



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

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2008

[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. Come at 6:30 pm for social time before the program and discussion begin at 7 pm.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS 2008

Chair: Kate Althoff ktalthof@aol.com
(501) 223-2744

Vice Chair: Position vacant

Treasurer: Fred Stanchi Fred.Stanchi@acxiom.com
or stanchman@sbcglobal.net (501) 960-8007

Outings: Bill Saunders wasaunders@aristotle.net
(501) 664-2539

Steve Heye steve_hey@aristotle.net (501) 455-2210

Communications & Membership: Bob Stodola
bstodola@hotmail.com (501) 664-8747

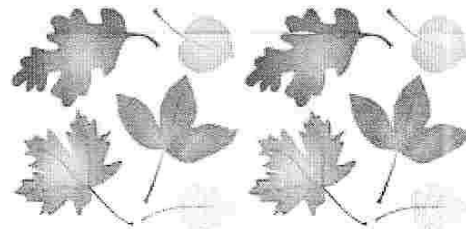
Newsletter & Secretary: Zabelle Stodola
kzstodola@ualr.edu
(501) 664-8747

Conservation: Cindy Fribourgh
cfribourgh@yahoo.com (501) 224-3510

Political/Lobbying: Stan Cothren
arkstan@cablelynx.com

Community Outreach: Amber Coffman
capturedsunshine@comcast.com

JOIN US FOR A FALL PARTY ON OCTOBER 4



Come to our party on Saturday October 4 from 5 pm to 9 pm at the beautiful Grande Maumelle Sailing Club's clubhouse. Enjoy the spectacular view over Lake Maumelle from the deck. Food and drink provided including burgers, beer, and lots of other good stuff! Directions at <http://www.gmsc.org> RSVP appreciated (but not required) by Wednesday October 1 to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu or 664-8747.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS
SEPTEMBER 16; OCTOBER 21; & NOVEMBER 18

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. Please note that these programs are subject to change!

September 16: James Burke will talk about the Coal Campaign locally and nationally and show the film **Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars**, narrated by Robert Redford.

October 21: Debbie Doss, from the Arkansas Canoe Club, will talk about protecting the rivers and streams in Arkansas and may also give a slide presentation titled "The Value of a River."

November 18: Bill Ball on Solar Power.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

HIKING AND CANOE OUTINGS

Below are some educational and fun outings in conjunction with our sister outdoors organizations the Ozark Society and the Arkansas Canoe Club.



DAY HIKE SCHEDULE OCT. – DEC. 2008
(posted by Steve Heye at Steve_Heye@Aristotle.net)

Hikes below cover all levels of ability and roam across the state including a hike on the Ouachita and Ozark Highlands Trails as we reach toward our goal to visit the entire length of each. Please phone or email before the hike so I can look for you at the gathering spot or be able to call you should the day hike be cancelled or postponed, 501-455-2210 or email to Steve_Heye@Aristotle.net If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Steve. Most hikes are the Saturday following the first Tuesday of each month.

OCTOBER 11 – LAKE SYLVIA TRAILS

I'll be fresh off a trip out west and who knows what condition I'll be in, so we're going to make this day hike simple. We'll meet at the 630/430 commuter lot at 8 a.m. and head over to Lake Sylvia and check out the trails that loop the lake. We'll do about 4 miles by the time we're done. Bring water, snacks and good shoes.

NOVEMBER 8 – BUZZARD'S ROOST – S.W. OF PELSOR

We got snowed out earlier this year, so let's try again! We'll try and find this area that has rock arches, deep cuts and bluff lines. We'll be leaving the Mc Donald's at Morgan/I-40 at 7 and make our way up to Pelsor. Bring a lunch and snacks. About 6 miles total and trip is rated moderate.

DECEMBER 6 & 7 OUACHITA TRAIL CAR CAMP/DAY HIKES – BIG BRUSHY C.G.

We will try for two day hikes on this trip by doing some car camping. We'll leave the 630/430 lot around 7 am on Saturday and head for Big Brushy campground, west of Mt. Ida. On Sat. we'll go to a

trail head off F.R.76 and hike 9.5 miles back to camp. On Sun. we'll hike from Fiddlers Creek back to camp for 6.6 miles before heading home. You can come and hike either day or just stay in camp. Saturday's hike is a rocky downhill and Sunday's is on gently rolling ground. It is about 2 ½ hours over to the campground from Little Rock.

CANOE OUTINGS

Richard Mc Fadden leads overnight canoe trips about once a month He can be contacted at rmmcfadden@yahoo.com or check the Arkansas Canoe Club website for more information. His trips are sporadic, but if you let him know you're interested, he'll get back to you when one forms.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all our new members! Are you interested in volunteering to help with various "green" initiatives? We need you! If you'd like to be more involved, contact Kate Althoff, CAG chair, at ktalthof@aol.com or any of the other CAG officers.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET 2009

Plans are proceeding for the Arkansas Chapter Awards Banquet to be held in Little Rock in February 2009. Co-chairs are Cindy Fribourgh cfribourgh@gmail.com and Zabelle Stodola kzstodola@ualr.edu We'll keep you posted on details including the date, place, price, and special speaker. Meanwhile, the banquet committee asks you to consider nominating people/organizations for awards in the categories below. Send a message with your nominee's name and a sentence or two justifying your choice to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu 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

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 and place Lake Maumelle water quality at great risk. The gap between what the county is willing to do and what it needs to do still shows a pure lack of political will. The Arkansas Constitution clearly gives Pulaski County the right to impose zoning. It only makes sense that Pulaski County now engage in zoning laws in order to protect a drinking water source that 95% of that county's population depends on. We will continue to lobby the county for the additional requirements needed. To keep informed as this issue develops, visit the website www.protectarkansaswater.org For updates and to help, contact Kate Althoff at ktalthof@aol.com or 223-2744.

COAL- FIRED POWER PLANTS:

Led by Glen Hooks and James Burke, the campaign against new coal-fired power plants in Arkansas continues to grow and move in new directions. Meetings have been held across the state to show the movie Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars and sign up activists. A big group heads to the September 18 hearing in Hope, and a large rally on the Capitol steps for Saturday October 18 at 1 pm is also planned. Sierra Club continues to work with statewide hunting clubs on legislation to restrict or stop new coal-fired power plants. Recent publicity involved a group of Arkansas Governor's School teenagers who met with and petitioned Gov. Beebe about the coal plant. To get involved, 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, "The three top waste management and collection companies in the US are still making offers for BFI/Allied Waste so Little Rock's BFI/Allied Waste is in limbo waiting for the offers to settle among Allied Waste, Waste Management and Republic."

All 442 pages of the August 2008 Groundwater Statistical Analysis Report for BFI Waste Systems of Arkansas is available at their website:

http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/solwaste/branch_technical/permited_facils/permit_list.asp#Display

The Executive Summary states that eight wells had a total of 52 inorganic excess levels: arsenic, beryllium, dichloroethylene, methyl chloride and methylene chloride.

Audubon Arkansas also monitors Fourche Creek whose watershed includes 90 percent of Little Rock. Their analysis also shows heavy metals, fecal contamination, sewage overflow, and illegal sewer lines are off the charts several times a year. See <http://www.ar.audubon.org>.

FAYETTEVILLE SHALE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The CAG is looking into ways to do publicity and raise consciousness about the extremely detrimental environmental impacts of the natural gas extraction process in the Fayetteville Shale Play. Are you interested in helping? We recognize that the Governor and the general public are largely in favor of this extraction for its short-term economic benefits. But the negative effects on or near wilderness areas and farm land are already causing problems. Contact Cindy Fribourgh for more information at cfribourgh@gmail.com

NATURAL STATE EXPO OCTOBER 11, 2008



Don't forget to visit the Natural State Expo 2008 Green Home Show on October 11 at the Statehouse Convention Center, from 9 am to 4 pm. Organized by the Arkansas Sustainability Network, this fun and educational event welcomes visitors into a walk-through, open-walled display showcasing green building and remodeling supplies; natural product alternatives for every room; and simple, everyday actions that families can take to green their home.

The event will also include exhibitor booths, youth activities, a marketplace, and a green playhouse competition for kids. The Sierra Club is a sponsor and will have an unmanned booth there.

Go downtown early in the morning on October 11 to support the annual Komen Race for the Cure then visit the Natural State Expo afterwards! For more information go to the website at www.naturalstateexpo.org



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THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

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