

THE KEEPSAKE

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Keeping You Informed to Help Keep Arkansas Beautiful

Information-Packed Affiliate Conference Provides Valuable Tips on How to Keep Arkansas Beautiful

The 2002 KArB Statewide Affiliate Network Conference, which was held February 20-21 at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa in Hot Springs National Park, was a huge success and a lot of fun. From the first lady of Arkansas to the choir of a local elementary school, this third-annual conference was packed with valuable information and stimulating entertainment.



First lady Janet Huckabee kicked off the opening luncheon by introducing the new KArB campaign, "Take it Back," which encourages Arkansans to "do their part, keep it up and make it right" to help "take back" the Natural State. Energized by the first lady's highly motivational speech, the group then broke into the eight information-packed concurrent workshops held that afternoon. Workshops featured speakers focusing on litter prevention, beautification or recycling issues.



As the day came to a close, everyone gathered at Garvan Woodland Gardens to enjoy a catered meal from Belle Arti Italian Restaurant. After dinner, the Southside Theatre of Southside High School in Fort Smith debuted the new KArB play, "Clean Getaway," which provides an entertaining way to teach the benefits and importance of reducing, reusing and recycling. These students did a magnificent job and even received a standing ovation for their performance.

Thursday morning got off to a great start as Randy Frazier of MoreThanMotivation.com gave a stimulating presentation which was followed by nine other concurrent sessions. The event came to a close after lunch with a presentation by Sue Smith from Keep America Beautiful, and a heartwarming performance by the kids from Gardner Math, Science, and Technology Magnet School of Hot Springs, who debuted the "Take it Back" song and brought tears to our eyes singing the national anthem.

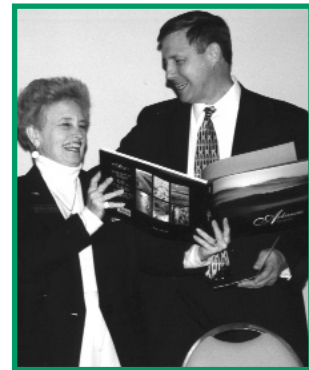


The A+ Afterschool Choir from Gardner Math, Science, and Technology Magnet School entertains the crowd at the closing luncheon of the conference.



First lady Janet Huckabee energizes the crowd by introducing Keep Arkansas Beautiful's new "Take it Back" campaign at the opening luncheon.

Thanks to everyone who attended the conference. We hope to see you again next year at the 2003 Affiliate Conference, which will be held April 29-30 in Little Rock.



Linda Westergard presents a book of Matt Bradley photography to Randy Frazier as a "thank you" for his presentation at breakfast on Thursday.



Winners of the "Come Clean" contest claim their prize, a case of Gain® laundry detergent.



Various speakers present valuable information on litter prevention, beautification and recycling in 17 information-packed concurrent workshops.

"Take it Back" to Your Community

If you enjoyed the "Take it Back" song presentation by the Gardner Math, Science, and Technology Magnet School, please contact the KArB office at 1-888-742-8701 to receive a complimentary CD of the lyrics and music. We ask that you present the song to your local school groups and encourage them to perform throughout your community. This is one of the many ways you can Take it Back and help keep Arkansas beautiful!

Calendar of Events

April is Keep Arkansas Beautiful Month!

Throughout the month, KArB has a lot of fun activities and events planned to help every community keep Arkansas beautiful. Here are some of the things that we have going on:

Poster and Essay Contests

Winners of the poster and essays contests will be notified by April 1. Thank you to all who participated. Also, remember to ask local merchants (e.g., restaurants, hardware stores, discount stores) to display posters in their windows or on their walls throughout April.



KArB Annual Awards

This year the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Awards are coming to your town! During April, the KArB office staff and commissioners will be traveling throughout the state to present awards of excellence to some of those individuals or communities that have completed outstanding projects and entered their projects in the 2002 Keep Arkansas Beautiful Awards. We are replacing the originally scheduled awards ceremony, which was to be held on April 12, with individual ceremonies that will better serve you and your community.

Judging will be completed by March 22, and award recipients will be notified. At that time, award recipients will receive more information on the individual awards ceremony that will be held in their local communities.



Keep Arkansas Beautiful is a proud affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Other Important Dates in April

- April 17 KArB Commission Meeting
April 22 Earth Day
April 26 National Arbor Day



It's That Time Again

The Great American Cleanup, Keep America Beautiful's annual spring cleanup, is coming to Arkansas in April, and the following KArB affiliates have scheduled cleanup events:

Cabot City Beautiful, Keep Cherokee Village Beautiful, Keep Randolph County Beautiful, Keep Haskell Beautiful, Keep Johnson County Beautiful, Keep Heber Springs Beautiful, Keep Faulkner County Beautiful, Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, Camden Appearance Commission, Pine Bluff Clean and Beautiful Commission, Keep Fordyce Beautiful, Keep Pulaski County Beautiful, Keep Damascus Beautiful, Keep Fort Smith Beautiful With Pride, Keep Fairfield Bay Beautiful, Keep Altus Beautiful, Benton County Office of Environmental Affairs, Carroll County Solid Waste Authority.

Has your affiliate group scheduled a spring cleanup yet? If so, please let us know about your efforts by calling the KArB office at 1-888-742-8701. If not, we can help your group organize a successful spring cleanup and help you get some of the supplies you may need, so please call us soon.

Here's a Chance for Your "Clean Getaway"

If you attended the affiliate conference, you got quite a treat at Wednesday's dinner party as Southside Theatre performed the play, "Clean Getaway." These kids did a great job, and we want to give local drama departments in your area the opportunity to do the same. If you are interested, just call the KArB office at 1-888-742-8701 to receive your library copy of the original play. You will also receive promotional posters, playbills and the script – all at no charge to you.

This play provides a fun and entertaining way to teach the benefits and importance of reducing, reusing and recycling to the people in your community.



The Southside Theatre of Southside High School in Fort Smith gives a wonderful performance of "Clean Getaway," a production that teaches the benefits and importance of reducing, recycling and reusing.

Did you know ...

Gov. Mike Huckabee has appointed Laurie Black of Lake Village as the newest member of the KArB Commission. She is the new commissioner for Arkansas Congressional District 4.

Laurie, originally from Pickens, Arkansas, has lived in Lake Village for the past 20 years. She graduated from William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri, with a B.A. in elementary and special education. She received her master's degree in special education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

A member of Lakeside United Methodist Church, Laurie is very active in her community, where she has served as president of the Lake and Plantation Garden Club for six years, and currently serves as director of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Club's Southeast District. Laurie is also a member of the Lake Village Heritage Club, the Delta Children's Museum Board of Directors and the Lake Village Community Choir.

Laurie enjoys cooking, singing, reading and spending time with her husband, Freddie, and their three children, Laura Lea, Frederick and Salee. Together the family enjoys getting away on the weekends to their deer camp, "Woodstock," located on the Mississippi River.

Contact information: Laurie can be reached by mail at 425 Stuart Island, Lake Village, AR 71653 or e-mail at Lbblack@cei.net.



Mary Smith Reappointed to KArB Commission

Mary Smith of Murfreesboro has been reappointed by Gov. Mike Huckabee to the KArB Commission. Mary has served on the commission since February 1998. Her new term expires January 2008.



Farewell to Kristie Rambo

Due to an unexpected family situation, we regret to announce that Kristie Rambo will be leaving her position as our volunteer services coordinator and moving back home to Springfield, Missouri. We wish Kristie the best.



Phyllis Mooney Named Director of Keep Fort Smith Beautiful With Pride

Congratulations to Phyllis Mooney, who has been named the new Keep America Beautiful coordinator for Keep Fort Smith Beautiful With Pride. She replaces former director Joan Stratman. Through education, vocation and volunteerism, Phyllis has worked to improve the environment of Arkansas for the past 16 years, which makes her uniquely qualified for this position.

As the environmental coordinator for the City of Fort Smith and the Sebastian County Regional Solid Waste Management District, Phyllis provides educational programs for the city and county recycling programs and the City of Fort Smith Landfill and Composting facility. Her duties include operating the local waste facility for Sebastian County residents and conducting recycling/environmental education workshops and tours for area school teachers.

Phyllis works with the City of Fort Smith in anti-litter campaigns and with Sebastian County on illegal dumping programs. She has been actively involved in the Great American Cleanup spring campaign for the past four years. Her

efforts have resulted in the closing and cleaning of illegal dumps as well as collecting tons of litter from city and county roads, land and waterways.

Phyllis previously was a recycling coordinator for the Department of Environmental Quality, overseeing 15 counties in northwest Arkansas. For 11 years, she taught Environmental Science in the Arkansas public school system.



Check This Out

The KArB office is now stocked with beautiful new wildflower brochures. You can get your complimentary copy of the brochure by calling the KArB office at 1-888-742-8701*. Beginning in April, brochures will also be available at any Arkansas State Park for \$1.50 each.



* Limit one complimentary copy per person or 12 complimentary copies per affiliate group.



Note from Linda Westergard, KArB Commission Chairman

I believe that all of our affiliate members are fully aware of the three-pronged mission of Keep Arkansas Beautiful – litter prevention, recycling and beautification. I often think of these as being similar to the old three-legged milking stool – remove any leg, and it can't do the job. When all three are equally addressed, great things happen to the quality of life in our communities.

However, the KArB Commission has a fourth “leg” on its stool. We are also charged with providing the RESOURCES that our citizens need to set goals and accomplish effective action in communities all around the state. In order to meet this part of our mission, we need to hear from YOU.

Where are you, personally and as an organized group, in the following areas:

1. Have you set up a KArB Steering Committee composed of people representing a variety of local groups to provide leadership and set goals? Are these folks involving the groups they represent in activities designed to accomplish the goals set by the joint committee? IF NOT ... *we can help you do this.*
2. Have you READ the Affiliate Manual, which was supplied when your community joined KArB? IF NOT ... *begin today, especially by reading the Affiliate Guidelines page.*
3. Are you signed up to participate in the Great Arkansas CleanUp? IF NOT ... *call the office today at 1-888-742-8701 and we'll sign you up.*

4. Have you considered becoming the link between your community and KArB? IF NOT ... *I invite you to become a part of a standing committee for the Commission.* The committees are: Awards, Affiliate Network, Speakers Bureau, Affiliate Conference, Wildflowers Forever and Minority Participation. Call me at (501) 868-8905 to get started.

We take our responsibility very seriously to provide the resources needed to help you accomplish the KArB mission in your community. We stand ready to join you in making Arkansas a cleaner, more environmentally conscious and naturally beautiful state. We know that YOU are the most important component in the accomplishment of this mission, so ... WHERE ARE YOU?



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