

Oklahoma Sierran

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2004



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An Oklahoma Conservationist's New Year's Wish List

by Paul Moore, Chapter Conservation Chair

Recently the New York Times published an article consisting of interviews with leading conservationists each of which was allowed a single wish for the environment in 2004. The wishes ranged from an end to factory farms in the Carolinas to saving what is left of the Everglades. The article caused me to jot down my own 2004 wish list for Oklahoma.

1. Tar Creek

Nothing could be sadder than the situation in the Tar Creek superfund site. Children are being raised in a poisoned and dangerous environment because politicians and bureaucrats are playing power games. Hopefully 2004 will be the year that they

awaken to the obvious and agree that the residents must be relocated immediately. Wishing for more, such as a realistic cleanup plan, would be wildly optimistic given the snail's pace that our politicians move. Maybe that could be on my 2005 list...

2. Oklahoma Waters

The crown jewel of Oklahoma's natural world is the intricate web of aquifers, springs, creeks and rivers that exist in eastern Oklahoma. Supported by these naturally flowing clean water sources a hotspot of biodiversity has been created. Each water source faces a threat from commercial over-development ranging from gravel mining or

groundwater pumping to sprawl development or dam building. May 2004 see the beginning of a state water plan that includes serious consideration of biological values as well as economic values.

3. Factory Farms

There just isn't much left to say about an industry that has fouled the air and water of the state from the Arkansas border to Colorado. Pigs and chickens have been assembled into dense masses of



(Continued on Page 8)

New Bush Administration Air Program Resembles Fancy Car with No Engine

—Statement by Carl Pope, Executive Director

"In announcing a new air pollution trading program, the Bush administration is trying to sell the public a misguided policy—like a car with a nice paint job but no engine under the hood. Clear standards and strong enforcement of the Clean Air Act are what has driven air pollution reductions for decades. Now the Bush administration wants to replace that successful model with a program that sounds nice but in fact would continue to allow America's worst polluters to continue to release dangerous amounts of soot, smog, and mercury.



"The trading program mentioned today offers little comfort in light of the administration's dismantling of the

New Source Review provision of the Clean Air Act, a program which applies to oldest and worst polluting power plants and refineries in the country. Worse, the Bush administration even admitted today that it still plans to continue pursuing its broader goal of replacing much of the existing Clean Air Act with the weaker trading scheme favored by oil and coal companies and utilities. The EPA's own numbers say that leaving the Clean Air Act alone would reduce power plant emissions nearly twice as fast as the Bush administration's broader proposal.

"The provisions dealing with mercury are even more disturbing given the toxicity of that particular substance. By tolerating significant amounts of

mercury pollution under a trading program, the Bush administration is turning a blind eye to women and children who are the most vulnerable to the effects of mercury. The EPA and the National Academy of Sciences estimate that approximately 60,000 newborn infants annually may be at risk for neurodevelopmental effects from in utero exposure to mercury. The Bush administration's broader changes to the Clean Air Act would triple the amount of mercury allowed under the current law.

"There is a better way. We have the technology to cut power plant emissions. Requiring industry to use that technology would save lives, clean up the air, and keep a commitment made 30 years ago when the Clean Air Act was first created."

Water for All

by
Kerry
Lund

One acre = 4047 square meters
One inch = 0.0254 meters

Thus, one inch of rain falling on one acre will produce 102.8 cubic meters of water, which is the equivalent of 27,137.6 gallons of water.

People need 5 liters, a bit over one gallon, of water per day for drinking and cooking. Most of the water around the world is used for agriculture. The global average is about 70-80 percent, about 20-30 percent is used for manufacturing.

It takes 1000 liters to produce one kilo of potatoes (1 kg = 2.2 lbs) (1 liter = 1.06 qts) 1,400 liters to produce one kilo of corn, 3,450 liters to produce one kilo of rice and 42,500 liters to produce one kilo of beef. Most of these numbers come from New Internationalist. World Watch says that it takes thousand pounds of water to produce one pound of wheat. Some of these numbers may vary just exactly where the food is grown.

From the Ogallala Aquifer, which is the largest in the country, we pull out 3 to 10 feet every year, depending on the location. it recharges half an inch per year.

It takes 2,500 gallons of deionized water to manufacture one computer chip and 100,000 gallons to produce one car.

Water Scarcity = less than 1,000 cubic meters/person/year water stress = 1,000 - 1,700 cubic meters /person/year water vulnerability = 1,700 - 2,500 cubic meters/person/year.

If one inch is 100 cubic meters, then it takes ten inches per acre to support one person for minimum survival. Thus, we can calculate how many people rain will support, once the groundwater and aquifers are pumped dry.

It takes sixty years before any fertility reduction shows up in population demographics. We need to start planning for rain only available water sixty years before it actually happens.

Meanwhile, at today's rate of growth, US population will be 500 million in just 50 years. That means that twice as much farmland will be paved over for cars, single family housing, and shopping centers. How much arable land will be left in another 50 years. Paved planet will not soak up water. It only floods and water runs into the nearest ditch, river and ocean.

When we strip everything else away, the only thing that matters for bare survival is the amount of water and arable land per person.

Is Inhofe a hoax or a bad joke?

I want to thank Sen. Inhofe. Seems he's decided, as head of the country's environmental policy (Lord help us), that the whole "global warming" thing is just a big mistake. A huge boo boo dreamed up by some radical scientist-type to scare us all.

H m m . Pardon my skepticism, but as a teenager, I remember trading in my aerosol hairspray for the one in the pump. The global warming "scare," in fact, spawned an entire industry of non-aerosol products: hairspray, solid deodorant, etc. Then came those stinky catalytic converters on cars to reduce the amount of pollutant emissions burning up the protective layer of the ozone that protects us from the sun's damaging rays. (Have you not noticed the increase in skin cancers, skin cancer products, and skin cancer doctors?)

And Freon. It's like an underground market out there.

Scene on the corner of two dark alleys, where one guy says to a shady character:

"Psst. Hey man, I'm told you're the guy to talk to about getting my air-conditioner recharged."

"Yeah? Who says? You got the code word?"

"Uh, yeah. I got it right here." He pats his jacket and pants pockets, finally fishing out a crumpled slip of paper. He smooths the paper and reads it. "Republican," he says.

Shady Character shakes his head, and turns to walk away.

"No! Wait! Republi-can-the-environment!" shouts the poor guy who is now in the market for a new air conditioner. "Republi-can-everything-green! Please come back! The paper was wrinkled!"

I did a little research, and come to find out the whole global warming "scam" carries some incentive among big business. (I know. I know. BIG surprise.) Seems other things cause global warming outside the small realm of my own life experience with hairspray and sunscreen; power plants, heating and cooling, and other things using carbon-based fuels are among the other culprits. It's all over my head, but one thing I do know is power and utilities and fuel mean big bucks, big business, and slimy guys like Shady Character who hang out in boardrooms instead of alleys, and wear thousand-dollar suits instead of sweaty undershirts

and jeans that sag horribly low at the waist.

Somehow that, when combined with the fact that Inhofe is now chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee (Lord help us), are enough to cause shivers in an-already globally-warmed world.

Fact: Inhofe is the only senator to ever oppose Everglades restoration.

Fact: This is the same guy who once compared the Environmental Protection Agency to the Gestapo.

Fact: Somebody - surely somebody with lots of money - stands to gain financially by the relaxation of EPA guidelines put in place two decades ago to slow global warming. Think big utility companies—lobbyists—government policy-makers.

Fact: Global temperatures are rising, causing ice-caps and glaciers to melt and causing sea levels to rise. Maybe it's not enough to notice in our lifetime, but over a period of decades, yes, someone will notice. And I for one think we owe it to our planet to use this information responsibly.

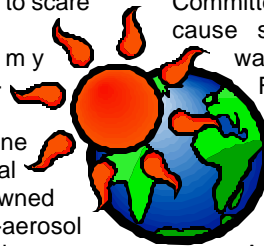
Fact: Most scientists - not just a few whackos - agree that global warming is caused by human activity. (Witness the United Nations group of 1,000 scientists from around the world who agreed, producing a paper on the subject in 1996.)

Fact: All those 1980s policies to eliminate pollutants destroying the ozone layer - back when we all learned about global warming - worked. Scientists at the University of Alabama studied some satellite measurements and said the rate of destruction of the Earth's ozone has actually slowed. (It was in 1989 that we started phasing out some of those chemicals that we determined were causing the problem.) The slowing is not a reversal, the scientists caution.

Fact: Inhofe represents me, you, and Joe on the other side of the state. But his beliefs sure don't represent mine.

I only wish it was something of greater consequence our honorable senator had decided to dismiss as fallacy. Like world hunger. Or cancer. Or the results of the 2000 election.

By Kandra Branam, managing editor of the McAlester News-Capital & Democrat. Contact Kandra at newseditor@mcalesternews.com (Reprinted with permission of the author.)



Our Ecological Footprint—Originator Speaking in Norman *by Susie Shields*

Mathis Wackernagel, Ph.D. is the Founder and Executive Director of the Ecological Footprint Network, an organization which advances rigorous natural capital accounts to make sustainability requirements measurable and relevant. Mathis has worked on sustainability issues for organizations in Europe, Latin America, North America and Australia. He has lectured for community groups, government agencies, NGOs, and academic audiences at more than 100 universities on 5 continents.

Mathis has authored or contributed to over two dozen academic articles and co-authored various books on sustainability that focus on the question of embracing limits and developing metrics for sustainability, including *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*, *Sharing Nature's Interest*, and WWF International's *Living Planet Report*.

After earning a degree in mechanical engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, he completed his

Ph.D. in community and regional planning at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. There he developed, under Professor William Rees, the "Ecological Footprint" concept as his doctoral dissertation, now a widely used measure of sustainability. Mathis is also an adjunct faculty at SAGE of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Scientific Advisor of the Centre for Sustainability Studies in Veracruz, Mexico.

Dr. Wackernagel is scheduled as the keynote speaker at the Oklahoma Sustainability Conference to be held March 12 in Norman. (See Page 6 for more information.) It will be Dr. Wackernagel's second

trip to Oklahoma, as he presented the keynote address for the 2001 OKAEE EE Expo in Tulsa. The footprint is now utilized extensively throughout the world to calculate impacts on our natural resources by individuals, communities, industries, and even conferences. An internet search will provide a huge menu of information on a variety of uses of the footprint measurement concept created by Dr. Wackernagel. Following is a brief summary of the concept.

The ecological footprint simply put measures human impact on nature. In order to live, people consume what nature offers, so every one of us has an impact on the planet with every choice that we make. This is not bad as long as we don't take more from the Earth than it has to offer. But are we taking more than we should? The ecological footprint measures

what we consume of nature. It shows how much we use to produce all the resources we consume and to handle all the waste we make.

The average American uses 25 acres to support his or her current

lifestyle. This corresponds to the size of 25 football fields (one football field is equal to one acre) put together. In comparison, the average Canadian lives on a footprint 25 per cent less and the average Italian on 60 per cent less.

Nature provides an average of 5.5 acres of bioproductive space for every person in the world. With a global population of 10 billion predicted for the year 2050, the available space will be reduced to 3 acres. This should also give room for the 25 million

other species. Already, humanity's footprint may be over 30 per cent larger than what the world has to offer as it consumes more than what nature can provide.

What can we do? We can become part of the sustainability movement and make it possible that everybody can secure their quality of life within the means of nature. Also, we can better use resources, for example, by using energy-efficient lamps or by composting and recycling. And, we can certainly manage to decrease our consumption. How about

buying fewer cars and using them less often? Walking and riding a bicycle are still very viable transportation options for many of our needs.

Your shopping choices can really make a difference. Purchasing locally grown, organic food from Bob Waldrop's local food cooperative can reduce your footprint substantially. Drop-off locations for pre-ordered food are provided once a month in Oklahoma City (2 locations, Edmond, Norman, Tulsa, Enid/Waynoka, and Tahlequah. To find out more, go to: <http://www.oklahomafood.org/>.

Calculate your own ecological footprint on the web. A rough estimate of your footprint can be calculated at: www.earthday.net (under Ongoing Programs). This calculator will tell you how many Earth's would be necessary if everyone on the planet lived the same lifestyle as you.

If you would like a more detailed household footprint, you can download an Excel spreadsheet for more detailed consumption categories, including recycling, energy use, and even how much coffee you drink. Go to: www.rprogress.org for this advanced footprint calculator.



Chapter Names New Conservation Organizer *by Tom Libby, Chapter Chair*

Please welcome Billie Brown as our new Conservation Organizer for Oklahoma. This staff position was previously held by Jeannine Hale. Billie comes to us with a wealth of volunteer organizing experience. Her most recent position was Director of Volunteer Services for Oklahoma City Public Schools where she trained and recruited volunteers for tutoring and mentoring. Billie also has worked for a number of political campaigns including Sam Bowman for City Council, Ben Brown for State Senate and James Jones for U.S. Senate.

Billie's first task in her new position with the Sierra Club is to establish a Sierra Club office in Norman. This will be the first time the Oklahoma Chapter has had an office. The executive committee made the decision to locate the office in Norman to be near the campus and the large volunteer activist base that is there.

If you know of a good space in Norman or would like to help underwrite the cost of securing a space, contact Billie Brown at billie.brown@sierraclub.org or Tom Libby at 615-6390 or tomlibby@yahoo.com.

Oklahoma Chapter Awards Presented *by Susie Shields, Awards Chair*

The Oklahoma Chapter held their annual environmental awards banquet November 16 at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. Oklahoma Chapter Chair, Tom Libby, presided over the ceremony recognizing several Oklahomans for their distinguished work on the behalf of Oklahoma's environment. Guest speaker for the event was Secretary of Environment, Miles Tolbert. Secretary Tolbert shared his photos taken on his recent statewide tour of Oklahoma's diverse eco-regions. The banquet program also included a recap of the Sierra Club's work in Oklahoma over the past year.

The Earth Care Award is given annually to an environmentally conscious business or organization, particularly one that promotes recycling efforts. Joe Lada, regional manager of Staples, was the recipient of the 2003 award for his personal efforts as well as Staples' national initiatives in the environmental realm.

At the national level, Staples retail office supplier has made a current and long-range vision commitment to protecting and preserving natural resources through leadership in four areas:

- ?? Procurement and promotion of recycled content products
- ?? Chain-wide recycling initiatives
- ?? Energy conservation programs and renewable power procurement
- ?? Educational initiatives for our customers and associates

Staples stores collect and recycle old cell phones, pagers, PDAs and rechargeable batteries at Staples, donating a portion of the proceeds to Sierra Club. More recently, they have lined up with environ-



Joe Lada accepts Staples' Earth Care Award

mental groups to help protect Alaskan temperate rainforests.

In Oklahoma, Je Lada had a bright idea in December of last year to do something positive for Oklahoma kids while helping the environmental at the same time. His idea to recycle ink cartridges to build an educational fund for school districts has since blossomed into a gigantic effort. Already this year, Staples "Recycle for Education" project has presented \$11,000, with Norman, Shawnee, Mid-Del, Moore, Lawton, OKC, Putnam City and Edmond foundations all receiving \$1,000 each. Foundations in Tulsa, Ponca City and Bartlesville are expected to receive donations soon. Joe's idea was so successful, the national office has rolled his program out all over the country.



Miles Tolbert Presents Suzanne Spradling's Environmental Education Award

The Environmental Education Award is presented to an individual, special group, or institution providing the greatest effort to inform citizens--general public, students, or special target groups--with information that would be valuable to their process of critical thinking and decision-making in environmental concerns. Dr. Suzanne Spradling, who in addition to her position as Dean of Education at St. Gregory's College in Shawnee, serves as Project Director of the Oklahoma Consortium for Environmental Education. She also serves as the State Department of Education's Building A Presence for Science state coordinator and is active at state and national levels of several

state and national science and environmental education associations.

The seeds of the Consortium were planted a little over two years ago Dr. Spradling leaned about a potential funding opportunity. Seeking to promote environmental literacy among Oklahoma's citizens, she tackled an enormous task to diversify environmental education through partnerships and outreach to previously unserved and underserved groups. Through a grant from EETAP, the Environmental Education Training and Partnerships program, the Oklahoma Consortium for EE was formed as an umbrella group to build capacity for EE in the state, with Suzanne taking the lead. So far, the Consortium has designed, disseminated and evaluated a public survey on EE, held a Leadership Clinic with teams creating action plans for environmental or EE projects in their area, and in September, an Institute to begin the development of statewide master plan for EE in Oklahoma.

The Outstanding Public Service Award is given annually to an Oklahoman for outstanding commitment and/or public service consistent with the conservation ideals of the Sierra Club, sometimes in the face of opposition or personal cost. It is often given to a politician or government official such as this year's winner, Fenton Rood from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Rood also happens to be a founding member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club.

As a well-known solid waste planner, Rood's opinions are sought by all--upper management, co-workers, other agency officials, tribes, industry and local citizens. He truly lives the philosophy, "I'm from government and I'm here to help. If he believes in a project, no matter how large or small, he is in there all the way figuring out how to do it. He understands the common sense approach to doing business, em-



Outstanding Public Servant, Fenton Rood, facilitates a group in developing an environmental plan

Sierra Club 2003 Awards

powering many environmental solutions to everyone's satisfaction. Rood works outside the box and helps others learn to do the same.

Rood is sought after as a speaker by a variety of groups, as he can tackle any environmental topic intelligently and concisely. He inspires youth at every opportunity, speaking on Earth Day, and other high school and university environmental club meetings and events.

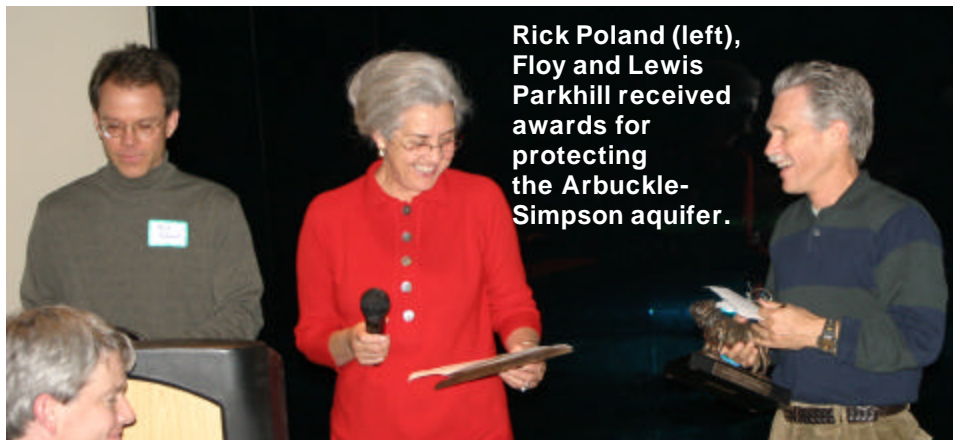
The Conservation Journalism Award, given to an individual or organization, generally in the print, TV or radio media for outstanding reporting on environmental issues, was presented to Shauna Lawyer Struby. While writing for the Oklahoma Gazette, Struby raised the level of environmental awareness in Oklahoma by having the guts to write real information about real environmental issues. Although she always provided coverage from both sides of the issue, she was unafraid to tackle controversial topics.



Shauna Lawyer Struby accepts Conservation Journalism Award

Struby covered such issues as climate change, sustainable architecture, arsenic in the drinking water, hybrid cars, sustainable agriculture trends, urban sprawl, transportation of spend nuclear fuel rods to Yucca Mountain, Oklahoma's congressional delegation's environmental scorecards, land preservation, and many more. Her intelligent book reviews opened new doors for many Gazette readers.

The Grassroots Activism Award was presented for the first time to the Citizens for the Protection of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer (CPASA). In mid-2002, a consortium of cities in eastern Oklahoma County publicized a plan to pump massive amounts of water from wells



Rick Poland (left), Floy and Lewis Parkhill received awards for protecting the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer.

drilled into the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer through an 88 mile pipeline. Activists in south central Oklahoma realized the potential economic and environmental devastation the project could impose on the area. The aquifer is the sole source of water for Tishomingo, Ada, Sulphur, Durant, and Davis. The aquifer is also one of the primary sources of water for Lake of the Arbuckles and for innumerable springs throughout the area, which make Johnston County and the area contiguous to it one of Oklahoma's environmental treasures. The Blue River and Pennington Creek, two of Oklahoma's best, clearest fishing streams, run year-round because of the aquifer. The springs of the Chickasaw National Recreational Area, formerly Platt National Park, are fed by the aquifer.

Earl Brewer and John Bruno teamed up to form Citizen for Protection of the Arbuckle Aquifer (CPSAS) as a grass roots political organization to stop the pumping project. Although lots of other entities assisted the fight against the pumping project, CPASA provided the political punch to enact SB288, which put a moratorium on the project and made a groundbreaking change in Oklahoma water law. For the first time, spring flows are recognized and protected under Oklahoma law. Although the protection only applies to sole source aquifers (the Arbuckle Simpson is the only such aquifer in Oklahoma at this time), hopefully, the door has been opened for future amendments to Oklahoma's groundwater law which is currently almost purely a mining concept. Brewer and Bruno were presented the **Sierra Club Bulldog Award** for their dedicated efforts on this project.

Awards to Sierra Club volunteers were also presented at the banquet. The recipient of the Club's highest recognition—

The Outstanding Service Award—was Tom Libby, Chapter Chair, from Oklahoma City. During Libby's first year as Chapter Chair, he has initiated many new ideas and projects, revitalizing the



Tom Libby, Outstanding Service Award recipient

way the Club does business. Tireless in his leadership, Libby spends countless volunteer hours making it all work. He has promoted cooperation with other groups and agencies for the betterment of Oklahoma's environment. **Distinguished Service Awards** were presented to two Tulsa area men, Charlie Transue for his long-term dedication to outings and trail maintenance and Larry Shepard, Broken Arrow, for his outstanding work as political and legislative chair. Aubrey Arrington, Yukon, was recognized for overall service to the Club, including trail maintenance, fundraising, educational efforts, and much more. Rick Poland, Norman, was honored primarily for his efforts to help CPASA pass SB 288. Susie Shields, Oklahoma City, received the National Sierra Club's Special Service Award.

(More photos on Page 7)

2004 Environmental Conferences—Norman and Tulsa

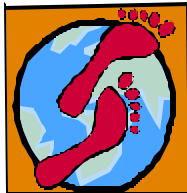
Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN) Presents . . .

OSN 2004 Annual Conference

“Sustainable Oklahoma - Actions Speak Louder than Words”

Friday, March 12
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

University of Oklahoma Center for Continuing
Education, 1704 Asp Avenue, Norman



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Mathis Wackernagel
Co-author of “Our Ecological
Footprint – Reducing Human
Impact on the Earth” (See Page 3)

Conference interest areas:

Personal, Business, Community, and Design

Who should attend?

Business, industry, government, educators, students, groups
and citizens interested in sustainable solutions for Oklahoma

Proposed Topics Include:

- ?? Straw Bale Homes
- ?? Smart Growth
- ?? Energy Audits & Efficiency
- ?? Native Plants & Prairie Landscaping
- ?? L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design)
- ?? Public Transit
- ?? The Natural Step
- ?? Business Sustainability
- ?? Skiatook Lake Sustainable Development Case Study
- ?? Issue Panels on:
 - ?? Renewable Energy
 - ?? Sustainable Agriculture
 - ?? Native American Environmental Stewardship

Roundtable Discussions on the Following Subjects:

Advocacy & Public Policy, Agriculture, Community
Development, Design, Energy, Higher Education, K-12
Education, Transportation, Waste Reduction & Recovery,
Water Quality & Supply, Youth

More details: <www.oksustainability.org>

Contact Jay Yowell, OSN President,
at 405. 317.8424 <jjowell@e-a-a.com>

Exhibitors should contact:

<amber.magdaleno@deq.state.ok.us> or 405.702.5175

*The Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN) serves as an
instrument to connect those concerned about and working
toward sustainability in Oklahoma.*



Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE)

presents

EE Expo 2004

Saturday, February 7
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Tulsa Community College—NE
Campus, 3727 E. Apache St.

“Winds of Change”

***An expo for people who want to
make a difference . . .***

Miles Tolbert, Oklahoma Secretary of the
Environment, will open the Expo with
*“State of the State,” an overview of Oklahoma’s
environmental issues and
what citizens can do to help.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. William Hammond

“Taking Personal Action to Create A Sustainable Community”

Dr. Bill Hammond, professor at Florida Gulf Coast
University College of Arts and Sciences, will share with us the
ingredients for growing community members who have a sense
of place, are ecologically literate, and have a vision of what a
sustainable community looks and feels like. Belief in the
“Power of One” comes from engagement and empowerment
that grows when you first know that you can and do take
conscious action to change yourself to be a more informed
person who makes conscious responsible choices. Dr. Hammond
will provide us with the success story of how Florida’s Lee
County School’s Environmental Education Program has helped
to foster people who are willing to make sacrifices and are
committed to making a difference on this planet.

A good friend to environmental education in Oklahoma,
Dr. Hammond has been a part of several past Environmental
Expos and environmental education events in our state. He will
also conduct a nature journaling workshop in the afternoon.

**Complete agenda, registration
information and more is
available at: <www.okaee.org>**

PERMACULTURE FEVER HITS OKLAHOMA

by Joe Glosemeyer

How do you take a rocky, barren terrain, 7000 feet up, and transform it into a lush oasis that produces fruit and vegetables year round, with a minimal demand for energy and care? I had no idea but, about a year ago, I met a man, named Jerome Osentowski, who knew exactly how to do it. Through the hard work of Chris Kirby, the Urban Harvest Director at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, her energetic assistant, Alicia Terrel, and with the help of Robert Waldrop and others, Jerome came to Oklahoma City on October 10 to explain how he did it and how any of us could do something similar right where we are.

He started off with a free lecture to the public that evening at the OSU-OKC horticulture center. Slides of the forest garden and greenhouses he had created on Basalt Mountain, near Aspen, Colorado captured the attention of the 30-40 people who turned out to learn more about the subject of permaculture, which he teaches as the director of the Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute there in Basalt (see his website at www.crpmi.org). There were apples, grapes, figs - a whole cornucopia of fruits, vegetables, herbs and other plants growing together in this lush landscape he had created by carefully observing Mother Nature and trying to duplicate her principles. The idea was to create a self-sustaining entity that could survive and thrive on its own, to a great extent.

The next day, Saturday, October 11, the weekend workshop kicked off at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, who hosted the event. Donations from the Sierra Club, the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, the Noble Foundation, and Office Depot, over and above the conference fees, made the conference possible. After Jerome had shown more examples of how to create edible landscapes, all of the 48 participants set to work

on an unused plot of ground at the Food Bank. Within hours this formerly wild spot of sunflowers, Johnson grass and bindweed had been transformed into two permaculture guilds containing thirty-three different species of trees, shrubs, vines and perennials.

On Sunday, the group dug into the subjects of Integrated Pest Management, weed control, the use of worms and other small animals, and then explored the Food Bank's new greenhouse. Jerome talked about ways to make use of solar heating and how to arrange the growing areas for the most efficient operation.

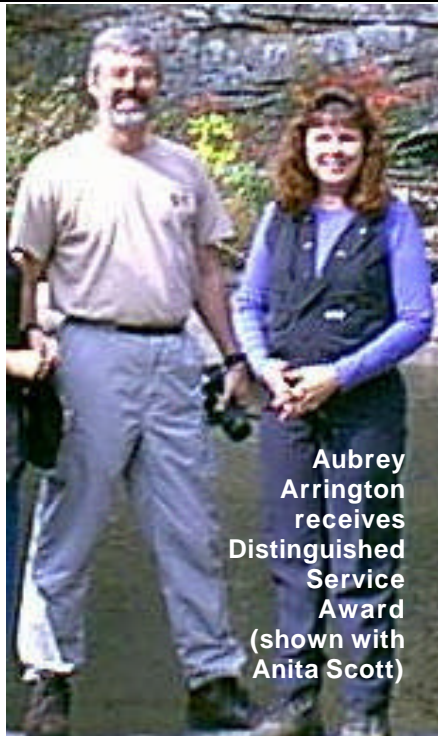
What had been a contagious enthusiasm that spread throughout the workshop on the first day developed into a general consensus that, as the weekend drew to a close, it had been of real value, and a determination to continue the effort to develop permaculture in this area. Before the weekend was out, Robert had created a permaculture discussion group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/okperma/>. Others were planning to get together for monthly meetings at different homes to plant guilds and discuss permaculture as it applies to this environment.

A follow-up meeting was held at the Food Bank on November 4. It was decided to form the "Oklahoma Permaculture Guild" and to affiliate it with the Oklahoma Sustainability Network. The next workshop was scheduled for the weekend following the Oklahoma Sustainability Conference on March 12. The subject will be "hoop houses". For those who are interested in monthly meetings for sharing permaculture information and hands-on activities please contact me at (405) 399-5126, or email to eaglewalksok@aol.com.



Chapter Awards Presented *(Continued from Page 5)*

Photo below: Charles Wesner (left), Chapter Political Chair, presents a Distinguished Service Award to Larry Shepard, Green Country Group.



Aubrey Arrington receives Distinguished Service Award (shown with Anita Scott)

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Environmental 911 Has the Answers

Are you troubled by a pesticide spray planned for your neighborhood? A suspicious smell from a chemical plant? A poorly designed development slated for a wetland? To get help, you can call "Environmental 911" at 415-977-5520, or email environmental911@sierraclub.org. This new Sierra Club program offers activists help with research and resources to combat a problem close to home.

Check it out at:
[www.sierraclub.org/
environmental911/
index.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/environmental911/index.asp)



Explore,
enjoy and
protect
the planet

Oklahoma Chapter
P.O. Box 60644
Okla. City, OK 73046-0644



| CHAPTER LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHAIR: | Tom Libby, 405/722-2367, <tomlibby@yahoo.com> |
| VICE-CHAIR: | Paul Moore, 918/584-6447, <pfmoore001@aol.com> |
| SECRETARY: | David Franklin, 405/789-5377, <dfranklin@ussok.com> |
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An Oklahoma Conservationist's New Year's Wish List *(Continued from Page 1)*

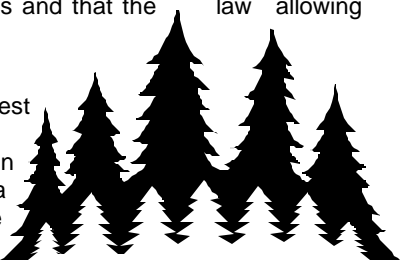
mistreated, over-medicated slums dotted across the landscape like galvanized mushrooms. In aggregate they produce as much sewage as large cities. The neighbors live with the odor and the spills and the state will be left with the clean-up costs, just as at Tar Creek. My wish for 2004 is that lawmakers require animal waste resulting from factory farming to be treated as stringently as human waste from cities and that the law allowing **corporate farming** be repealed.

4. Ouachita National Forest

The forest plan for Ouachita National Forest will

be revised by the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. My wish is that it be more than a plan for logging the forest and incorporate the now-abandoned Forest Service mission of assuring ecological sustainability of the forest. Until this past year it wasn't necessary to rely totally on a wish because citizens had legal rights in the forest planning process. Now, due to congressional and administrative changes, the discretion of the government is so broad as to make citizen participation nearly meaningless. So my other wish is that the congress and administration change in 2004, which come to think of it, might lead to fulfillment of all these wishes...

What ever your wishes are for the environment in 2004 please consider joining with the Sierra Club to make them real. Consider the old adage that advises . . . "if wishes were horses, beggars would ride."



**Progressive change requires organized activism.
Join us!**

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED by Mark Derichsweiler

The Chapter Election Committee met on December 3 and completed our task of counting the votes and certifying the results for this year's EX-COM election. November 30 was the closing date for receipt of ballots. After careful examination, the committee found 302 valid ballots. Ten additional ballots were received and determined to be invalid. Even if counted, however, the invalid ballots would not have changed the outcome. We agreed early on not to count pregnant chads, dimpled chads or hanging chads. In fact, no chads at all were counted.

We had five excellent candidates this year: Jim Bevers, Merritt Ford, Mary Francis, David Porter and Olivia Waldkoetter. It was a close race, no doubt due to the fine qualifications of all candidates.

Nevertheless, Olivia Waldkoetter and Merritt Ford will join the EXCOM as freshmen. We thank all the candidates for agreeing to submit themselves to the scrutiny of the membership. Our grassroots election process is another factor that sets the Sierra Club apart from other environmental organizations. Thanks also to the other members of the Election Committee: Tom Libby and Susie Shields.

And, thanks to all of you . . . our members who exercised your right to vote!!!