

CAG 2021 Meetings

1/19/21 - T - Our program will be a discussion of the 2021 legislative session and bills addressing climate disruption. Sierra Club has worked with the Environmental Caucus of Citizen's First Congress on two worthy bills. We will explain the bills and discuss what you can do to help us. The Clean Electricity Jobs Bill will create a task force to develop a plan for Arkansas to be net zero in carbon emissions by 2050 in the production of electricity. We will also discuss The Clean Electricity Reporting Act which will require electricity producers to calculate and report carbon intensity. Sierra Club and Citizen's Climate Lobby member Gary Kahanak will help lead the discussion. There is no Planet B. We need a plan now to reduce carbon emissions. Please join this discussion.

Also, Thomas Peterson, an organizer with Audubon Arkansas and a Green Corps fellow, will join Tuesday's Sierra Club meeting to talk about protecting and expanding access to solar energy this legislative session. Let's help expand solar access in Arkansas.

2/16/21 - T - Patrick Kinnamon from our environmental partner Citizens' Climate Lobby will give a presentation on carbon fee and dividend. Here is a preview from a program he gave on [Talkbusiness.net](https://www.talkbusiness.net)

"Patrick Kinnamon is the co-founder of MakerMade, a precision tool manufacturing company located in Northwest Arkansas. His company's carbon footprint and his worldview led him to contemplate how he could get involved to more effectively address climate change. Through research and networking, Kinnamon is one of thousands of members of Citizens' Climate Lobby, an international, nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing environmental policies. In recent years, CCL has been pushing for a "carbon fee and dividend" initiative that would incentivize companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by placing a fee on energy producers at the point of extraction and pass along that revenue to citizens through a "dividend" to offset higher energy costs. Though the effort could be utilized at the state

level, it is more often debated as a federal issue."

3/16/21 - Tu – 6:30 pm - CAG Monthly Meeting – Presentation: A panel discussion of the major environmental legislation presented to the Arkansas Legislature: Hear about the good, the bad and the really bad in environmental legislation.

4/20/21 – Tu – 6:30 pm - CAG Monthly Meeting – Speaker: Allison Fowler, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator for Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Allison will present a program about Monarch conservation in Arkansas, and discuss some opportunities for education, outreach and what you can do to help. A primary cause of monarch decline is habitat loss. Monarchs need blooming native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs which provide nectar for the adult butterflies to feed upon, as well as native milkweed plants that are the sole food source for monarch caterpillars. The conversion of natural habitat to make way for cropland and development—along with landscapes dominated by turf grass, non-native plants, and pesticides—is taking a steep toll. Scientific studies have proven that urban green spaces that mimic the native habitat of pollinators, like the monarch, help the recovery of the species.

5/18/21 – Tu – 6:30 pm - CAG Monthly Meeting – Speaker: Dustin Lynch - Presentation on crayfish in Arkansas. Dustin is the Aquatic Ecologist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. His interest are in natural history, conservation biology, phylogenetics and biogeography, taxonomy and systematics, and community ecology. Dustin has worked with many different taxonomic groups, though his current focus is largely on stream fishes and crayfishes.

6/15/21 – Tu – 6:30 pm - CAG Monthly Meeting – Speaker: Darlene Schanfeld from the Washington State Sierra Club. Subject: Your Right To Know What Is In Your Food and Compost - The US EPA in 1990 deemed the recycling of sewage solids was safe to use as fertilizer for growing food because it has "beneficial use." The benefits to farm soil are the phosphorus, nitrates, and nice heavy metals. There is no mention of the other

80,000 or more chemicals. Yet EPA's own research of over 300 contaminants found a long list of chemicals to be hazardous to health. The USEPA Office of the Inspector General has more than once urged EPA to update its regulations, which they haven't since the early 1990s, but were supposed to do annually. Wastewater processing plants were not built to mitigate these wastes. The sludge from these facilities have been spread across the land with plastics and PFAS/PFOS, dioxins, hormone disruptors, medications, and so much more. These wastes are also sold as commercial composts to the general public, landscapers, and others. University and government scientists report that their research has found crops to be absorbing the contaminants and viruses. This educational presentation will also include safer technologies for disposing of the sewage wastes, plans for changing federal laws, and what individuals can do in their communities.

7/20/21 – Tu - 6:30 pm - CAG Monthly Meeting - Richard is a Senior Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute and is the author of 14 books, including POWER: LIMITS AND PROSPECTS FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL, along with hundreds of essays and articles, some of which have appeared in NATURE, WALL STREET JOURNAL and THE AMERICAN PROSPECT. He has lectured on 6 continents and has appeared in numerous environmental documentary films. You might remember seeing him in Leonardo DiCaprio's environmental documentary 11TH HOUR, or hearing him discuss environmental policy on one of countless media outlets.

8/17/21 – No CAG meeting in August

9/21/21 – Tu - 6:30 pm - CAG monthly meeting –Speaker: Randy Easley from Central Arkansas Water (CAW). Randy will continue our discussion of water treatment. He will discuss wastewater treatment, what to look for when asking for information, contaminants of emerging concern, along with some research he and others have conducted along those lines.

10/19/21 - Tu - 6:30 pm - CAG monthly meeting – Speaker: Tanya Hollfield (local artist) is working with Central Arkansas Water

(CAW). Presentation related to a planned CAW mural project.

11/16/21 - Tu - 6:30 pm - CAG monthly meeting - Panel discussion on re-districting in Arkansas.

12/21/21 – No CAG meeting in December