



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

JANUARY TO MARCH 2009

ALSO INCORPORATING ARKANSAS CHAPTER INFORMATION

[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 information on local and national issues. 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 national Sierra Club with special responsibilities for the Coal Campaign. Contact him at glen.hooks@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. We usually do not meet in August or December, and this year we will not meet in February either. Come at 6:30 pm for social time before the program and discussion begin at 7 pm.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ARKANSAS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This newsletter contains information not only about CAG activities but also about Arkansas Chapter business, particularly an invitation for volunteers to run for office in the Arkansas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Ex-Comm), the Chapter-wide committee comprised of CAG members, OHG members, and at-large members. The Ex-Comm sets the direction for the Chapter and guides the Chapter's activities. Any Sierra Club member may run, and this is a great way to be involved in important state environmental issues while getting to make new friends. If you are interested, please submit a one- paragraph

statement about who you are and why you're running to: adrienne.shaufield@gmail.com Questions? Contact your state chair, Adrienne Shaunfield, at (479) 387-5855 or via email.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, FEBRUARY 28, 2009

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday February 28 at the Little Rock Woman's City Club, 401 S. Scott Street, in downtown Little Rock. Our dynamic speaker is Robert McAfee of RePower Arkansas who will talk on the very timely and educational topic of Green Jobs. Cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program to begin at approximately 7:45 pm. Silent auction! Great food and great company! Banquet co-chairs are Cindy Fribourgh cfribourgh@gmail.com and Zabelle Stodola kzstodola@ualr.edu. Stay posted for further information.

Cindy and Zabelle ask you to nominate people/organizations for awards in the categories below who will be recognized at the banquet. Send a message with your nominee's name and a sentence or two justifying your choice to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu by January 31, 2009. Please also include your own name, phone, and e-mail so we can contact you for details. The categories are:

1. Environmental Reporting (on issues or places of importance in Arkansas)
2. Public Servant (employee of any public entity)
3. Elected Public Official
4. Environmental Miscreant Anti-Award (a person, company, or organization)

5. Environmental Business (an enterprise supportive of environmental goals)
6. Environmental Educator (furthering appreciation of the Natural State)
7. Environmental Organization (other than a Sierra Club unit)
8. Activist of the Year (leader in getting citizens involved, spreading our message)
9. Student Sierran of the Year (a leader of any age through college)
10. Senior Sierran of the Year (a leader 65 or older)
11. Unsung Hero (working effectively behind the scenes for the environment)
12. Outstanding New Sierran (exceptional contributions in 1st 2 years as a member)
13. Sierran of the Year
14. Arkansas Conservationist of the Year

UNOPOSED SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS IN THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP

Chair: Dale Ingram dale.ingram@sbcglobal.net
 I have been active in the Arkansas Sierra Club for more than five years; I previously served as vice president of the Executive Committee, was heavily involved in fundraising and promotional activities, helped organize the annual banquet, and supported political campaigns of a number of environmentally progressive candidates. With 25+ years of experience in journalism and PR, I am director of public relations for Heifer International. My proudest environmental achievement came when my sons helped create an aggressive recycling program at Central High School.

Vice Chair: Cindy Fribourgh cfribourgh@gmail.com
 (501) 224-3510
 As far back as the 1970s I was active in efforts to limit logging roads in the Ouachita National Forest. I was CAG Conservation Officer in 2008. A highpoint of that year was taking part in Al Gore's Climate Change Project training. I am co-chairing the 2009 Awards Banquet and look forward to using my PR skills for other environmental initiatives.

Treasurer: Fred Stanchi Fred.Stanchi@axiom.com
 or stanchman@sbcglobal.net (501) 960-8007
 A Maumelle resident, I am active with both the Arkansas Chapter and Central Arkansas Group. I am currently the treasurer for both organizations. Joining Sierra Club was a personal choice, and I enjoy this commitment. I don't consider myself a tree hugger, but I am very worried about the poor practices of businesses and individuals regarding the environment. My expertise is project and production management.

Communications & Membership: Bob Stodola
bstodola@hotmail.com (501) 664-8747
 I've been a member of Arkansas Sierra Club since 1991 and am currently CAG Membership Chair and Secretary of the Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee. I'm interested in increasing communication and consensus among members of CAG and encouraging them to participate in local Sierra Club environmental campaigns.

Newsletter & Secretary: Zabelle Stodola
kzstodola@ualr.edu
 (501) 664-8747
 A Sierran for over a decade, and an avid environmentalist, I am a faculty member in the UALR English Department. Since being elected as CAG newsletter editor/secretary in 2007, I have revived

the newsletter and helped organize several social events including co-chairing the 2009 Awards Banquet.

Conservation: Van Warren van@wdv.com
 I am an environmental activist with a science perspective. I spent a decade working for NASA-JPL as a systems engineer. In response to deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, I worked with Santa Monica artist Tom Van Sant to produce the first cloud-free view of the Earth from Space, published in National Geographic *Sixth Atlas of the World*. The digital version of this product formed the seed of what became Google Earth™. I have worked in electric vehicle technology and have been an advocate of clean cars, solar and wind energy, and the Sierra Club campaign opposing coal-fired power plants.

Outings: Bill Saunders wmsaunders@att.net
 (501) 664-2539
 The other officers call me "the historian" because I have been part of the Arkansas Chapter and the Central Arkansas Group for so long and am also a longtime member of other outdoors and environmental groups like the Audubon Society and the Canoe Club. I am on the committee at UALR overseeing efforts to clean up and green up Coleman Creek.

Water issues: Kate Althof ktalthof@aol.com
 (501) 223-2744
 For two years I was Chair of the Central Arkansas Group and also a member of the Arkansas Chapter Executive Committee. During this time CAG became active in blocking the expansion of the BF1 Landfill, fighting the proposed Turk coal-fired power plant, and trying to protect the purity of the Lake Maumelle Watershed. I am particularly involved with water issues especially concerning Lake Maumelle and am the CAG liaison with Citizens First Congress.

**CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS
 JANUARY 20 & MARCH 17. NO MEETING IN
 FEBRUARY—COME TO THE AWARDS BANQUET
 ON FEBRUARY 28 INSTEAD**

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. We try to present programs that are both educational and enjoyable! (Please note that these programs are subject to change.)

January 20: Cindy Fribourgh, who was one of only 120 people to go through a special training session with Al Gore himself in fall 2008, will present a slide show on the Climate Project.

NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

March 17: Following the Arkansas legislative session, we plan to have a report from a representative on Governor Beebe's Global Warming Commission.

HIKING OPPORTUNITIES

For information on educational and fun outings in conjunction with our sister outdoors organization the Ozark Society, please contact Steve Heye at Steve.Heye@aristotle.net or access the Ozark Society website at www.ozarksociety.net But please

note that Sierra Club cannot be held liable for any problems if you participate in these outings.

2009 MARCH APPEAL

Your Central Arkansas Group looks forward to your support for this year's annual fundraiser. Please expect a mailing from us in early March. We ask for your help as we address the local environmental issues facing the Natural State.

ELECTION TRIUMPH FOR GREEN CANDIDATES

Here's a note from the Arkansas Chapter Political Chair, Rob Leflar:

Along with the big victory – Barack Obama as president-elect – Sierra Club endorsements aided a number of Arkansas candidates to election night wins. Political Committee co-chair Steve Smith did a sterling job making our endorsements effective. Here's the scorecard:

State House of Representatives

District 38, Little Rock John Edwards: WON (by about 75 votes!)

District 67, Greenwood, Steven Breedlove: WON

District 89, Fayetteville, Jim House: WON

District 92, Fayetteville, Lindsley Smith: WON (without opposition)

City of Fayetteville

Mayor of Fayetteville: Lioneld Jordan: WON (in hard-fought runoff)

Fayetteville City Council: Brenda Thiel: WON

Mark Kinion: Lost, 53-47

Sarah Lewis: WON

ONGOING LOCAL ISSUES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS

LAKE MAUMELLE DRINKING WATER:

The water quality of Lake Maumelle can not be protected without new ordinances at the Pulaski County level. But proposed ordinances developed recently are inadequate. We expect increased activity on this issue in January and February as Central Arkansas Water considers funding the County proposal. This will be a pivotal time: the actions taken early in 2009 by Central Arkansas Water will set an irreversible course for Lake Maumelle. Will they take the path of least risk to our drinking water or will they compromise and allow special interests to gain too much control? Please keep in touch for electronic notification of events by contacting Kate Althoff at ktalthof@aol.com or 223-2744.

COAL- FIRED POWER PLANTS:

Led by Glen Hooks and incoming Sierra Club staffer also responsible for coal, Joe Sundell, the campaign against new coal-fired power plants in Arkansas continues to evolve in response to changes nationally as well as locally. We can expect all the power plants to push for approval while the Bush administration is still in office. But don't be fooled by "Clean Coal" ads on which the industry is spending millions of dollars. There is no such thing as clean coal. To get involved in the campaign against new coal-fired power plants in Arkansas (especially the SWEPCO Turk Plant near Fulton), contact Glen Hooks at glen.hooks@sierraclub.org

BFI (ALLIED WASTE) LANDFILL:

Sharon Stark at BnFree2@aol.com is the CAG point person on the BFI Landfill just off Asher. Her update states that Republic Waste and Allied Waste (BFI) merged on December 12, 2008. In a letter supplied by Allied Waste, the approved airspace will be filled before the 18-month expiration of May 24, 2010. Then the letter suggests that BFI Model Fill Landfill is not part of Republic and is still BFI Waste Service of Arkansas, LLC. But BFI in a letter to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) dated December 5 says that Republic/Allied Waste does cover BFI. Also, a letter from ADEQ December 9, 2008 states that the ground water leachate report is deficient giving BFI until December 31, 2008 to be in compliance.

What is really going on and who is responsible? The fence is still down, buzzards are circling, there's a rotten smell, the grass remains uncut, trash is blowing around, methane is flaring, and there's a black substance that looks like burned grass but we were told it was compost (BFI is apparently out of dirt for required cover).

FAYETTEVILLE SHALE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The incoming CAG Conservation Chair, Van Warren, asks: Did you know that Southwestern Energy is building their new regional headquarters across from Hendrix College in Conway and that they will employ geologists and engineers to figure out how to extract more natural gas from the Arkansas Shale Reserves. These 400 jobs are said to pay between \$60 and \$100K each. But how much is Southwestern Energy investing in land reclamation and water quality monitoring? That is, are they assessing their environmental impact, and to what extent? I would like to ask them this question in a public forum and have them answer it clearly. I would like them to know from the get-go that Sierra Club wants to monitor their activity, chapter and verse. It's not enough to have local anchor Anne Jansen narrate the infomercial Citizens of the Shale which was paid for by the shale concerns. We need to know more! Contact Van Warren at van@wdv.com