



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club, Oklahoma City Regional Group



PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No.26, Vol. 4, July-Aug., 2003

DEAR GEORGE, PART II

After I wrote my last column (in response to Senator Inhofe's hope to abolish nearly all environmental regulations), I received a letter from a member who pointed out that sometimes the government takes regulations to the extreme. I agree. Some regulations can strangle common sense, however, let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. The letter also pointed out that environmental concerns are a luxury that we can afford because of our good economy. I agree that the reason that the modern environmental movement was born in the USA was our combination of a good economy, a well educated populace and democracy in action. America is the greatest nation on earth. But I wonder, why is it that today Japanese companies lead the world in Hybrid-engine development and German fuel-cell cars are on the road in California? American car companies are setting themselves up for a repeat of the problems they had in the early 80's when they lost their competitive edge. Americans can do better! We have the know-how to be world leaders but do we have the will?

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR by David Franklin

Holland, with some of the strictest environmental regulations in Europe, has double the growth rate of its fellow European countries, and currently more than the USA. Ignoring this, Senator Inhofe wants to abolish the EPA, thinking that is the key to economic prosperity. But look at the Maquiladoras zone along the Mexican border. Hundreds of American owned plants moved into this special tax zone setup by the Mexican government. One of the ways the American plants that located there choose to lower their costs was by not respecting the environment. Is that what Senator Inhofe wants for us? Has he been to the Maquiladoras? Has he seen the hazy air, seen what's left of the Rio Grande? I have, and it's not a pretty site. I have seen what happens when government ignores its role in protecting the environment. But the good news is that history has also shown what happens when government acts, our air, water and food are cleaner today than they were 30 years ago.

See - we CAN do better!

**July Meeting:
Monday, July 21, 7:30pm**
**August Meeting:
Monday, Aug 18, 7:30pm**

Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
(Between Meridian & McArthur Blvds.)

The Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club meets the 3rd Monday of each month, **except December.**

>> JULY & AUG. PROGRAMS<<

JULY: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Mark Herndon, petroleum geologist.

Mark spent almost two months hiking alone in the Refuge last summer, other than six days in the Eskimo village of Kaktovik on the Beaufort Sea coast waiting on a replacement pair of boots. He trashed the first pair walking across the refuge in a 35-day grind.

He has some nice slides, but just used a point and shoot camera for scenic shots of the mountains and plain. He saw a lot of wildlife as well.

Mark said not to be freaked out by the gun. All the government scientists pack weapons up there, and the locals consider it foolish for a lone hiker to go unarmed. However, you can get away with it in a large group.

AUGUST: Shop with a Conscience by Fenton Rood, DEQ (and founding member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club).

Fenton will share his insight into shopping choices that reflect our own values in the social and environmental arenas. He is a true believer in

(See PROGRAMS, Continued on page 2)

OUR BIGGEST FUND RAISER OF THE YEAR!!!

BALLOON-FEST SHIFT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AUG 8th & 9th
4-11 pm FRIDAY, 2-12 pm SATURDAY. YOU DECIDE WHEN TO WORK
A SHIFT, AND HOW LONG. AND!! SEE THE BALLOONS SAIL!!
CONTACT TOM LIBBY - 615-6390

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - A GET TOGETHER HAPPENIN'

Come to our meeting July 21st for a wonderful slide show program by Josef, & ice cream treats, complements of the Sierra Club OKC

HOTLINE: REPORT POLLUTION COMPLAINTS TO OKLAHOMA DEQ - 1/800/522-0206

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the SIERRA CLUB OKC REGIONAL GROUP

Our July and August meetings will be at **6:15pm** just before the regularly scheduled Group meeting on the third **Monday of the month**. Try to be there a few minutes early so we can start promptly on time. See you there.

Thanks! Esther Houser, Conservation Chair

SIERRA CLUB HELPS TO PROTECT THE ARBUCKLE SIMPSON AQUIFER

This is an article about how the Sierra Club in Oklahoma can succeed by joining with local grassroots organizations to protect our environment. SB288 has been signed into law by Governor Brad Henry.

In January, Earl Brewer of Tishomingo attended our Sierra Club Oklahoma Chapter Retreat. He told about a group he was leading called **Citizens for Protection of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer (CPASA)** and referred to its website. A handful of ranchers in south central Oklahoma had teamed up with an Oklahoma City attorney who used to head the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to devise a scheme to drill wells into the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer and pump billions of gallons of water (78% of the estimated annual recharge of the aquifer) through an 88 mile pipeline to serve Yukon and other cities in eastern Canadian County. The deal was worth at least \$250 million.

The potential environmental impact of the proposal was devastating. The aquifer feeds the springs which provide the water for Chickasaw National Recreation Area (formerly Platt National Park), the Blue River, Pennington Creek (Slippery Falls Boy Scout Ranch) and numerous other streams in the area. Tishomingo, Ada, Davis, Sulphur and Durant depend on the spring-fed streams for 100% of

their water and the citizens of Ardmore, Wynnewood and other cities get a large part of their water from springs fed by the aquifer. Rural residents in a Johnston, Murray, Pontotoc, Bryan and Carter counties depend on the aquifer for their water.

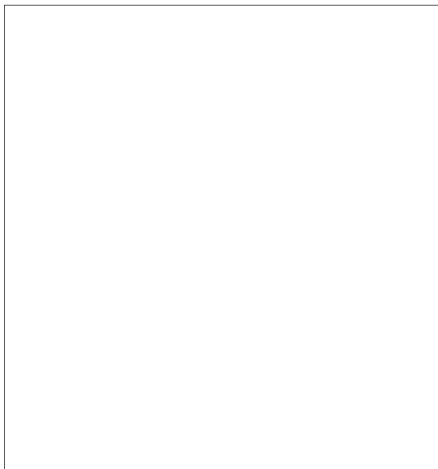
Hydrologists speculate (no existing study had sufficiently evaluated the connection between groundwater and springs in the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer) that pumping at the level

proposed by the four ranchers and the cities of eastern Canadian County could halt the flow of many of the springs fed by the aquifer.

Unfortunately, Oklahoma law prior to SB288 allowed a surface owner to mine water as long as he did not take more than his share (divided proportionately among owners of all surface areas over the aquifer) and did not pump at a rate which would use all the water in the aquifer in less than 20 years. Oklahoma law prior to SB288 did not recognize the connection between surface and ground water.

Now that SB288 has passed, pumping of water outside the area of the Arbuckle Simpson aquifer is prohibited until the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) completes a study to determine the effect of such pumping on springs fed by the aquifer. SB288 also requires the OWRB to deny any application for pumping of water from the aquifer which is likely to degrade or interfere with springs fed by the aquifer.

You, the members of the Oklahoma Sierra Club, provided invaluable assistance to CPASA. Congratulations on a very important partnership between CPASA and the Sierra Club. * * *



(PROGRAMS, Continued from page 1)
simplifying your life, riding his bicycle much more often than driving his car, eating as a vegetarian, purchasing locally-grown foods and recycling everything in sight. * * *
*

OKC SIERRA CLUB HAPPY HOUR!!

Be there, or be square! At the **Varsity Club**, NW 63rd and Grand Blvd. 5:30pm, generally the 4th Thursday of each month - for July - the 24th, and for Aug. - the 21st. Get the latest on outings & issues! Details: Kathy Scurlock - 942-6343. ENJOY!

>>>>>SIERRA CLUB FUND RAISERS<<<<<

CERTIFIED ORGANIC, SHADE GROWN, FAIR TRADE COFFEE FOR SALE

Types Available: (price shown is per 12 oz. bag):

Whole Bean—Custom Blend (\$8), French Roast (\$8), Custom Blend Decaf (\$9)

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Available at Oklahoma City Group meetings the 3rd Monday of each month or from <sshields@cox.net>

RECYCLE PRINTER AND COPIER CARTRIDGES

Bring your expired inkjet and copier cartridges for recycling to our meetings, or give them to any active Group member. We receive from \$1 to \$5 as a fund raising benefit for the Oklahoma City Group of the Sierra Club.

INNER-CITY OUTINGS (ICOs)

ICO CHAIR: JAY TRENARY

The following dates are set for outings with
Eisenhower Elementary School:
DAYHIKES: 9/13 10/11 11/8

To reach the school, go east on Britton Road to a stopsign about 1/2 mile east of the Broadway Extension; turn north about 1/4 mile. The school is on the right and sets back from the road a bit.

These trips will all leave from the school at 8:30am (Adults please arrive by 8:15) and return at approximately 5:00pm.

Prior registration is needed to go on any of these trips and which ones you will try to make. It greatly helps my planning if I know how many adults I have to work with as far in advance as possible.

Outings, Etc.

CONTACTING OUTINGS LEADERS

Elean AINETTE 341-5204 elean1@juno.com
A. Arrington 324-6717, recycleman1@juno.com
John Bass 495-6446, pjbas6446@worldnet.att.net
Dave Franklin 789-5377, dfranklin@ussok.com
Neil Garrison 373-0309 atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com
Lance Harris 364-8028, lharris@tmparch.com
Jim Hood 732-6131, jimhood@cox.net
Jana Johnston 751-1571, janajcpa@hotmail.com
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Andy Scurlock 942-6343, tascurlack@cox.net
Kathy Scurlock 942-6343, kascurlack@cox.net
Jay Trenary 831-5535, jay@lawyer.com

OKC GROUP OUTINGS CHAIR - BILL SCIMECA

Sierra Club outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate on an outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver.

Copies can also be obtained from the Group Outings Chair. Transportation is not a part of the outing. While it is customary for participants to make carpooling arrangements for outings, the Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, and assumes no liability for them.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATES SHOWN FOR EACH EVENT INCLUDE WHOLE TRAVEL DAYS FOR PLANNING

FOR THE LATEST ON OUTINGS, GO TO: OKLAHOMA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OKC

JUN 30-JUL 4: SOUTH SAN JUAN WILDERNESS NEAR PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO. BACKPACKING. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous Required Donation: \$25 members; \$50 non-members. Limit: 12. Contact **trip leader Tom Libby** for more information. Join us in the beautiful mountains of Colorado as we backpack up above 10,000 feet. Enjoy fishing, hiking along the Continental Divide Trail, waterfalls and more in this popular club outing. Altitude can be a factor as we'll camp above 10,000 feet and dayhike up to over 12,000'.

JUL 19-24: HIGHLIGHTS OF YOSEMITE: CAR CAMPING (SORRY! ALL FILLED UP. BUT CONTACT JIM AS A STANDBY IN THE EVENT SOMEONE CANCELS) - Join Yosemite veteran Jim Hood (Leader) and spend five days and nights camping in Yosemite Valley and visiting the highlights of Yosemite. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Required Donation: \$25 mbrs /\$50 non-mbrs. Limit 10. Contact **trip leader Jim Hood** for further information.

JUL 23/24 - JUL 26: YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY. BACKPACKING. (SORRY! ALL FILLED UP, BUT CONTACT JIM AS A STANDBY IN THE EVENT SOMEONE CANCELS). Two teams of backpackers will leave for the Yosemite High Country to base camp at Vogelsang, six on July 23rd and four on July 24th. Join Yosemite veteran Jim Hood on one of the most popular trails in Yosemite. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Required Donation: \$20 members / \$40 non-members. Limit 10. Contact **trip leader Jim Hood** for more info.

AUG 16-17: CANOE TRIP ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER, TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA. Join us on this Oklahoma Scenic River. We will leave OKC Sat. morning, canoe 10 miles that afternoon and camp near the river Saturday night, returning Sunday. Contact **trip leader Bill Scimeca** for more info.

AUG 30-31: BACKPACK CREST TRAIL 25, NEAR RUIDOSO NM. (travel on Aug 29 and Sep 1) Join us on a moderate backpacking trip that is always a favorite. We will hike crest trail #25 from Nogal Peak over to Spring Cabin Creek. (pictures from past trips are here: http://oktrails.com/New_Mexico/Nogal.htm) This trip takes place between 8,000 feet and 9,200 feet and offers stunning views of the desert to the west and the heavy forests to the east. For more info, contact **trip leader David Franklin**.

SEPT 13: ICO DAYHIKE. Contact **ICO Leader, Jay Trenary**

SEPT 13-14: CAR CAMPING AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE AT CONNOR'S RANCH. Rating: Easy to Moderate. Required Donation: Free. Spend Sat. afternoon swimming, canoeing, fishing or just relaxing by a small lake on 1200 acres of wooded hills, wetlands and pasture at Connor's Ranch (approx. 2.5 hours east of Oklahoma City, near Warner, OK). Sunday morning, perform several hours of trail maintenance while it's still cool. Then return to camp Sunday early afternoon for relaxation. Contact **trip leader Aubrey Arrington**.

SEPT 20-21 CANOE THE LOWER MOUNTAIN FORK RIVER EAST OF BROKEN BOW, OK. Join us as we canoe below the dam and enjoy some mild whitewater. We will leave Oklahoma City on Friday, camp along the river and float on Saturday. Options available for those that want to camp another night, or return that night. For more info, contact **trip leader David Franklin**.

OCT 11: ICO DAYHIKE. Contact **ICO Leader, Jay Trenary**

OCT 11: WINE TASTING TOUR - A ONE DAY OUTING. More info to come; contact **trip leader Neil Garrison** if you can't wait :)

OCT 18: DAYHIKE TO REDROCK CANYON, OK. Rating: Moderate. Required Donation: \$2 per person. Spend a day hiking at Red Rock Canyon (45 minutes west of Oklahoma City, near Hinton, OK) Depending on the weather hike a trail on the canyon floor through dense woods or on top of the canyon over rock and through desert-like flora. Or if time and weather permit, hike both. Contact **trip leader Aubrey Arrington**.

OCT 25-26: BACKPACK OUACHITA TRAIL. Backpack the beautiful Ouachita Trail from Winding Stair Campground to Pashubbe Trail Head. Rating: Moderate. Required Donation: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Backpack 6 miles on Saturday and 4.5 miles on Sunday. Contact **trip leader Jana Johnston** for more info.

NOV 8: ICO DAYHIKE. Contact **ICO Leader Jay Trenary**.

NOV 8-9: TRAIL MAINTENANCE TO BEECH CREEK IN SE OKLA. Rating: Moderate. Required Donation: Free. Limit: No Limit. Contact **trip leader Tom Libby**. Participants will camp at Cedar Lake (showers). Saturday morning we'll eat a \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (pancakes & fruit), be briefed on the trail maintenance issues we'll be facing, trail maintenance techniques we'll be using and get our crew assignments. On Saturday night after showers we'll head into town to eat. Sunday morning is another \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (biscuits & gravy, hash browns) followed by a special activity.

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense."—John Muir

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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 Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

2003 OKC Regional Group Volunteer Directory

Executive Committee (ExComm)

The ExComm meets this month at Bill Scimeca's office on Wed., January 8th, 7:30 pm. Call Bill for directions
ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!!
 Group Chair David Franklin 789-5377
 Vice Chair Bill Scimeca 879-2040
 Secretary (non-voting) Kathy Cunningham 942-6911
 Treasurer Aubrey Arrington 3 2 4 - 6717
 Member Esther Houser 282-8074
 Member Tom Libby 6 1 5 - 6390
 Member James Martin 319-1844
 Member Anita Scott 3 5 9 - 9319
 Member Cindy Stone 942-9340
 Member Jay Trenary 831-5535

Committee Heads

Conservation Chair Esther Houser 282-8074
 Environmental Educ. Susie Shields 297-0179
 Fundraising Vacant
 Inner City Outings Jay Trenary 831-5535
 Legislative Vacant
 Membership/V-Mail Kathy Scurlock 942-6343
 Merchandise Vacant
 Outings Chair Bill Scimeca 879-2040
 Political Vacant
 Programs Susie Shields 297-0179
 Social Jeanie Herndon 474-5754
 Volunteer Coord. Susie Shields 297-0179
 Webmaster David Franklin 789-5377

SIERRA CLUB
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THE PRAIRIE DISPATCH

The PRAIRIE DISPATCH is published 6 times a year for the benefit of the members of the Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Group members receive this publication free. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$10 per year. Address subscription requests to Andy Scurlock, 3333 NW 20th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (Ph:942-6343). Editorial opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Sierra Club or the Oklahoma City Regional Group. Dues, fees and contributions to the Sierra Club are NOT tax deductible. Address correspondence to: EDITOR, P.O.Box 18396, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0396.

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 Inquiries:
 EDITOR: Larry Swanson 840-2161

Notice to authors:

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 Permit No. 1156

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