



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 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 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. 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 APRIL 20, MAY 18, & JUNE 15

April 20: Pre-primary meeting! Hear a short pitch from candidates in the primaries for the 2nd Congressional District. We've invited each of them to talk for about five minutes: Democrats are David Boling, John Adams, Patrick Kennedy, Robbie Wills,

and Joyce Elliot; Republicans are Tim Griffin and Scott Wallace. We think that the ones who actually accept our invitation will be more environmentally committed than those who decline!

May 18: Karen Leu will give a presentation on "Basic Home Energy Concepts." She works with AmeriCorps for the HEAL Arkansas Program with the Clinton Foundation. Her talk will focus on home energy audits, the most common home energy efficiency problems, and tips for increasing energy efficiency.

June 15: Dr. Michael Yoder, who teaches Geography at the University of Central Arkansas, will give a talk titled "The New Urbanism Movement and Micropolitan Cities of Arkansas: What Might They Learn from Each Other?"

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP, DAVID LYON

As the new chair of CAG, I want to thank our volunteers and Executive Committee members for their hard work in carrying out the Sierra Club's mission of exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet. Arkansas is blessed with many beautiful natural areas to explore and enjoy, but our state's plentiful natural resources also make it vulnerable to environmental exploitation. My goals for CAG are to expand and diversify our membership and empower our members to be successful environmental activists. I have a special interest in bringing more young people into our group so we can help train the next generation of leaders and activists. I believe that effective activism requires both passion

for the environment and a pragmatic understanding of the issues at all levels from local to global. CAG contains many talented individuals with diverse knowledge and skills. I would like to encourage our members to participate in meetings, discussions, and events so we can learn from each other and network our talents to be more successful environmental activists. For more information join our Facebook group, "Sierra Club, Central Arkansas Group," or email me at David.Lyon@Arkansas.SierraClub.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER, NAO UEDA

The Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee (Ex Com) met in February in Fayetteville. We brainstormed ways to strengthen the Chapter and the two groups, unveiled the revamped Arkansas Chapter website, and created a Facebook page. Check out our newly designed and updated website at <http://arkansas.sierraclub.org> and become a fan of Sierra Club, Arkansas Chapter on Facebook! The Chapter Ex Com also approved the formation of Young Sierrans to connect, inform, and involve environmentally-minded "young" people (about 18 to 45). YS meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in Little Rock. Its first two meetings attracted many new faces. For information go to Facebook or contact David Lyon at David.Lyon@Arkansas.SierraClub.org. The new Chapter Conservation Committee is coming up with a plan to tackle shale drilling. For more information contact Chapter Chair, Nao Ueda, at Nao.Ueda@Arkansas.SierraClub.org.

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! Food and drink provided. For more information contact Zabelle at Zabelle.Stodola@Arkansas.SierraClub.org

EARTH DAY 2010

Arkansas Earth Day 2010 will be held April 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at North Shore Riverwalk Park in North Little Rock. We need volunteers to help staff the Sierra Club booth. Please contact Gary Cawood

at Gary.Cawood@Arkansas.SierraClub.org if you can help. For information about Arkansas Earth Day itself, go to www.arkansasearthday.org.

DONATIONS FOR YOUR CAG NEWSLETTER

Special thanks to the following people who sent donations to help fund the quarterly CAG newsletter:

Janet Bowen, Elaine Smith, Cynthia Crawford, Mozelle Taylor, John Hodoway II, and Dale and Ellen Ingram.

The newsletters are produced by volunteers and sent to over 1,200 Sierra Club members in central Arkansas. We hope you find them enjoyable and informative.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MARCH APPEAL

Your Central Arkansas Group looks forward to your support for this year's annual fundraiser. For 2010 we are focusing attention on three areas: water issues, natural gas drilling, and clean energy. If you can donate, please make out your check to Sierra Club, Central Arkansas Group, and send it as follows: SC CAG March Appeal, c/o Kate Althoff, 3 Longtree Court, Little Rock, AR 72223.

We appreciate your help as we address the local environmental issues facing the Natural State.

SIERRA CLUB CLIMATE CAMPAIGN ISSUES: A REPORT FROM BENN DAVENPORT

Benn reports that in early March the Clean Energy Works Coalition, with help from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups nationwide, headed a 72-hour Call-in for Clean American Power to show Senators that voters want action on clean energy and climate legislation. Around 300,000 calls from people like you flooded the Senate. Thanks for getting involved!

To celebrate Earth Day's 40th birthday, the Clean Energy Works Coalition and the Sierra Club hosted a rally at Senator Blanche Lincoln's office to begin a 40-day countdown to Earth Day. You can be part of the Earth Day Revolution by contacting Benn at benn.davenport@sierraclub.org and helping to deliver letters and reports or write letters to the newspapers.

In April, Benn is helping coordinate an effort to retrofit a church in southern Little Rock to reduce its utility bills and increase energy efficiency. As Climate Change organizer, Benn is reaching out to faith communities, the Boy Scouts, labor and union

members, and others. Reach Benn at (501) 301-8280 or benn.davenport@sierraclub.org.

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

In our Arkansas coal fight, we have focused energies on three areas over the last three months: 1) Fighting the Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) on building its proposed 600 MW coal-fired John W. Turk plant in Hempstead County in southwestern Arkansas; 2) Defending the Arkansas State Implementation Plan on regional haze; 3) Bolstering support for the US EPA to enact stronger ozone regulations.

On the Turk Front: At the moment there are three suits against the Turk Plant, and the Sierra Club is a party in two of them. On April 15, one of these suits, brought by the Hempstead County's Hunting Club, will be argued in the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Defending Arkansas' Clean Air Plan: SWEPCO, Entergy Arkansas, and the Arkansas Electric Coop are requesting a variance from Regulation 19 so they do not have to implement the mandate that White Bluff reduce its noxious emissions of SO₂ and NO_x by 2013. Many SC members sent comments to ADEQ protesting the variance.

Stronger Proposed Ozone Regulations: March 16 marks the national Sierra Club's Clean Air Day to support the EPA's proposed ozone standard that will become final in August 2010. Contact Lev for further information and to get involved in these campaigns, Lev.guter@sierraclub.org.

SPRING OUTDOOR EVENTS

April 17: Hike up Pinnacle Mountain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the trail head for the west summit trail near the rest rooms. The trail ascends 700 feet for three-quarters of a mile and includes hiking up steps and boulders, and a walk through the forest. Bring boots or shoes with non-slip soles, hat, water, bug spray, and, depending on weather, a rain jacket. In case of light rain or wet rock, we will detour to another nearby trail. Walk is cancelled if it is raining heavily. For more information, contact Outings Leader Joe Wankum at 501-470-5843 or jbwankum@aol.com

May 15: CAG's 9th annual Canoe Float and Trash Pick-up on the Little Maumelle River. Meet at 10 a.m. at Pinnacle Mountain State Park in the parking lot by the river's edge launch ramp (at the far-east end of the big flat recreation field). The Park provides canoes, paddles, life jackets, and shuttle. It's an easy 3-mile paddle while we pick up cans and other debris from the river (usually there is not a great deal to retrieve). Bring your own sack lunch,

water/soft drinks, bug spray, and sun block. You'll be back home by 2 p.m.

June 5: Meet at 10 a.m. at the Big Dam Bridge (Little Rock side) and walk up to Emerald Park. Takes approximately 2 ½ hours, kid- and pet-friendly. Contact Bill Saunders if you're interested, wmsaunders@att.net or 664-2539.

June 19: Meet at 10 a.m. in the Kohl's parking lot behind the Valero Station in west Little Rock and take an urban walk for 1.4 miles through woods from Kohl's to Bowman Curve. Contact Bill Saunders if you're interested, wmsaunders@att.net or 664-2539.

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.

Check the web site www.arkansas.sierraclub.org periodically for additional outings in Little Rock or Conway.

Outings Leader Training: If you enjoy hiking, consider becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader. Joe Wankum will hold a training session for new Outings Leaders in the near future. Contact him at jbwankum@aol.com.

**2010 CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Chair:

David Lyon, David.Lyon@Arkansas.SierraClub.org

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