

Oklahoma Sierran

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Oklahoma Chapter Endorses Environmental Candidates *by Charles Wesner, Political Chair*

One of the things that makes the Sierra Club unique among environmental organizations is that we endorse candidates for public office and work to get them elected. It is an important reason for our success.

We help our candidates in many ways. The use of the Club's name, mailing lists and cash contributions are all important, but the help candidates most appreciate is volunteer workers. All campaigns can use help with mailings, literature drops and phone calling. If you can give just a few hours, you will help the Club and help the environment.

The Oklahoma Chapter Political Committee makes the initial decision on which candidates to endorse. This is based on the candidates' response to our questionnaires, interviews, and/or past voting records. The committee must approve a candidate by a 2/3 majority. This then must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Chapter Executive Committee. In the case of candidates for federal office, they must be approved by the Sierra Club Political Committee at the national level.

The Sierra Club is non-partisan. Political candidates are selected on their environmental merits and their ability to get elected not their party. The Club is very sensitive that our delib-



erations be fair. It is unfortunate that environmental issues themselves have become partisan for the most part and the Club finds itself more often endorsing Democrats.

The following candidates have been endorsed so far (as of 8/18/02).

- David Walters (D) U.S. Senate
- Brad Henry (D) Governor
- Laura Boyd (D) Lt. Governor
- Bernest Cain (D) State Senate-No opponent
- Cal Hobson (D) State Senate-No opponent
- Opio Toure (D) State Rep.-No opponent
- Debbie Blackburn (D) State Rep.-No opponent
- Wallace Collins (D) State Rep. Dist. 45
- Ron Wasson (D) State Rep. Dist. 84
- Alex Greenwood (D) State Rep. Dist. 87
- Jennifer Wall (R) State Rep. Dist. 100
- Rebecca Hamilton (D) State Rep. Dist. 89

The primary election is August 27. Some of our endorsed candidates may be out of the race by the time you read this. We expect that there will be a few more endorsees before this is all over and we plan to get out an election special to the membership well before general election in November. If you can help by working in any of these campaigns please call Charles Wesner in Norman, 405-321-2204; Larry Shepard in Tulsa, 918-258-3420; or Susie Shields in Oklahoma City, 405-297-0179.

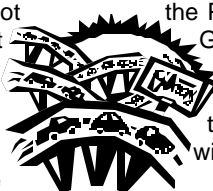
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CAFO and SPRAWL Reports Released

by Jeannine Hale, Conservation Organizer

We have had quite a summer so far, and it looks like we'll be continuing with a lot of activities in the next couple of months. In July we released a new Sprawl Map aimed at transportation issues across the nation. Dave Miller unveiled the Sprawl Map in front of 3 TV cameras to a packed crowd of reporters at the Capitol and handled interviews and questions like a pro. This Au-



gust we released a Clean Water Enforcement report prepared by the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) that shows Oklahoma has a large number of municipalities in noncompliance with their permits.

Also in August, we unleashed the CAFO Campaign's new 'RapSheet on Animal Factories'. The RapSheet is accompanied by a database of corporate bad guys that can be searched online by citizens

who need to know. Among the top ten Least Wanted are Tyson and Seaboard of course. We are hoping to add a few more to the database, including OK Foods, Simmons (both poultry operations) and Alan Ritchie Dairy. You can view the RapSheet and database on the web at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/rap-sheets>. To nominate a facility for inclusion in the database, just contact Jeannine.

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Chair's Corner

by
Doug
Hawkins
Chapter
Chair

It's summer again . . . not quite as hot, but a typical Oklahoma summer. Ah, but this one is different. It is a non-presidential election year.

In Oklahoma, we will be electing our state officials—Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, Labor Commissioner, State Representatives, State Senators, etc. On the national level, Oklahomans will be electing a Senator and multiple Representatives.

By the end of this long hot summer, we will all be tired of campaign promises, slogans, donations, and commercials. But this is our plight, our duty, our responsibility. Listen, learn, be informed and **VOTE**. The candidates we have endorsed could use your help, too!

The Sierra Club of Oklahoma, just as our local, state and federal governments, will also have elections this fall. The state chapter and groups will ask the membership to vote for members seeking seats on the Executive Committees (ExComs).

But unlike our governments, there will not be the oft heard clamoring to "vote for me". Instead, if the past holds true, the Oklahoma Sierra Club chapter and groups will be hard pressed to recruit candidates for our positions.

Please remember, we are an important **VOLUNTEER** organization. We need each of our members to search their consciences and be willing to participate in **OUR** club, no matter what the level.

Step forward and volunteer for one of the ExComs. The Nominating Committees will then consider you for the ballot. The good news is that you don't have to have a snappy campaign slogan (unless you really want one).

Have a good late summer
early fall and don't forget to
VOTE!

Sierra Club Mourns Deaths of Galen and Barbara Rowell

The Sierra Club mourns the recent loss of award winning landscape photographer, Galen Rowell and his wife Barbara who were killed in an airplane crash. In his three decades as a professional photographer Galen Rowell's work was featured in several national magazines and he produced over a dozen books.

In 1984 he won the Ansel Adams Award which honors photographers who use their talents to contribute to conservation efforts. Barbara Rowell was a pilot and a photographer in her own right, whose work is being featured in an upcoming Sierra Club Books release, Mother Earth.

"Galen is widely recognized as one of the most distinguished and pioneering nature photographers of this era. We feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him on several projects.

We also feel deeply the loss of his wife Barbara, who was instrumental in many of those projects," said Helen Sweetland, publisher of Sierra Club Books.

While Galen and Barbara Rowell's passing brings us deep sadness, the images in his photographs will serve as a lasting reminders of their lives, their work, and the landscapes that they loved. See Galen's images on the web: www.mountainlight.com

Thank You

For
Remembering
the Sierra Club!



Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting this Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own back yard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Thank you.

Oklahoma Chapter Plans Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

By Lynn Musslewhite, Training Coordinator



A message to **ALL** Oklahoma Sierra Club members—Mark your calendar now for January 18, date of the next fabulous annual Sierra Club statewide event featuring a great day of speakers on environmental issues and lots of socializing. Learn more about our state and local activities and conservation efforts as well as meet members from other groups. If that's not enough to get you there, we've added a fun-filled annual banquet in the evening with lots of great food and a presentation of awards to outstanding environmentalists, both inside and outside the Club. This will be a day filled with ideas, information, and good times. Be alert for an upcoming announcement of the details.

SPEAKING FOR WOLF: Forest Plan Revision Starting for Ouachita National Forest *by Paul Moore, Conservation Chair*

On August 2, the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club submitted a four page letter containing our official comments of the chapter on the "scoping phase" of the mandated revision to the *Land and Resource Management Plan for Ouachita National Forest*. Forest plan revisions are critical events in the life of our national forests. Decisions are made that will impact the ecological health of the forest for the life of the plan, which is often a period of 10-15 years.

The scoping phase identifies the issues that are to be considered by the Forest Service planners as the plan objectives and alternatives are developed and evaluated. Participating in this phase of the process assures Sierra Club of a place at the table to represent the values of conservation. It does not guarantee that the plan will include our preferred plan, but it does draw a line in the oak duff. Our comments are intended to provide an umbrella of protection to the forest that is consistent with the national Sierra Club policies and chapter conservation goals.

Sierra Club is prepared to endorse a plan that protects native biodiversity and supports sustainable uses. To prepare such a plan, we have requested that the Forest Service do the following:

1. Include a plan alternative that eliminates all commercial logging in Ouachita National Forest (ONF).
2. Evaluate the use of uneven aged, single tree selection, low impact logging methods using FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) guidelines in areas of the forest requiring restoration of native forest types.
3. Develop a transportation plan that reduces the existing road system to the minimum maintainable system required for public safety.
4. Evaluate potential wilderness areas in increments as small as 1000 acres due to the fragmented nature of the existing forest.
5. Incorporate the designation of the segments of the Glover River and

Mountain Fork River as a National Wild and Scenic River.

6. Evaluate the ecological impact of discontinuing the grazing permit program within ONF.

7. Conduct extensive field research to document the actual status of Protected, Endangered and Threatened Species.

Evaluate the impact of plan alternatives on potential reintroduction or expansion of native species such as mountain lion and red wolf populations.

8. Based on the historic natural frequency of burning, evaluate the use of prescribed burning to maintain native forest and grassland. Limit the use of mechanical thinning to the urban/forest interface and areas adjacent to permanent structures.

10. Consider the impact of limiting future recreational user fees to fees for special uses such as campgrounds.

11. Develop plans to limit ORV use to designated zones to eliminate further destruction of trails, streams and other sensitive ecological areas.

12. Consider the opportunities of alternative plans on improvements of the hiking trails system.

13. Preserve contiguous areas suitable for native wildlife to protect corridors for migration, population expansion, genetic interchange between populations, repopulation after disturbance and wildlife movement.

14. Preserve "reservoirs" of unimpacted ecosystems and the full, natural biodiversity of plant and animal species.

15. Evaluate the effects of road/bridge construction and maintenance, logging, ORV use and other activities on streams.

16. Consider the importance of preserving forest and natural communities found in the ONF that are otherwise threatened or left unprotected elsewhere.

17. Thoroughly evaluate management alternatives with regard to cumulative or synergistic effects due to other environ-

mental forces, such as nonpoint source runoff, sedimentation, habitat destruction, acid rain and nutrient pollution.

18. Evaluate the true cost and benefits of different management alternatives. Include an alternative in your analysis that provides for the MINIMUM amount of human management and maximum amount of natural forces to prevail in the forest.

Under the Bush administration, the pressure on the Forest Service to cater to industrial and commercial forces has accelerated tremendously. The remaining five percent of our original unroaded forests are going on the auction block unless we stop it. It is critical that during the next 20 years, a time that is likely to see the greatest amount of human-caused extinction in history, the National Forests of this nation, linked to other state, federal and private preserves, should serve as an ark into the future.

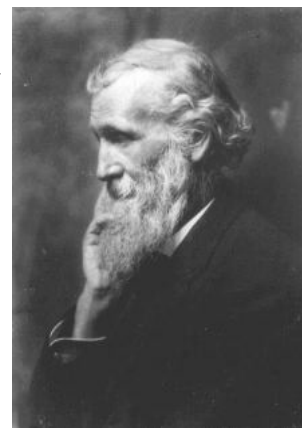
Only the voices of the real owners of these forests—the citizens—can overcome the influence of the lobbyists for extinction. Eventually, the Forest Service will hold public hearings for the revised forest plan. Please plan to attend and speak up...for Wolf, Bear, Otter and Pocket Mussel... when that opportunity arises.

Meet John Muir

John Muir was perhaps this country's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. Sierra Club has Muir classroom teaching materials available on the web in addition to a biography and chronology. Find out more on our Chapter website: oklahoma.sierraclub.org/chapter/Muir/john_muir.htm

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

-- John Muir, 1838-1914





**Explore,
enjoy
and
protect
the planet**

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—NOTICE TO MEMBERS—

The Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) is seeking Sierra Club members for the 2003 slate of ExCom candidates. The duration of Chapter ExCom terms is three years. Members will be *appointed* by the ExCom to fill vacancies made by early resignations. Interested parties will be considered by the Chapter Nominating Committee for the ballot which will be distributed to all members in November.

A petition, for any member in good standing, can be submitted for inclusion on the slate of ExCom nominees if it is signed by at least 15 Club members. It must also be accompanied by a statement of consent from the nominee. This information must be received by Doug Hawkins, Chapter Chair, no later than October 1, 2002.

**CHAPTER SEEKS AWARD
NOMINATIONS**

November 15, 2002, marks the deadline for this year's Oklahoma Chapter Award nominations. Candidates must be submitted to Susie Shields, Awards Chair, by that date to be considered. Your input is needed to make this important part of the Club succeed. For more information on award parameters and/or nomination procedures, check our website: oklahoma.sierraclub.org/chapter/awards

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2002 EPEC Campaign (Continued from Page 1)

We have not been very active on the Texas Water Sale issue since the moratorium was put in place last legislative session, but we have heard that cities and others are still trying to buy/sell water for Texas, and expect activity on water sale issues will soon heat up again. We need more volunteers who can take the lead to work on our photo, slide and PowerPoint project that will show threatened streams and their values.



To sign up for October Clean Water events, we need to get together a list of names at your next group meeting or email/call Jeannine. We anticipate doing something to highlight environmental concerns during the Governor's Water Conference October 8 in Tulsa. Also, we will be participating in public meetings about the state's list of polluted

streams and anticipate that the state will try to drop a bunch of streams off the list without first showing that they meet water quality standards. Since only waters on the list get prioritized for cleanup (TMDLs), we'll need lots of volunteers to help on this important project.

October Clean Water plans are also in the works for groups of volunteers to visit and take water samples at area streams in October. So far, the Oklahoma City Group has identified Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge and the Cimarron River as targets.

Soon we'll be ordering water-monitoring kits for groups going to different streams, so let us know if you want to lead a stream team or just want to attend one of the streamside events. We hope get a big turnout at the kick-off party for our October stream events, so stay tuned for details and plan to attend!

SIERRA CLUB PROMOTES "GREEN" COFFEE

The Sierra Club and Sacred Grounds Organic Coffee Roasters have signed a "cream and sugar" partnership to sell certified organic, shade-grown, fair-trade coffees and fair trade organic teas under the Sierra Club's name. This partnership reflects the Sierra Club's belief that consumers should have better choices and Sacred Grounds' belief that fine coffee should not come at the expense of small farmer and the environment. This new custom blend of coffee is available on-line at: <www.sacredgroundscoffee.com>. Members can help by asking our local grocers/coffee shops to stock the coffee.

