



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 2009

www.sierraclub.org

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 Senior Regional Representative 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. Robert Huston is the Hunter/Angler organizer working on bridge building between Sierra Club and sportspersons. Reach Robert at robert.huston@sierra.club.org or (479) 474-7242. Benn Davenport does grassroots organizing work for Sierra Club around climate change legislation in Arkansas and Missouri. Reach Benn at benn.davenport@sierraclub.org or at (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.

NOTE: Your national SC dues cover membership in the local group too. Join at www.sierraclub.org

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP MEETINGS
October 20 and November 17. No meeting in December.

See you at the Oyster Bar on these dates. Social time at 6:30 pm, monthly program and update on local initiatives at 7 pm. Our programs are both educational and enjoyable!

(Note that these programs are subject to change.)

October 20: Jay Justice will give a PowerPoint presentation on "Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Arkansas." Jay has been involved with mushrooms and mushroom taxonomy for over 30 years. He co-founded the Arkansas Mycology Society and serves as the current president.

November 17: Benn Davenport, national Sierra Club grassroots organizer, will talk about climate change issues in Arkansas.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

FALL PARTY SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, MURRAY PARK, PAVILION #7, 4-8 PM



Join us at Murray Park, Pavilion #7, on Saturday October 3 from 4 pm to 8 pm. Food and drinks provided, featuring Bob's famous burgers, Kate's tasty chili, David's home brewed beer, and lots of other good food and drink! RSVP appreciated (but not required) by October 1 to Zabelle Stodola at kzstodola@ualr.edu or (501) 664-8747.

**NOTICE OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**



The Central Arkansas Group (CAG) will hold elections in December 2009 to fill officer positions for 2010. All CAG members are invited to become more involved locally. The following information is a bit complicated but it's part of the national Sierra Club's election requirements.

First, we need three volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee to oversee the election and nominate possible officers. Next, we need at least nine candidates to run for seven positions on the Executive Committee (ExCom), which sets the direction for our CAG and guides our activities.

Any Sierra Club member receiving this newsletter may run. Our election process requires each candidate to submit a one-paragraph ballot statement (150 word limit) explaining why you wish to serve. The Nomination Committee, whose three members cannot be ExCom candidates, will manage the election's logistics.

November 9 – Finalize Nominating Committee
November 13 – Deadline for Ex-Com Nominations
December 1 through 26 – Election Period
January 1 – Announce new ExCom (in CAG newsletter)
January 11 – New ExCom is seated.

Ask your current officers for more information.

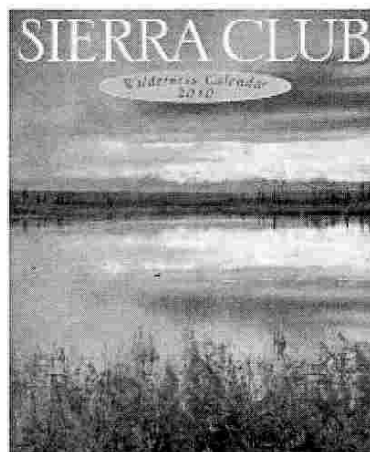
RUSSELLVILLE'S EARTH DAY, APRIL 17, 2010

Working with the Earth Day Committee, comprised of environmentally conscious business owners, professors, city representatives, and community members, the Arkansas Environmental Defense will make Earth Day 2010 the largest, most community accessible event ever held in the area. Location is Russellville's City Park on April 17th 2010 from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm. Participating groups include the Ozark Society, Audubon Arkansas, and Repower America. Live music, good food, family friendly, with fun and educational activities for all. Call Rebecca (479)857-6013 for information.

SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS FOR SALE

The Central Arkansas Group is selling official Sierra Club Wilderness Calendars as a fundraiser. They feature stunning photography and make a wonderful

holiday gift for yourself or others. They're only \$10. We'll have them available at our monthly meetings at the Oyster Bar and at our party on October 3. You'll need to pick them up in person as they're too heavy for us to mail. We also have Sierra Club T-shirts, backpacks, and caps for sale!



DONATIONS: PAST & FUTURE

March Appeal: The money raised from the Central Arkansas Group's 2009 March Appeal will be used to help support "Water Monitoring Day," an annual educational workshop at Lake Maumelle which educators and the general public attend and run. Other partners are Central Arkansas Water and UALR. We will give \$250 toward the cost of this workshop every year for four years. Thanks to those of you who donated to this worthy cause!

Your Newsletter: Unlike many national advocacy organizations, Sierra Club is primarily volunteer-driven. For instance, this newsletter is produced by volunteers and sent out quarterly to more than 1,200 Sierra Club members in central Arkansas. We hope that you find it to be a good source of information about Sierra Club activities, advocacy, and campaigns. If you are able, please consider making a special donation toward covering the costs of this newsletter. Your donation will help us continue to spread the word to local Sierra Club members. Make donations to "Sierra Club CAG" and send to Fred Stanchi, CAG Treasurer, 104 Clermont Ct, Maumelle, AR 72113-7041. Please note "newsletter donation" on your check. Thank you!

**SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
REGREEN MENA PROJECT**

ReGreen Mena, a project to replace the trees, plants and grass destroyed in the April 2009 tornado, will replant 65 hardwood trees in Janssen Park at 10 am in Mena, Arkansas, on Thursday, November 12, 2009, seven months after the storm. Diamond Bank is spearheading the project, and partners Arkansas

Forestry Commission, Arkansas Forestry Association, Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club, Weyerhaeuser and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture are providing funds, tools and volunteers to ReGreen Mena.

ReGreen Mena is accepting funds to purchase the 65 hardwood saplings to replant in Mena's Janssen Park, a 4-block city park in the heart of the city. To date, more than \$2,500 of the \$10,300 required has been raised. Those who would like to contribute to ReGreen Mena have three ways to do so: 1) pay online via PayPal at ReGreenMena.com or ReGreenMena.org; 2) mail check made out to ReGreen Mena to 3935 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913; and 3) in person at any Diamond Bank location in southwest Arkansas (a list of locations is available at <http://diamondbanking.com/locations.htm>).

Any funds over \$10,300 in the ReGreen Mena account will pay for other projects, such as replacing sod, bushes, plants and other general landscaping needs in the city. Other ReGreen Mena projects being planned include distributing free tree seedlings in January 2010 for anyone in Mena who would like to plant a tree at their home, church or workplace.

WAY TO GO, KATE ALTHOFF!!



Congratulations to Kate Althoff, longtime Sierran and Central Arkansas Group officer in charge of water issues, who has just been named by Governor Beebe to serve on two task forces: Water Resource Protection and Water Quality.

CALLING SIERRANS NEAR SALEM, ARKANSAS!

Albert Lorenzi, a member who lives in Salem, is interested in meeting informally with other Sierrans in the immediate area to discuss local environmental topics. Salem is not near enough to Little Rock or Fayetteville for him to easily attend either the CAG or OHG meetings. If you're interested in making contact with him, please call (870) 895-2087 or email cen81199@centurytel.net

ROBERT HUSTON, SIERRA CLUB HUNTER/ANGLER COORDINATOR

Meet Robert Huston, the new Hunter/Angler Program Coordinator for Arkansas, currently living in Van Buren. Robert hosted his own weekly outdoor television show for 13 years, successfully collaborated to close two hardwood chip mill operations in western Arkansas, and helped block the construction of new coal-fired power plants in the state. Arkansas is only the fifth state to be awarded a Hunter/Angler program by the Sierra Club. It's an opportunity to reach over half of Arkansas' population who hold hunting or fishing licenses and to educate them on the importance of resilient habitats, clean water and climate change. Robert is looking for motivated individuals to empanel a Hunter/Angler steering committee. If you are interested, please contact him at robert.huston@sierraclub.org or (479) 474-7242.

ARKANSAS A SWING STATE FOR CLIMATE BILL

Benn Davenport, SC's Climate Organizer here, reminds us that Arkansas senators could make or break the climate bill, so grassroots activism is taking on new importance. Give just one hour each week and be part of making environmental history. You could: post a flier on the fridge at work; get 5 friends to sign postcards supporting the climate bill; post climate activism links on FaceBook or Twitter; start a Creation Care Group at your place of worship; or write a letter to the editor. To get involved, contact Sierra Club's Arkansas Climate Organizer, Benn Davenport at benn.davenport@sierraclub.org or (501) 301-8280.

2009 CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP OFFICERS

Chair: Currently unfilled
At-Large: David Lyon
David.Lyon@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Vice Chair: Cindy Fribourgh
Cindy.Fribourgh@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Treasurer: Fred Stanchi
Fred.Stanchi@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Membership: Bob Stodola
Bob.Stodola@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Newsletter & Secretary: Zabelle Stodola
Zabelle.Stodola@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Outings: Bill Saunders
Bill.Saunders@Arkansas.SierraClub.org
Water Issues: Kate Althoff
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**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

CENTRAL ARKANSAS GROUP
THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

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