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## Mississippi Chapter Sierra Club

Golden Triangle Group

### *CROSSROADS*

Feb 2008 – July 2008

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SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

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#### EVENTS

##### FEBRUARY

**Fri., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 p.m. *Tour of the Red Hills Power Plant.*** We will meet in the gravel parking lot behind Clay Lyle Building on the MSU campus at 2:00 p.m. From there, we will carpool to the power plant in Ackerman. Our tour begins at 3:00 p.m. The permit for the Power Plant is up for renewal soon so now is the time to familiarize yourself with issues of concern like air quality and greenhouse gas production. In case of last minute changes, contact Juliet Tang to verify tour details at 662-338-5426. CANCELLED. Call me for new date.

##### MARCH - MAY

***Trail Work Outings.*** Volunteers are still needed to continue clearing fallen trees from the Sierra Club Wilderness Trail in the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge. Unpredictable spring rains make it difficult to schedule dates ahead of time. Instead, call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426 to add your contact information to our Trail Crew list and when we decide to go, we'll give you a ring to see if you're free.

##### APRIL

**Sat., April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Cotton District Arts Festival,*** in Starkville's historic cotton district (University Drive area just west of MSU campus, free admission). Whether you're interested in juried art, crafts, music, or good food, there's something for everyone at this thoroughly enjoyable festival.

See our *featured article* inside for more details.



**Sat., April 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale Fund Raiser*** at the Thompson's home, 608 Lakeview Dr., Starkville. We will have an information table featuring local

environmental issues important to our club, as well as flowers, vegetables, and herbs for sale at this fun fund-raising event. Please call Frances at 662-323-7379 to volunteer your help. Follow Montgomery St. north of Highway 82, turn right on Critz St., take 1st left on Overstreet Dr., and left again on Lakeview Dr. See our *featured article* inside for more details.

##### May

**Fri., May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 p.m. *"Cinco" de Mayo Potluck*** at Diana and Duane Lyon's home, 111 Grand Ridge Rd., Starkville. This Mexican potluck is a delicious way to start the summer holidays. From Highway 12, turn onto South Montgomery St., turn right on Grand Ridge Rd. Diana's house is on the left. It has white brick and blue trim. For more information, call Diana at 662-324-1426.

##### AUGUST

**Wed., Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. *Potluck and Planning*** at David Cross and Juliet Tang's home, 211 Edgewood Dr., Starkville. Bring suggestions for fall programs, outings, and newsletter articles. From Highway 82, go north on Old West Point Rd. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> left onto Critz St., then the 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Edgewood Dr. For more information, call Juliet Tang at 662-338-5426.

#### MINERAL RIGHTS – CONSIDER IT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SELL OR LEASE

Did you know that 40% of Mississippi is sitting on lignite? And, did you know that where there's a lignite mine, there's a power plant? That's because lignite unlike higher grades of coal is not economically feasible to transport.

So, before you sell or lease your mineral rights, make sure you get all the facts. Find out exactly

what extraction procedure you might be facing. There's a big difference between digging wells for gas extraction vs. strip mining for lignite. Consider also whether your land is strictly an investment to make money or is a natural landscape for which you have emotional attachment.

Also, consider how much you value breathing clean air and living on a planet that relies on renewable energy rather than fossil fuels. Fossil fuels can only lead to more pollution and global warming. And, ask yourself, do you want your children and children's children to enjoy the same quality of life as you do?

As part of your fact finding mission, go to [http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/facility.tcl?tri\\_id=39735TRCTBRTE1B](http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/facility.tcl?tri_id=39735TRCTBRTE1B) Scroll down the page and view the 2002 ratings for the different kinds of chemical releases from the Red Hills Power Plant in Ackerman. You'll see for yourself how much this coal burning power plant has affected and will continue to affect air quality in Choctaw County.

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GREEN POWER IN THREE SIMPLE STEPS

Show your support for green power by signing up for the TVA Green Power Switch Program. It's easy to do and takes less than 5 minutes.

First, point your browser to: <http://www.tva.gov/greenpowerswitch/> Click on Residential or Commercial Sign-up. The drop down list for Power Company will tell you if TVA offers Green Power through your Electric Service Provider. If so, then complete the form and indicate how many blocks you want to buy. It costs \$4 per block and each block buys 150 kw hrs of green power. The charge for the number of blocks bought will be added on top of your current electric bill.

Buying green power also support technological advances in green power technology and increases the amount of electricity generated from clean sources. In the southeastern U.S., we use more electricity per capita than the rest of the nation. 60% of that electricity comes from coal. 1 kw hr of electricity = 1 lb of coal burned. That means the average household, which uses 1100 kw hr per month, burns 6 tons of coal per year. Yow.

I don't know about you, but I chose to make the Green Power Switch NOW!

If you live in the Starkville or Oxford areas, you may want to pay a visit to the solar panels that provide electricity to the TVA Green Power Program. In Starkville, the panels are located next to the Landscape Architecture Building. It supplies 175 blocks of green power per year. In Oxford, the panels are located next to the Blackburn-McMurray Outdoor Intramural Sports Complex. It supplies 343 blocks of green power per year and provides shade to players and spectators, a bonus – solar panels that act as architectural features in the landscape.

### COTTON DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH

The Cotton District Arts Festival will be held on Sat., April 19 this year. Enjoy music, juried art, and lots of good food from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Starkville's historic cotton district (University Drive area just west of MSU campus, free admission). This is a very classy event in part due to the work of Golden Triangle Group Sierra Club member, Lois Connington, who has lead the Litter/Recycling Committee for this smoke-free, litter-free event for 6 years. Lois recruits student volunteers (grade 4 and up) for the litter patrol, but needs adult help to monitor them. Call Lois at 324-2594 if you can help. Check the website <http://www.starkvillearts.org/> for event schedules closer to the festival time.

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND PLANT SALE FUND-RAISER SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> so why not celebrate by buying some beautiful flowering perennials, annual, vegetable, and herb seedlings at our annual fund raising event. This year's plant sale will be held on Sat., April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Thompson's home, 608 Lakeview Dr., Starkville.

We will also have an Earth Day information table set up. We'll be giving away free fluorescent light bulbs. We'll have information on recycling. And, we'll highlight local environmental issues that are of current importance to our community like permit renewals for the Red Hills Lignite Mine and Power Plant and the construction of Poultry Confined Animal Feeding Operations in Noxubee County. So make sure you stop by.

If you want to donate any plants, here are some suggestions. Root cuttings now; plant annual, herb,

and vegetable seeds in early March; divide and pot crowded perennials just before the sale date.

Plants donations can be brought to the Thompson's after Thurs. April 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll also take anything else you may wish to donate – baked goods, yard sale items, etc. Volunteers are needed, so call Frances at 662-323-7379 to find out how you can help.

## **GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Lois Connington\*\* Starkville  
Treasurer

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Frances Thompson\* Starkville

Harold Thompson\*\* Starkville

\* Ex Comm, two year term, ends Dec. 2009

\*\*Ex Comm,, two year term, ends Dec. 2008



Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Sky's the limit?

Even today in 2006, over *half* of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequently, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% *more* mercury pollution by the year 2010, not to mention the plan delays the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the *end* of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

**JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
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 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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*Crossroads*