven Sierrans with extensive background in these areas to serve on the Chapter Conservation Committee. I hope to share their names with you as soon as the Chapter ExCom approves and seats the Committee. The next Chapter ExCom meeting will be held on the first weekend in February in Fayetteville. Everyone is welcome to attend! Contact me for details, Nao.Ueda@Arkansas.SierraClub.org

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP HELPED FUND WATER QUALITY PROGRAM AT LAKE MAUMELLE

Here are two pictures from the water quality educational program that took place in October 2009 on Lake Maumelle.

Below, Emily Althoff holds the “World Water Monitoring Day” poster with other volunteers



Above, CAG's own Bill Saunders at Lake Maumelle

WIND TURBINE IN ACTION AT THE DUNBAR COMMUNITY CENTER IN LITTLE ROCK



Sierra Club hosted a Green Holiday Lighting Ceremony in Dunbar Garden on December 10 where the Christmas lights were run on solar energy. Attendees sipped hot apple cider and signed oversized Christmas cards for Senators Pryor and Lincoln encouraging them to vote on critical Climate Change legislation in the New Year. Local media covered the event.

SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERS AT THE REGREEN MENA PROJECT

ReGreen Mena, a project to replace the trees, plants and grass destroyed in the April 2009 tornado, replanted 65 hardwood trees in Janssen Park in November 2009, seven months after the storm. Five Sierrans took part in the ceremony including Fred and Martha Goldthorpe from Mayflower; Martha Koelemay and her daughter from near Oden/Pine Ridge; and Bill Saunders from Little Rock. Other partners and volunteers included Diamond Bank, the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Forestry Association, Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club, Weyerhaeuser and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

SIERRA CLUB'S BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN

Here's a really encouraging New Year's message from Glen Hooks, Regional Director (Eastern US) of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign:

We have now been involved in stopping 111 coal-fired power plant proposals all across America—that's more than 400M tons of CO2 kept out of the atmosphere every year, due to the work of dedicated Sierra Club volunteers, staff, and attorneys.

The highlight of the last quarter was the launch of our "Coal-Free Campus" campaign. Did you know that there are dozens of colleges that have coal-fired power plants right on campus? It's true, and Sierra Club has been engaging students and faculty at 11 of these campuses in an effort to kick coal off campus. In the 1st quarter of 2010, we'll be expanding our effort to more campuses and doing everything we can to move the administrations to a coal-free future. Thanks for your good work—Happy (Coal-Free) New Year!

**SIERRA CLUB'S HUNTER/ANGLER PROGRAM:
MESSAGE FROM ROBERT HUSTON**

The Sierra Club Hunter/Angler Program in Arkansas is currently involved in numerous issues falling under the Resilient Habitat Campaign. In particular we are working on water quality issues such as fracking fluids, with various other groups across the state, wildlife habitat issues and the economics of climate change. I welcome any interested inquiries or offers of support regarding the H/A program. Contact me at Robert.huston@sierraclub.org

**ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE BEYOND COAL
CAMPAIGN: MESSAGE FROM LEV GUTER**

These past few months have been active ones for the Beyond Coal Campaign in Arkansas. In November more than a dozen house party screenings across Arkansas showed the documentary *Coal Country*, which highlighted the devastating effects of Mountain Top Removal in Appalachia.

On November 17, Sierra Club mobilized a busload of friends and members to testify at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) hearing over a proposed air permit for Entergy's White Bluff coal-fired plant located in Redfield. Entergy wants to spend \$1 billion of ratepayer money to keep the dirty plant operating. We also submitted over 300 written comments opposing the permit. ADEQ has not yet issued a decision. The next step in the White Bluff permit process is for the Arkansas Public Service Commission (PSC) to hold a hearing on whether to hike rates. The PSC set the hearing date for March 2010, but after seeing all the comments that ADEQ had received, the PSC has decided to indefinitely suspend its hearing! A huge thanks to all of those who commented! If the hearing is rescheduled, please stay tuned to be apart of our ongoing actions against the permit.

For more information about the Beyond Coal Campaign in Arkansas, please visit www.sierraclub.org/coal/ar

DONATIONS FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

As you probably know, Sierra Club is primarily volunteer-driven, especially at the local level. This newsletter is produced by volunteers and sent out quarterly to more than 1,200 Sierra Club members in central Arkansas. We hope you find it enjoyable and informative, and we are always happy to receive suggestions for improvement. If you are able, please consider making a special donation toward covering the costs of this newsletter which run to several thousand dollars a year. Your donation will help us continue to spread the word to local Sierra Club members. Make donations to "Sierra Club CAG" and send to Fred Stanchi, CAG Treasurer, 104 Clermont Ct, Maumelle, AR 72113-7041. Please note "newsletter donation" on your check. Thank you!

**KEEP THIS DATE: CAG SPRING PARTY
SATURDAY MAY 8, ALLSOPP PARK PAVILION,
4-8 PM**

Join us at Allsopp Park Pavilion at the bottom of Cantrell Hill in Little Rock on Saturday May 8, 2010, when the weather will be perfect for a picnic! Details forthcoming in the next newsletter.



**2010 CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

The members you just elected for the 2010 Central Arkansas Group Executive Committee will meet soon to allocate the seven officer positions.

Two-year terms
Kate Althoff
Cindy Fribourgh
David Lyon
Bill Saunders

One year-terms:
Gary Cawood
Bernie Jungkind
Bob Stodola

Fred Stanchi and Zabelle Stodola have volunteered to continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.



CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP
THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

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