



ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

News Release

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ENVY AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Five finalists for the Arkansas Environmental Stewardship Award, also known as the ENVY of Arkansas award, have been announced by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and will be recognized November 4 at the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group (AWAG) annual conference in Fayetteville.

The ENVY award, which was established last year, is intended to recognize the work of individuals, businesses, industries, farms, or governmental agencies which have significantly helped the Arkansas environment. The finalists include:

Scott County Organization to Protect the Environment (SCOPE). The volunteer group has conducted many environmental outreach activities, but is being honored for its extensive recycling efforts in Scott County. Last year, SCOPE launched the opening of a recycling drop-off center with brochures, essay contests, banners and a parade. This year projects grew into an Earth Day celebration and a Main Street Festival. SCOPE also writes a weekly environmental column in the local newspaper.

Missy Stubblefield. Stubblefield, a Charleston middle school educator, has developed community based projects from conservation to bio-ethics. Not only does she have the commitment of her students, but she has involved the parents, school administrators, city

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officials, and the community of Charleston. Stubblefield involves her seventh grade students in an intense recycling program. Within just two years, they have collected 200 pounds of household batteries, eyeglasses, ink cartridges and numerous cell phones.

Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance, a non-profit agency based in Little Rock. A concept was brought to fruition five years ago, when 27 separate public water utilities joined together to secure future drinking water sources for an eight-county region. Representing one-fourth of Arkansas population are those in Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Garland, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline counties. Now, this Alliance will be able to reduce the impact on the environment by building common transmission mains. Also, since they are working together, they reduce regulatory approval processes and permitting to pipeline and pump stations at a lower cost for each community.

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. The non-profit organization is creating an approach for identifying land in and around Fayetteville that should be preserved and then establishing a Conservation Priority Ranking Model for preservation. Within the three years of this Association's existence, it has secured protection of 70 acres of Mount Sequoyah woods, completed a public opinion survey and developed its ranking model. The group anticipates sharing the findings with the public, with hopes the city of Fayetteville will utilize the data in future planning.

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS), with facilities in Little Rock and North Little Rock. Initially, their environmental efforts were brought about by

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mandates and executive orders, but as the benefits of lower disposal fees and improved health and safety conditions became clear, CAVHS added more elements to their waste reduction. To mention a few successes from their efforts: Computer recycling to local schools, amount of mercury in hospital reduced by 90%, Converted 95% of x-ray processors to digital, which eliminates hazardous material usage and disposal.

The ADEQ's ENVY Arkansas award announcement and presentation will take place at the Radisson Ballroom, 70 North East Avenue, Fayetteville on Saturday November 4, beginning at 11:30 a.m.