

## Central Arkansas Commuters Encouraged to Get Serious About Air Pollution

*Submitted by John Hoffpauer, AICP, Transportation Planner, Metroplan*

Little Rock, Ark. (June 19, 2008) — Officials are increasingly concerned about local air quality, due to recently strengthened federal air quality standards for ground level ozone that may lead to central Arkansas being designated a non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act.

In response to these concerns, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality are cooperating to notify commuters of Ozone Actions Days. On high ozone days, more than 20 electronic message signs posted along area freeways will alert commuters when there is an "Ozone Action Day."

Jim McKenzie, Executive Director of Metroplan said, "Commuters concerned about air quality and higher gas prices can help themselves and the community by choosing to carpool, vanpool or take public transit."

High concentrations of ozone near ground level can be harmful to people, animals and crops. As ozone builds up, high concentrations can become toxic to human beings causing, in effect, a sunburn on the lungs. Symptoms of ozone exposure include shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, headaches, nausea, and eye and throat irritation. People who suffer from asthma, bronchitis, chronic pulmonary disease, and emphysema have even more trouble breathing when the air is polluted.

Ozone is the primary ingredient in urban smog, but is not directly emitted. It is formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. Reducing NOx emissions is the primary strategy for controlling ozone formation in central Arkansas. Major sources of NOx emissions include cars, trucks, industrial smoke stacks, construction and farm equipment, lawn mowers, all-terrain vehicles, aircraft and motor boats. "To prevent high ozone concentrations from occurring, emission reduction actions should be taken during daylight hours. However, because ozone precursors must "cook" in sunlight before ozone is produced, it is especially important to avoid doing things early in the day that could contribute to a high ozone buildup during the afternoon," McKenzie said. Actions that individuals, households and organizations can take to help reduce ozone formation are posted on line at [www.oznoneactiondays.org/reduction.htm](http://www.oznoneactiondays.org/reduction.htm). (an abbreviated list is on the right.)

ADEQ issues an ozone forecast each afternoon for the following day during the ozone season, which in Arkansas runs from May 1 through September 30. "People should pay attention to the ozone forecast and plan their outdoor activities and those of their children to reduce health risks on high ozone days." People wishing to be notified of the daily ozone forecast can sign up for a free "Enviroflash" e-mail or text message for EPA at [www.oznoneactiondays.org](http://www.oznoneactiondays.org).



### Things to **Do**:

- ✓ Limit driving. Share a ride, carpool, walk or ride the bus
- ✓ Combine errands
- ✓ Refuel after dark
- ✓ Avoid jackrabbit starts and excessive idling

### Things to **Don't**:

- ✗ Don't do lawn or gardening with gasoline powered tools
- ✗ Don't use oil-based paints and solvents
- ✗ Don't use products that release fumes or evaporate easily

# President's MESSAGE

by Hugh Earnest



## Challenge & Opportunity

We operate in a cliché filled world and while it is true there is more to most clichés than we care to acknowledge, it is nonetheless true that most simply do not resonate. For me, at least, there is one that does resonate. It goes something like this: “change will occur, we will either manage change or it will manage us.” None of us, and perhaps most importantly, none of us in the world of planning, have the option of saying that change is not coming, let us stay with the old way of doing things.

*Change will happen with or without us. It is safe to say that happiness in our professional lives will be far easier if change is embraced.*

Another truism is that the rate of change is accelerating. Witness our dependence on e-mail as a principal means of communication. Each of us, when you think about it, can easily list a number of changes to processes that we have witnessed.

This fall, we will have our annual conference in conjunction with the Arkansas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. (ASLA) The conference schedule is summarized in the newsletter for your review. Please, Please make every effort to attend.

What is important about this joint sponsorship is that we will be focusing on such issues as global warming, alternative development models, county zoning and sustainability that are of interest and concern to both groups. There are more than a few landscape architects in key planning roles in several of our cities. An associated issue, which we all need to discuss, is the creation of a Masters in Planning degree. That discussion is larger than the conference, but it is certainly important.

Change will happen with or without us. It is safe to say that happiness in our professional lives will be far easier if change is embraced.

I look forward to seeing you in Fayetteville for the fall conference.

*Hugh*

## Who's WHO?

President

**Hugh Earnest** - hughearnest2002@yahoo.com

Vice-President

**Paul Luker** - pluker@citywm.com

Treasurer

**Brian Minyard**, AICP - bminyard@littlerock.org

Secretary

**Ashley Pope**, AICP - ashleypope@hotmail.com

Legislative Chair

**Robert Voyles**, AICP - rvoyles@northlittlerock.ar.gov

Membership Chair

**Danielle Semsrott**, - dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com

Nomination Chair

**Shawn Spencer** - sspencer@northlittlerock.ar.gov

Planning Commissioner Training Coordinator

**Diane Morrison** - dmorrison@cityhs.net

Communications Chair/Newsletter Editor

**Jean Dahms** - bjean@metroplan.org

Professional Development Officer

**Walter Malone**, AICP - wmalone@littlerock.org

Citizen Planner

**Gary Threadgill** - (501) 321-9128



American Society of Landscape Architects and  
American Planning Association

Present the

**2008 Fall Conference**  
**October 23 & 24, 2008**

Mount Sequoyah - Fayetteville, Arkansas

### Preliminary Agenda

#### Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

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3:00 pm	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Mayor Dan Coody, City of Fayetteville
3:15-4:30 pm	<b>General Session:</b>	Global Climate Change - What can we do locally?
4:45-6:00 pm		APA - Arkansas Chapter Business Meeting ASLA - Happy Hour on Dickson Street
6:00-8:00 pm		Tour and Reception at Ozarks Botanical Gardens

#### Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

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7:30-8:30 am		Breakfast Buffet
8:30-9:45 am	<b>General Session:</b>	Ethics in Professional Practice
9:45-10:00 am		Break
10:00-11:15 am	<b>Break-out Sessions:</b>	County Planning Google Sketch-up: Use as a Presentation Tool
11:15 am-1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b> - Teresa Clark, NWA Executive Coaching Solutions	APA Annual Awards ASLA Recognition and Community Service Awards
1:30 - 3:00 pm	<b>Break-out Sessions:</b>	Alternative Development Models in Arkansas Watershed Planning in Arkansas
3:00-3:15 pm		Break
3:15-4:30 pm	<b>General Session:</b>	Sustainability at a Local Level (or "How does LEED assist in Sustainability?")
4:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	



**Although**, all of the candidates are running unopposed, it is still essential that you vote. Remember that Write-In votes are always accepted and encouraged. Please return your ballot no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**President Elect** (to take office October 2009)

- Dianne Morrison
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President** (to take office October 2008)

- Jim Von Tunglen
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** (to take office October 2008)

- Brian Minyard
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** (to take office October 2008)

- Dana Carney
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Shawn Spencer, 120 Main St., N. Little Rock, AR 72114  
by **August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

## JOIN:

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association. An application for membership is just a click away at:

[arkansasapa.org](http://arkansasapa.org)

While you're there check out the other information available.



## Drawbacks of Working in a Cubicle!

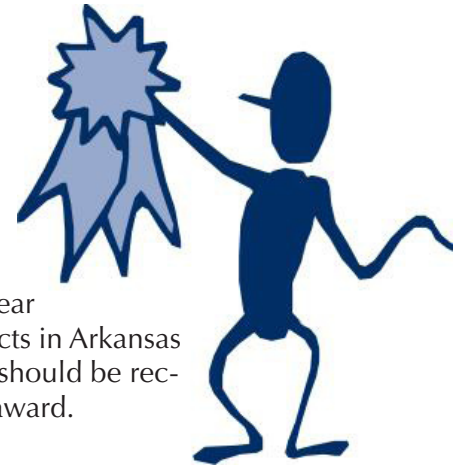
[Or, "Welcome to my life."], submitted anonymously

- Not being able to check E-mail attachments without first seeing who's behind you.
- Fabric walls offer little protection from gunfire.
- The walls are too close together for the hammock to work right.
- Prison cells are not only bigger, they have beds.
- When you quit and walk out, there's no door to slam.
- Being told to "think outside the box" when you're in a freakin' box all day long.
- 23 power cords - 1 outlet.
- The carpet has been there since 1976 (or older) and shows more signs of life than your coworkers.
- If you talk to yourself it causes all the surrounding cubicle inhabitants to pop their heads over the wall and say "What? I didn't hear you."
- You always have the feeling that someone is watching you, but by the time you turn to look they're gone.



# Nominations for Arkansas 2008 Planning Awards Now Being Accepted

Shawn Spencer, Nominations Chair



The awards program of the Arkansas Chapter of American Planning Association presents awards each year to persons or to projects, which are worthy of recognition. The awards will be announced and presented this year during the Fall Meeting in Fayetteville, (October 2008). If you know of projects in Arkansas that you feel are worthy of an award, or if you feel that a planner or citizen should be recognized for his or her efforts, please be sure to submit a nomination for an award.

## Arkansas APA Chapter Award Categories are as follows:

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- **Bill Bonner Award** – This award can be given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to planning in Arkansas over a period of time
- **Professional Planner Award** – This award can be given to a professional planner who has made a significant contribution to the planning profession in Arkansas
- **Citizen Planner Award** – This award can be given to an individual, elected official, or appointed persons who has supported planning by use of his or her personal time or effort; or through exemplary support of planning in his or her community, or in the state.
- **Achievement in Urban Development or Design Award** – This award can be given for a project, which represents an outstanding feature of, or contribution to, urban development or design. The projects can be of any size, scale, or scope with the operative works being “urban” and “design”.
- **Achievement in Comprehensive Plan Development Award** – This award can be given for an innovative accomplishment in the development of a neighborhood, community-wide, regional or statewide plan. This award will be given to plans, which show an outstanding feature relative to the integration of development concepts and the intended use of resources.
- **Achievement in Plan Implementation Award** – This award can be given for any activity, which furthers the expeditious implementation of plans but is limited to activities, which are related to a specific written plan.
- **Achievement in Media or Journalism Award** – This award can be given for specific articles, features, media presentations, graphics, or reports, which have been prepared, by the print or other media.
- **Achievement in Technology Award** – This award can be given for any unique or innovation application of technology to the planning process.
- **Unique Contribution to Planning Award** – This award can be given for any project, idea, concept, paper, research or computer application that is worthy of note, but does not fit into any of the other categories.

## Award Instructions:

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- Use a separate form for each nomination. Projects may be nominated for more than one category.
- Nominations must describe a plan, project, program, or effort that is currently underway or has been completed within the past year January 1, 2008.
- Nominees must reside in or practice in Arkansas. Project or primary contributors must be located in Arkansas. Both Arkansas APA members and the public are invited to submit nominations.
- **Applications must be returned to Arkansas APA by September 1, 2008.** Plans documents, publications, photographs, slides, maps and any other supporting documentation to be considered by the judges in giving awards must be submitted at the same time.
- Provide a one-page summary to explain why the nomination should win the award, and how it relates to the evaluation criteria. Also provide a one-page abstract of the nomination.

If you have any questions, contact Shawn Spencer, Chairperson, Arkansas APA Awards Committee at 501-975-8865 or e-mail [sspencer@northlittlerock.ar.gov](mailto:sspencer@northlittlerock.ar.gov).

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**Evaluation Criteria:**

The Arkansas APA awards program is intended to recognize individuals, studies, processes and projects that demonstrate an exceptional level of excellence in the field. An unbiased jury of professional planners will be responsible for selecting award recipients. The following general criteria will be used to evaluate each project nominated and the work of individuals nominated.

- **Innovation** – Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures.
- **Transferability** – Potential application in other areas or to other projects.
- **Quality** – Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics and character of presentation.
- **Implementation** – Effectiveness: proposals either carried out or presentations.
- **Comprehensive** – Planning principles observed, especially their effects on other public objectives.



## Arkansas Planning Awards Nomination Form

**I. Nominee Information** (please print)

Name of Person or Project \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Award Category** - Check only one

- Bill Bonner Award
- Profession Planner Award
- Citizen Planner Award
- Achievement in Urban Development or Design Award
- Achievement in Comprehension Plan Development Award
- Achievement in Plan Implementation Award
- Achievement in Technology Award
- Unique Contribution to Planning Award

**III. Nominator Information** (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Attach a one page abstract** or summary of each plan, planning project or study submitted. Each abstract or summary may contain brief excerpts from the principal document to emphasize any major points. For the Bill Bonner Award, professional Planner Award and Citizen Planner Award categories, summarize the nominee’s special contributions to planning in Arkansas.

**V. Attach a one page summary** explaining why this nomination should win the award in its category and how it relates to the evaluation criteria. This section is not required for the Bill Bonner Award, Professional Planner Award and Citizen Planner Award categories.

**VI. Provide the name of all persons** who deserve credit for the nominated project. (please print)

Name	Address	Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**VII. List items or materials** that are being submitted in support of this nomination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Welcome - New Members

**Brenda Andrews**

Senior Planner, Ft. Smith

**Donald Anthony**

Student, Greenbrier

**Lisa Bohn**

Planning Commissioner, Bentonville

**Joseph Hurst**

Planner, El Dorado

**Robert McKinney**

Planning Board, Greenwood

**Jasmin Moore**

Planner, Metroplan

**Sam Pearson**

Board of Adjustment, Bentonville

**Dennis Wewers**

Landscape Architect, Bentonville

**David Woosley**

Planning Board, Greenwood

Notes from Walter Malone



Professional Development Officer

First the Exam: as those of you who are interested in taking the exam know, it is offered twice a year. If you have not already submitted your information, the next exam date will be in May 2009. Check the APA site for

dates, <http://www.planning.org/certification/>. The Chapter does have copies of the CPC training manual for the exam. If you would like a copy, please contact me at [wmalone@littlerock.org](mailto:wmalone@littlerock.org) (with your contact info) and I will get you a copy of the CD. There is no cost to you for this. ALSO, the Chapter has one scholarship we can offer to help defray some of the exam cost. So contact me for more information on this.

For those of you who already have the AICP, I hope you have started working on your CMs. Each of us has two years to get the 32 required. I feel certain that this Chapter will offer opportunities for you to get at least half and maybe two-thirds of these CMs over the two-year period. Reminder: you have to get both law and ethics CMs, so watch for these. This type of course is not offered often. Also watch the APA website for changes in September. National is considering allowing you to claim some CMs from non-sponsored events. For now keep the information on these events (such as speakers and info on them, location & time of event, as well as the topic and information you obtained by attending).



**2008 Spring Conference** in North Little Rock featured a wide variety of topics of discussion as well as a ride on the River Rail and a guided tour of Heifer International.





**ARKANSAS CHAPTER**  
American Planning Association  
P.O. Box 3641  
Little Rock, AR 72203

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American Society of Landscape Architects and  
American Planning Association

Present the

**2008 Fall Conference**  
**October 23 & 24, 2008**

Mount Sequoyah - Fayetteville, Arkansas

A detailed program agenda and registration form will be coming to you the end of August, but for your information the conference expenses are as follows:

**Conference** registration before October 1st: \$70.00 after October 1st: \$80.00  
(includes breakfast and lunch on Friday as well as refreshments at breaks)

**Accommodations:** \$60.00 single occupancy  
\$48.00 (per person) for double occupancy

Registration and accommodation reservations will be handled by Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, so **do not** call for reservations prior to your conference registration.