



Ozark Headwaters Group Calls for Progressive Urban Conservation

By Mike Faupel

The Ozark Headwaters group is very excited about our new Fayetteville city council and administration. We campaigned hard last fall for our candidates and now we have a city government that we can work with. Our conservation committee, with input from the executive committee and membership at large, has developed our conservation priorities for the City of Fayetteville. These are not prioritized; we feel they are all important and worthy. We're currently starting the process of working with the city on implementation.

We understand that some of these objectives are potentially costly and could be considered long range. We also understand that some may be difficult to achieve from a logistical or resources standpoint. However, we strongly believe that these are all worthwhile and that a creative effort can produce progress in some form on each of some of the goals can be implemented staff direction.

This project is far from over! It will take a lot of effort and the part of our volunteers to achieve



these within several months, and that quickly and easily with appropriate

We've covered a wide range of top-support, on these. The *Continued on Page 6*

Student Sierrans Rockin' the Earth

On Sunday, April 29th, the University of Arkansas Sierra Student Coalition will host a celebration of Earth Day at Dave's on Dickson in downtown Fayetteville. This soiree is THE event to hear great music from two local reggae/alternative bands and rub shoulders with fellow environmentalists. The Earth Jam is the Student Sierrans annual fundraiser and ALL ARE WELCOME! Free admission to see the bands for folks who

River Valley Sierrans Want YOU!

If you're a Sierran who lives too far away from Fayetteville or Little Rock to attend group activities, have we got a deal for you! Yes, you can say goodbye to those feelings of environmentalist angst and isolation because a new group is forming in the Arkansas River Valley.

Please come join other friendly folks on the last Thursday of each month for lively discussions, riveting programs and a *Continued on Page 3*

Central Arkansas Group Runs for the Hills

The Central Arkansas Group of the Sierra Club is sponsoring a "Run for the Hills" on April 21, 2001 at Alsopp Park off of Cantrell Road in Little Rock. The race is to celebrate Earth Day and raise awareness about our campaign against urban sprawl.



It is also our major fund raiser for the year. There are many opportunities to volunteer and become a part of the group!

We need volunteers for the following positions: *Continued on Page 4*

Chapter News

Letter from the Chapter Chair, John Harbison

The Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club has had a busy year. Some of the goals and objectives we've been pursuing are:



- * We have hired a part-time staff person, Melissa Terry, enabling us to better coordinate and focus the many volunteer efforts that the Club depends on to further our conservation priorities.;
- * To establish better communication with our growing membership, we have upgraded our web sites and restored the newsletter on at least a biannual basis.
- * We took the lead in two successful lawsuits, both of which resulted in negotiated settlements. In the first, the federal Environmental Protection Agency agreed to compel the state Department of Environmental Quality to fulfill its long-neglected duty to implement sections of the Clean Water Act that focus attention on numerous streams and rivers whose waters do not meet the state's own water-quality standards. In the second, the City of Fayetteville agreed to put \$450,000 into a greenspace acquisition program. One goal of that program will be the creation of a multi-use trail system in the city.
- * We are now taking the lead in a lawsuit that will make the City of Little Rock fix a sewage system eroded by time and overwhelmed by the city's growth.

Our presence in the ongoing legislative session has been increased with the able assistance of volunteers like John Hill. We have revitalized our outings programs and I encourage you to meet some of your fellow members by enjoying a day in the woods or on the waters.

But, we could and should do even more. One exciting goal for this year is the formation of a new Arkansas River Group, led by a handful of members from the Russellville area. In the fall, we want to host a weekend conference and training session for members who would like to become active in forest conservation issues. We have secured a grant from the national club to begin a yearlong effort to spread the Club's message addressing logging our national forests. More than anything we want to recruit more activists from our membership. There are many things that you can do for the Club. For example, we need fundraising and membership chairs. We would like to establish conservation subcommittees to focus on air quality, population growth and urban sprawl, aquatic resources like fisheries and wetlands, solid and toxic waste, recycling and

Arkansas State Chapter Volunteer Leadership Directory

Chapter CHAIR

John Harbison
1650 W. Cleveland
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(501) 442-9348
freestone@earthlink.net

TREASURER

Charles Leflar
1717 W. Center
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(501) 575-6616
cleflar@comp.uark.edu

CONSERVATION CHAIR

Tom McKinney
105 Southwood
West Fork, AR 72774
(501) 839-8571
twm.mckinney@juno.com

POLITICAL CHAIR

Rob Leflar
1495 Finger Road
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(501) 575-2709
rbleflar@law.uark.edu

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Laura Clift
818 Cumberland #4
Little Rock, AR 72202



here's the scoop! Where and When : The Station House, 806 S. Arkansas, Russellville 7:00pm

3/29 Planting native plants to attract wildlife: Pine Ridge Gardens owner and native plant expert Mary Ann King will answer all of your native plant gardening/landscaping questions. Following the meeting, we will rampage through the streets of Russellville chainsawing Bradford pears. :}

4/26 Recycling in Russellville and Pope County: As far as we know, Russellville is the largest city in Arkansas without a comprehensive recycling program.

5/31 Snakes of Arkansas: Don't be squeamish, snakes are our friends and Bryan Osburn will explain why.

6/28 Terry Boyd, Ozark photographer: Too hot to hike? Sit back, relax and Terry will take you on a slide show featuring the Ozarks coolest places.

7/26 Forest Ecology: Dr. Chris Kellner will offer a short-course on forest ecosystems.

For More Information:

FORESTRY issues UPDATE

Only 22% of the world's original forests remain in large intact ecosystems. U.S. forests have fared even worse: more than 95% of our primeval forest is gone. The intact National Forests that remain are vitally important to our environment. The purity of our air and water as well as the survival of thousands of species depend on them.

Moreover, the costs of logging these forests are staggering. Logging on public lands directly threatens local communities: recent flooding, mudslides, and fires have been caused or exacerbated by such logging.

Economists have recently argued in the Wall Street Journal that "Government dumping of cheap timber makes the market unpredictable for private-sector commodity suppliers, reducing their incentive to manage land responsibly." (May 22, 1996).

The Forest Service's own studies show that by the year 2000 recreation and tourism in National Forests will create over thirty times more jobs and generate over thirty times more income than logging. Continued logging jeopardizes these economic benefits

National Forests were established in 1891 to protect watersheds and advance conservation. Logging was strictly prohibited. Not until six years later — on June 4th, 1897 — did Congress yield to industry pressure and open National Forests to logging. A century of destruction is enough. Let the protection and restoration begin. How? For more information on the Sierra Club's campaign to protect America's Wild-lands please contact: ANY LOCAL SIERRAN

OR visit our national website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/logging/>

OR , check out the source of this update in an article called NATIONAL FORESTS - LOGGED AT A LOSS @ <http://www.rethinkpaper.org/content/content.cfm?>

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

1. **REDUCE** overall paper consumption.
2. **REPLACE** paper made from virgin wood with ecologically sound/ domestically derived alternative and recycled fibers.
3. **RECYCLE** by returning paper to the fiber stream.
4. **REFORM** the law: end logging and roadbuilding on public land.
5. **REFUSE** to purchase paper or paper products that use National Forests for fiber.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP

Central Arkansas Group Request for Volunteers (continued from front page)

Advertising (2 people) - We need people to publicize the event. This would include making posters or having them made, getting out PSA's to radio stations, and helping to get our flyers to stores. These people would also make the T-shirt's logo.

Sponsorship (6 people)- This is the team that will make us the money. These people need to work together to figure out what businesses to ask for donations. Letters need to go out to these businesses. Businesses will need to be visited to request donations we can give away as door prizes at the race. These people will need to go by these businesses and pick up the merchandise and make sure that they are given a thank you letter and acknowledged on the race day.

Food and Water (3 people) - This team can work with the sponsorship people to get food and water donated for the race day. They will also need to show up early to set up the food and water areas.

Race Day (20 people) – We will need people to time the race and clock who comes in and collect numbers. We will also need people to sit at the table to sign in people the day of the race. We will also need course officials.

Not for Profit Organizer (1)- Someone to organize the and notify the not for profit groups around our area that would like to come and table at our earth day celebration.

Extra Stuff (? people)- Any ideas that would make this work really well. We had one person volunteer to do some massages at the race, if there is any other special talent that you have and would like to volunteer, give us a call @ 501.371-9954.

Race time starts at 8:00 a.m.!

To register, visit www.arkansasrunner.com

Central Arkansas Group Volunteer Leadership

CAG Chair

Susan Sims, 821-5711

Treasurer

Jerry Stumbaugh, 664-4262

Program Chair

Jerry Reynolds, 450-5639

Outings Chair

Steve Heye, 455-2210

Conservation Chair

Laura Clift
(501) 371-9954

Membership Chair

Peggy Wilhelm, 228-9057

Members at Large:

Ginger Murray Mcentyre
Clyde Bailey

The Arkansas' Department of Environmental Quality Wants You!

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality asks for your help in locating non-permitted (illegal) open-cut mines. Nancy Varvil, a reporter for the Northwest Arkansas Times, quoted Jim Stephens of the DEQ requesting the public's help. She wrote, "The DEQ cannot discover non-permitted (illegal) open-cut bleeding mines because of a shortage of personnel. Typically, these mines are digging for gravel and, consequently, these mines impact the water quality in adjacent streams."

There are only two inspectors for the entire state! They have to drive to the permitted mines and inspect them once a month. If you see what appears to be a non-permitted (illegal) mine, you can contact Jim Stephens directly (stephens@adeq.state.ar.us) or call 501-682-0803 or 800-327-8411. Or, check out DEQ's website: <http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/mining/default.htm>

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

OUTINGS, MEETINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Everyone is invited to join any and all of these activities...YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OUTINGS! If you're interested in any of these activities, please contact the person listed by each event.

March

- 13th **Student Sierra Club Monthly Meeting** – 5:00 p.m. Home Ec 108 on the U of A campus
- 17 **Upper Buffalo River Backpack** – call Ray Hanley for details 501-455-1412
- 24th **Sweden Creek Falls Outing** – An outing to visit a Nature Conservancy Treasure in Madison County. Meet at Arsaga's Bakery and Coffee Shop on Block St. in Fayetteville at 9a.m. for a beautiful day hike among wild irises and lush ferns. This is a moderate hike...for more information, call Charles Brickey @ 501-443-3516.
- 24th **Buffalo River Trail Hikes** – Tyler Bend Area – call John Fordyce for details (225-5225)
- 28th **Ozark Headwaters Group Monthly Meeting** 7:00 @ Powerhouse Seafood
- 31st **Madison County Special Waste Round Up** - 8a.m.-2pm. at the Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center in Huntsville For more information or to volunteer, please call 501-738-6351.

April

- 7th **Student Sierra Club Outing at the Heifer Project Ranch** - call SSC Office for details @ 575-6888.
- 10th **Student Sierra Club Monthly Meeting** – 5:00 p.m. Home Ec 108 Uof A campus
- 13-15th **SSC Primitive Skills Workshop** – For more info, contact the Student Sierra Club office @ 575-6888
- 21st **Springfest** with Sierra Club booths on Dickson Street in Fayetteville.
- 22nd John Muir's Birthday and Earth Day!
- April 23- 29th **Student Sierra Club Earth Day Week** – Various speakers and workshops on U of A campus
- 25th **Ozark Headwaters Group Monthly Meeting** 7:00 @ Powerhouse Seafood
- 28th **2nd Annual Fayetteville Creek Clean Up** – 9a.m. til around 3:00. ! For more info, call Melissa @ 582.1445

A N D

A **Celebration of Trees** will be hosted by the Tree and Landscape Division of Fayetteville in Wilson Park from Noon – evening on the 28th. For more information, contact Kim Hesse @ 575-8308

- 28-29
2210 **Total Ozarks Highland Trail** – Day hikes from Richland Creek Campground. Call Steve Heye for details: 455-2210
- 29th **Earth Day Jam and Fundraiser** - 7p.m. til ? @ Dave's on Dickson in Fayetteville.

May

- 8th **Student Sierra Club Monthly Meeting** – 5:00 p.m. Home Ec 108 Uof A campus
- 12th **CAG Annual Picnic** – Pinnacle Mtn. State Park - 5 TO 9 P.M. West Side Pavillion. Call Steve Heye 455-2210

OZARK HEADWATERS GROUP

Six conservation focus areas were chosen, with general objectives for each. They are:

- 1) Planning
 - Conduct a planning inventory, including all of the city's planning area. Inventory to include but not be limited to: areas with potential as trail corridors, areas with high biological value such as wetlands, savannah remnants and large/ancient trees, areas that might create planning challenges such as steep slopes and areas that might cause slope failure, and areas with natural heritage potential such as significant natural features and historic structures. Also include sustainable community indicators in inventory.
- 2) Urban Streams and Wetlands
 - Emphasize and support stream cleanups, especially of Scull Creek.
 - Establish stream corridors based on inventories. These riparian zones should be reserved for greenspace, multi-use trails, etc.
 - Enact a wetlands protection ordinance.
- 3) Transportation
 - Increase bicycle and pedestrian-friendly access and pathways.
 - Evaluate need for eastern bypass. If bypass is needed, evaluate routing.
 - Evaluate trolley system with goal of achieving maximum usage of public transit, without disenfranchising groups that may currently depend on it.
- 4) Greenspace/Natural Areas
 - Implement greenspace provisions of tree ordinance settlement.
 - Utilize federal and state grants to increase protected greenspace.
 - Add greenspace administrative responsibilities to Parks Dept.
 - Educate city staff and parks users to understand the difference between developed parks and intentionally undeveloped greenspace.
- 5) Sewage and Solid Waste
 - Expand recycling to include businesses and apartments.
 - Evaluate needs for new sewage treatment facility in a very open and creative process, including examination of impact fees for funding.
 - Inventory our recycling stream.

Ozark Headwaters Group Volunteer Leadership

Group Chair
Karen McSpadden
973-0157

Acting Treasurer
Mike Faupel, 582-5204

Conservation Co -Chairs
Geo Graening, 839-8571
Mike Faupel, 582-5204

Program Chair
Holli Ferguson, 582-4619

Outings Chair
Charles Brickey, 443-3516

Local Issues Chair
Randy Zurcher, 443-3281

Legal Committee Chair
John Harbison, 575-8602

6) Ordinance Enforcement

- Emphasize enforcement of dumping/polluting ordinances via letters, calls, visits and increased enforcement actions.

A Note From the Chair

APOLOGIES to the Sierran from Maumelle who left a message on my answering machine offering to lobby at the Legislature this session. We need you... but I inadvertently erased your message. Sorry!

Please contact John Hill at jehill@aristotle.net for information on efforts at the Capitol.

Thanks,
Karen McSpadden

SPRCC Regional News (Cont. from Back Page)

America, global residents face a high price.

While maquila operators in Mexico pay modest sums into social security for their workers and pay federal taxes, they pay almost no state and local taxes. Such taxes along with residential property taxes and user fees in the US have paid for generally adequate municipal infrastructure. The Mexican government returns little of the taxes it collects to local government, and wages are so low that workers cannot pay taxes either. In essence, big US corporations operating in Mexico escape the obligation to provide infrastructure for their work force.

The SPRCC's trade workshop was the latest in a series of such events. Previously, we've organized workshops on the food system, animal factories (CAFOs), and urban sprawl. Coming up are workshops on Global Warming (July 28 in KC) and the campaign to end commercial logging (Oct in Arkansas). To register, or for more information on the Global Warming Workshop, contact Craig Volland, Kansas Chapter 913-334-0556.

We Need Your Help!

Now, More than Ever



The Fayetteville Tree suit, the Little Rock sewer lawsuit, dams in the Buffalo River Valley, logging in the National Forests, mining in Crooked Creek.....these are ongoing fights to preserve our Natural State. The new Arkansas legislative session and the new Congress and administration in Washington D.C. are virtually guaranteed to result in additional unforeseen and critical struggles to protect our hills, forests, rivers, and wild critters in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club has been in the center of the fights to preserve our state and we will continue to do so to the limits of our resources. And we need **your** help with these fights. We need volunteer time. We need financial resources. Lawsuits to protect forests and clean water cost money. Lobbying to influence legislation is expensive. It is tragic when we must let issues pass because we do not have the money necessary to take action.

Please help us during these next critical years for environmental protection.

Yes, I want to help!

I want to volunteer. My special interests are _____.

I want to donate financial support. Please mark here if your donation will be one we can count on for renewal in future years.

Membership Categories

Students/Senior \$24 Regular \$39 Supporting \$75 Contributing \$100

Campaign/Outreach Supporter \$500 Lobbyist/Education Supporter \$1000 Other \$_____

*Checks payable to Arkansas Sierra Club can be used for lobbying and are **not tax-deductible**.*

*Checks payable to Sierra Club Foundation are used for environmental education and **are tax-deductible**.*

Please mail your this form with your contribution to: _____ing

Charles Leflar,
Arkansas Sierra Club Treasurer
1717 W. Center St.

Name _____

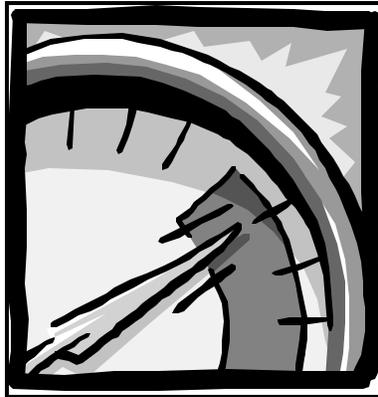
Address _____

Regional News from the Southern Plains Regional Conservation Committee

By Craig Volland, SPRCC

The Sierra Club Board of Directors held their meeting of Feb 15-18, 2001 in Brownsville, Texas to highlight environmental problems on the Mexican-US border. The Southern Plains Regional Conservation Committee, which includes activists from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri, pitched in by organizing a workshop called "Confronting the Downside of International Trade." The workshop discussed how U.S. trade policy has led to environmental and human rights problems on the Mexico-US border, how transnational corporations use NAFTA and the World Trade Organization to escape regulation and how environmentalists, labor activists and religious groups can find common cause to work together.

One of the conference outings was a "toxic tour", where we passed along several drainage ditches smelling strongly of raw sewage and deeply littered with trash. But, we were hardly prepared for Matamoros's "new" solid waste handling facility which consisted of a huge pile of burning trash!. A strong north wind blew the plume of heavy smoke through a nearby cluster of shacks out of which young children came to greet us.



Border Resources Face Increasing Pressure

Many of us knew that this smoke almost certainly contained a significant dose of dioxin – known to cause birth defects and recently confirmed as a human carcinogen.

When the wind shifts to its southerly prevailing direction, it will blow the dioxin into the United States. In this vein, our hosts asked us to **pressure U.S. corporations to eliminate pollution and provide better conditions for their workers.**

The crux of the problem on the US-Mexico border is that the proliferation of maquilas has drawn over a million workers and their families to the border where municipal infrastructure, like sewers, water, streets, public transportation, and trash disposal, is grossly inadequate. Many of these

people were, in effect, driven out of their rural villages by low crop prices. These low prices are perpetuated by enormous subsidies paid to grain farmers in the US and Europe who continue to produce at a loss. Subsidized grain in the US supports environmentally destructive animal factories that produce artificially cheap meat for export.

While this may suit Corporate

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