
Mississippi Chapter Sierra Club

Golden Triangle Group

CROSSROADS

September 2003 – January 2004



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Sat., Sept. 27th, 9:00 a.m. **Sierra Club Wilderness Trail.** Volunteers are needed to clear brush and fallen trees from the Sierra Club Wilderness Trail in the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge. Bring gloves, lunch, and water. Any of the following tools will help: loppers, clippers, saws, and light chain saws. From Starkville, take Highway 25 S for about 10 miles. Turn left onto Keeton Tower Rd. We'll meet at the trail head, which is at the end of Keeton Tower Rd. The trail is a 4 mi. loop so there's lots to do. For more information, call Juliet Tang at 662-465-8767.

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct 15th, 7:00 p.m. **Topic: Environmental applications for remote sensing and GIS.** Gunnar Olson's research has looked at remote sensing of saltmarsh biomass and oil spills in Saudi Arabia from the Gulf War. Bring friends and hear how Gunnar has used this COOL new technology to evaluate human impact on the environment. Clay Lyle Building, rm 117, MSU Campus, Starkville. For more information, call Juliet Tang at 662-465-8767.

NOVEMBER

Wed., Nov. 5th, 6:30 p.m. **Potluck and Planning** at Frances and Harold Thompson's home, 608 Lakeview Dr., Starkville. Bring a dish to pass. Some items on agenda are: Sierra Club Calendar orders, and finalizing plans for the upcoming art competition. Follow Montgomery St. north of Highway 82, turn right on Critz St., take 1st left on Overstreet Dr., and left again on Lakeview Dr. For more information, call the Thompsons at 662-323-7379.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 6th, 6:00 p.m. **Holiday Gathering** at Harold and Frances Thompson, 608 Lakeview Dr., Starkville. True to tradition, the Thompson's will again host our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Come and join us while we celebrate this special time of year. Calendar orders will also be ready to be picked up and paid for. Follow Montgomery St. north of Highway 82, turn right on Critz St., take 1st left on Overstreet Dr., and left again on Lakeview Dr. For more information, call the Thompsons at 662-323-7379.

JANUARY

Wed., Jan. 14th, 6:30 p.m. **Potluck and Planning** at Lois Connington's home, 117 Cedar Lane, Starkville. All are invited to help plan our spring meetings. From Highway 82, go north on Old West Point Rd. Take 2nd right on Cedar Lane. Lois' house is at the top of the hill on the left. For more information, call Lois at 662-324-2594.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT REVISION STILL STALLED

The National Forests in Mississippi continue to run years overdue in the revision of its management plan. The 1985 plan was supposed to have been fully revised within 15 years, as required by law. Yet the agency did not even announce that it was revising its plan until December 1999, at the end of the 15-year cycle. After hosting a couple of "scoping meetings", the process stalled, due to planning regulation changes and, the agency says, "a lack of funding". If this is the case, then our congressional representatives need to be told to support funding a revision.

The 1985 plan is a pro-industry document that considers 50 year-plus trees to be old ('late seral') and calls for high volume cutting, preferably with clearcuts and seedtree cuts. We need to have real public input, where the Forest Service has to address real, specific issues: biodiversity, management indicator species, recreation, road volume, silvicultural practices, water and soil quality. Otherwise, the agency will slip a plan through that is just as poor as the old one. It will be difficult to appeal a bad timber sale if the agency can say that it is merely "implementing the plan". All Forest Service actions are based on its management plan: a bad plan would mandate bad decisions on the land. Recent agency actions, like the horrible clearcutting planned along the Black Creek Trail in DeSoto, are good evidence that reform is not on the minds of many agency personnel. Appeals of this decision have failed, because the agency is "in compliance with the plan".

Please let our congresspeople know that the agency needs to be in compliance with 36 CFR 219 and engage the public in revising its outdated plan. There have been no attempts to do so since the spring of 2000. For further information, contact Davis Mounger (wdmounger@yahoo.com), Friends of Mississippi Public Lands.

[Senator Thad Cochran \(R- MS\)](#)

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NATIONAL CAFO UPDATE

In the details of the Michigan DEQ suit against Vreba-Hoff dairy CAFO, DEQ is seeking one

extraordinary requirement -- construction and operation of a wastewater treatment system. With this action, Michigan is suddenly in the lead nationally on this issue of CAFO pollution.

Given the astonishing courage Michigan DEQ has shown, it makes sense for the people of Michigan to press for a moratorium on new and expanding CAFOs, until their designs include wastewater treatment.

Even North Carolina, with its moratorium, is waiting for development of "less polluting systems." Michigan has declared the obvious -- there is a less polluting system, the known technology of wastewater treatment. Dry systems are best of course -- grazing on ample land, composting. But if industrial agriculture insists on liquid waste systems, they should treat the liquid. CAFOs have resisted this fiercely, trying instead all sorts of stop-gap measures after liquid manure is sprayed on the ground (tillage measures, drain-tile plugs and valves-- all half-measures). It makes much more sense to re-design the system and treat the wastes, before contaminated liquids enter the ground, flow to drain pipes, and flow to streams.

Michigan is in the position now to lead agriculture away from liquid-based manure systems, or -- if CAFOs insist on a liquid system --wastewater treatment as a part of that system. Just as cities and industry had to begin to treat their wastes, CAFOs (city-size) must, too. There's simply no other way to protect the water.

--Janet Kauffman
Water Monitoring Project, ECCSCM
Hudson, MI

Also, HAIL the Alabamans for a very successful media event announcing their filing of a CWA suit against a polluting hog factory. The event captured both TV and print coverage, including the Gadsden Times article, published September 17, 2003.

The Alabama Chapter's monitoring project has documented repeated discharges from the CAFO, including *E coli* counts up to 20,000. Their sampling data will be used as evidence in the suit -- a first for the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program, and a potential precedent-setter nationwide.

--Scott Dye, Director
Sierra Club Water Sentinels
Columbia, MO 65201

NEW RECYCLING CENTER IN STARKVILLE

Starkville Recycling, Inc. is now open for the collection of materials for recycling. The new center is located at 211 #A, C.C. Clark Road. Directions: from Hwy. 12, take Industrial Park Road or Airport Road south to Miley Road. C.C. Clark Road is located on the west side of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development building and is the only northbound road off of Miley Road. The recycling center is located at the end of C.C. Clark Road (~0.2 mi).

Business hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm but recycling collection containers are located at the center for 24 hour collection. Materials accepted at the center include:

Aluminum Cans: Rinse well; flatten.

Corrugated Cardboard: 3 layer cardboard with honeycomb middle; color coated labels acceptable but no wax coated boxes; remove all packaging materials; flatten.

Newspaper: Clean, dry, unbound (no string or bags); include only what came with your newspaper.

Mixed Paper: Includes all types of paper except tissue; envelopes with a plastic window are accepted; must be free of paper clips, elastic bands and other foreign materials.

Mixed Office Paper: Clean, sorted ledger and writing papers; no carbon; no brown grades, cardboard, or boxboard; must be free of paper clips, elastic bands and other foreign materials..

White Ledger: Sorted printed and unprinted white ledger or bond writing papers; must be free of paper clips, elastic bands and other foreign materials.

**Magazines and Catalogs
Phone Books**

Plastics: #1 PET bottles and containers; #2 HDPE bottles and containers; LDPE scrap; plastic caps; buckets. No plastics that contained herbicides, chemicals, motor oil, or paints. Remove caps to recycle separately. It is important to rinse all plastics well and flatten.

Brass

Steel "Tin" Cans: Rinse well; do not mix with aluminum cans.

Separate labeled containers are available for all of the above materials. Do not mix the different types of paper, magazines/catalogs, phone books, or aluminum and steel cans. They have to be baled separately. Plastics may be mixed and placed in one container.

The existing four recycling collection sites (South Montgomery/Academy Road, Lampkin/Russell Street; Whitfield/Avenue of Patriots, and Synergetics 501 W. Hwy. 12) will continue to collect newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and aluminum cans. All other items must be taken to the recycling center.

Businesses or contractors interested in recycling, please contact the recycling center to arrange regular or one time pick-up.

For more information, please call the Starkville Recycling Center at 324-0930. New recycling brochures available soon.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being taken to fill 3 positions on the Golden Triangle Group Executive Committee. The term of each position is 2 years and will begin January 2004. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination by the nominating committee or by petition, i.e. you nominate yourself. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 1. Call Juliet Tang at 662-465-8767 for more information or to make submissions. Voting ballots will be mailed to all members in early December. Please vote.

SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS FOR SALE

Two styles are available, a hanging wall calendar for \$11.95 and a desk engagement calendar for \$12.95. To order, call Juliet Tang at 662-465-8767. Calendars can be picked up at our Dec. meeting.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The next newsletter will be published in February. Send any suggestions or announcements to Juliet Tang (662-465-8767).



Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Ex Comm

* Two year term, ends Dec. 2003

**Two year term, ends Dec. 2004

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Crossroads