



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.

<http://arkansas.sierraclub.org>

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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. Benn Davenport does grassroots organizing work for Sierra Club in Arkansas around climate change legislation. Reach Benn at (501) 301-8280 or benn.davenport@sierraclub.org. Lev Guter is the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Organizer for Arkansas. Contact him at lev.guter@sierraclub.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. See you at the Oyster Bar on the dates below. Social time at 6:30 p.m., monthly program and update on local initiatives at 7 p.m. Our programs are both educational and enjoyable!

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

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS
SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, AND TWO
NOVEMBER MEETINGS ON NOVEMBER 2 AND 16

September 21: "Climate Change in Arkansas." Dr. Michael Ledbetter is a Professor of Earth Sciences at UALR where he teaches courses on Climate, Oceanography, and Weather Studies. His talk will

focus on the specific impacts of global warming on the state of Arkansas. While in Washington, DC, he testified to a presidentially appointed committee on the Arctic, gave presentations to Congressional staff, to the Smithsonian Associates, and to others. He has given invited talks on global climate change for the Arkansas Climate Awareness Project.

October 19: Safe Routes to School State Network Organizer and green activist Julie Hendrix will talk about her work to make Little Rock a more bike-friendly city.

November 2: Sierra Club will join the Ozark Society in seeing a slide presentation by famous Arkansas photographer Tim Ernst, who will have books and other items for sale.

Note change of venue: this meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Little Rock Church, located at 10701 West Baseline Road, Little Rock. (Go West from the Highway Dept. Building at I-30 & Baseline for half a mile, or go East from Baseline & Stagecoach for about one mile on Baseline).

November 16: We are arranging for State Representative Kathy Webb, a longtime Sierra Club member and supporter and a friend to many green initiatives in the state, to brief us on legislative updates for the upcoming legislative session.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!!

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have not been receiving emails from Bob Stodola about Sierra Club events and alerts, then please email Bob so you can be placed on our list. His email is bstodola@sbcglobal.net

To cut down on mailing costs and paper consumption, beginning with this issue CAG will mail newsletters every four months instead of every three months, i.e. three times a year instead of four times a year.

CAG OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2011

We're not vampires, but NEW BLOOD is welcome!

The Central Arkansas Group (CAG) will hold elections in December 2010 to fill officer positions for 2011. All CAG members are invited to become more involved locally. Information below fulfills the national Sierra Club's election requirements.

First, we need three volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee to oversee the election and nominate officers. Four officers from last year will serve the second year of their two-year term. Next, we need candidates to run for three open two-year positions on the Executive Committee (ExCom), which guides CAG's direction and activities.

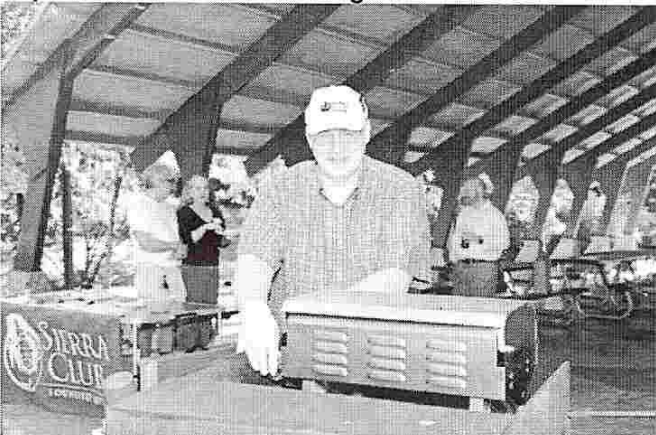
Any paid-up national Sierra Club member may run. Each candidate is required to submit a one-paragraph ballot statement (150 words) explaining why you wish to serve. The Nomination Committee, whose three members cannot be ExCom candidates, will manage the election's logistics.

October 31 – Finalize Nominating Committee
November 14 – Deadline for Ex-Com Nominations
December 1 through 26 – Election Period
January 1 – Announce new ExCom
January 10– New ExCom is seated.

In addition to CAG, the Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club will also hold elections in December 2010. If you are interested in serving on the Chapter Nominating Committee or ExCom please contact David Lyon at David.Lyon@Arkansas.SierraClub.org

PICTURES FROM CAG SPRING PARTY AT ALLSOPP PARK PAVILION

Top Chef Bob Stodola at the grill



Young Sierrans, including Lev Guter (2nd from left) and Uta Meyer (2nd from right)



Kate Althoff points to what's on the back of Bill Saunders' shirt: "Women Want Me, Fish Fear Me"



CAG FALL PARTY, SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, ALLSOPP PARK PAVILION, 4-8 PM

Join us at Allsopp Park Pavilion at the bottom of Cantrell Hill in Little Rock from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday October 23, 2010, when the weather will be perfect for a picnic! Food and drink provided. For more information contact Zabelle at Zabelle.Stodola@Arkansas.SierraClub.org

FALL OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sept 25: The second in our new series of "hidden-in-town walks" lasting 3 hrs at the most. Moderate-to-slightly strenuous, but very scenic. Bring a sack lunch and plenty to drink. Meet at 9:30 in the Metropolitan Bank Building's parking lot, Cantrell at Rodney Parham. The trailhead is nearby. For information contact Bill Saunders at wmsaunders@att.net or 664-2539.

Oct. 16: One of the year's best Saturdays to be out in the woods! Gary Cawood will lead us on a Crowley's Ridge trail he knows at Village Creek Park. We'll carpool. For information contact Gary Cawood at gkcawood@ualr.edu or 666-8731.

In order to participate in one of Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call (415) 977-5528.

MESSAGE FROM LEV GUTER, FIELD ORGANIZER, BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN, ARKANSAS

TOXIC COAL ASH:

FREE Road Trip to Dallas! Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign is providing transportation, hotel, and food so people can attend the EPA public hearings on regulating toxic coal ash. Leave Arkansas (Little Rock or Fayetteville) by bus on Tuesday 7 September, stay the night in Dallas, take part in the hearings on Wednesday 8 September, and return to Arkansas that night.

The United States EPA is finally proposing regulations to protect our health and drinking water from toxic coal ash—but we need your help to get them adopted!

Coal ash is the poisonous ash left over from burning coal, and no federal regulations exist on how to dispose of the dangerous waste which is laden with arsenic, mercury, lead and a host of other metals that leach into our groundwater after it is dumped in unregulated landfills and ponds.

The Sierra Club supports the proposed EPA regulation characterizing coal ash a "hazardous waste" (not just a "solid waste") which would ensure meaningful safeguards on how coal ash is disposed. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Lev Guter at lev.guter@sierraclub.org or call his cell at (941) 779-3337.

If you can't attend the hearing, you can send in a written comment at www.sierraclub.org/coalash before the November 19 deadline. Thanks!

TURK COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT CASE:

Our legal fight as plaintiffs continues against construction of the 600 MW coal-fired plant proposal in Hempstead County. On August 4 Federal District Judge Bill Wilson, in Little Rock, heard arguments to stop the construction of Turk based on several grounds, including a Federal 404 water permit that the Sierra Club, Audubon and the Hempstead County Hunting Club contend was improperly granted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Over a dozen Sierra Club members were present in the audience, so thank you! Every opportunity to show support helps us show the Judge how important this case is to all of our members. The Judge did not make an immediate ruling, but instead will continue his deliberations during the next Turk hearing which

he has tentatively set for September 24 (he may move it to September 21, so stay tuned). Our goal is to get a preliminary injunction to halt construction. Currently, it is about one third built, with costs ballooning over \$2 billion.

If you are in the Little Rock area later in September, please join us! The upcoming hearing is sure to get a lot of media attention, and we want our supporters in the audience! Please send me an email lev.guter@sierraclub.org so I can keep you updated about exactly when to show up in September if you think you'll be able to make it.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CAG, in partnership with the local Boys and Girls Clubs, is in the process of organizing environmental education activities for children in the area. The first event will hopefully take place by October and is an opportunity for Sierra Club to provide an educational experience as well as reach out to a younger generation of environmental advocates. Would you like to be involved and share your knowledge about the environment with local children? Please contact Uta Meyer at umeyer1@cub.uca.edu

FAREWELL TO FRED STANCHI, LONGTIME CAG AND CHAPTER TREASURER

Fred Stanchi, treasurer for CAG and the Chapter for several years, brought considerable financial professionalism to the Arkansas Sierra Club in his role as treasurer. We thank him and wish him well in his new job in Bentonville working for Walmart. Below is a picture of Fred and his wife, Marty, with several CAG officers after a farewell dinner.



Left to right: Kate Althoff, Bill Saunders, Zabelle and Bob Stodola, Fred and Marty Stanchi



CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP
THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

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2010 CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

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