

# Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed



## *The Harold Alexander Award - Conservationist of the Year* *This award is proudly sponsored by Remington Arms*

In a classic case of David verses Goliath, a coalition of neighborhood groups, conservation organizations and environmentally-minded citizens, led by a group known as Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed, defeated earlier this year a legislative proposal by Deltic Timber to develop homesites in the watershed of Lake Maumelle. This lake's vital purpose is to supply more than 360,000 Central Arkansas residents and businesses drinking water. The legislation that would have allowed this unwise development to occur, SB 230, actually passed the Arkansas Senate but was killed in a House Committee in March.

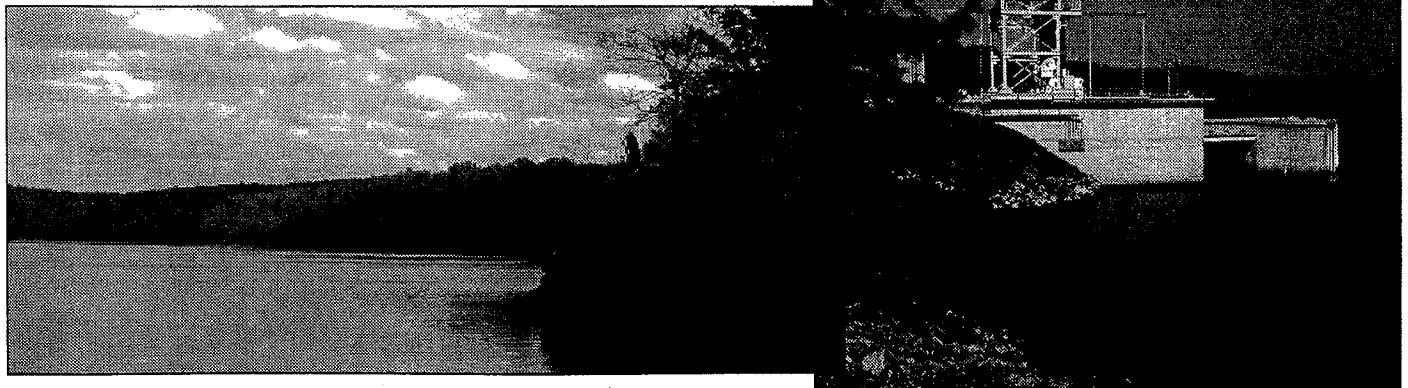
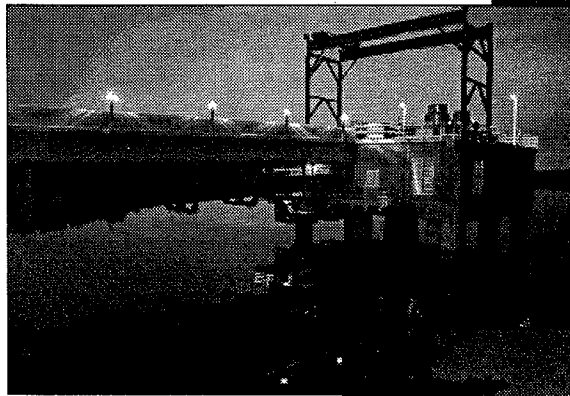
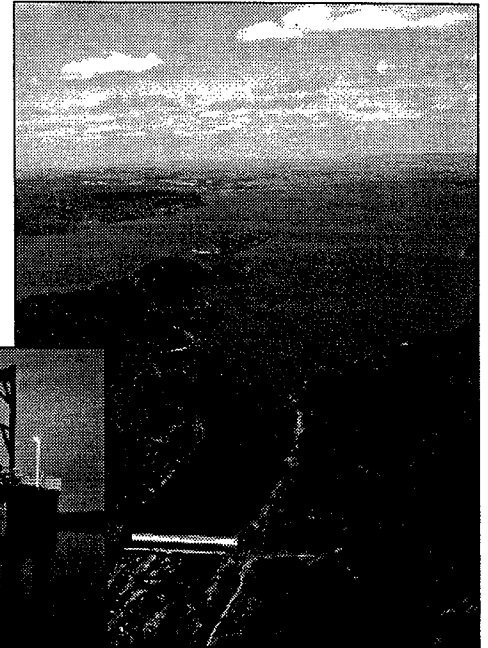
In this battle of big bucks and professional lobbyists going against Central Arkansas citizens who seldom darken the halls of the State Capitol, the citizens came up as victors. How did they do it? Much of the credit goes to Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed. This tiny group of people, led by the dynamic Kate Althoff, was able to put together a coalition of hundreds of people and several organizations that believed extensive development around an important water supply lake just doesn't make a lot of sense. Joining in the battle was the staff of Central Arkansas Water, the utility that has to make sure nearly 400,000 citizens have clean water available every second

of every day. Audubon Arkansas, Sierra Club, the Arkansas Public Policy Panel and other local and statewide groups were all involved in the effort.

These volunteers conducted rallies, buttonholed legislators, attended numerous meetings, wrote letters, raised funds for advertising, and did all the other necessary tasks to bring victory to their cause. The victory was so well organized that it left many Capitol observers in awe.

Althoff and other leaders in the groups agree that this battle may continue into the 2007 legislative session. She points out that the battle is not against all development: It's where and how the development is done. She and other volunteers wonder how the bill ever got through the Arkansas Senate so quickly. They are thankful that the House put the brakes on this freight train.

If you live in Central Arkansas, be thankful that Citizens Protecting Lake Maumelle put together a coalition of dedicated Arkansans who were not going to let our drinking supply be risked for an ill-conceived development. Because of their efforts, your water bills will remain reasonable and your drinking water will taste great.



**ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

# **Conservation Achievement Awards**

*August 18, 2005 • Little Rock, Arkansas*

*In honor of the late  
Dr. Rex Hancock  
and his family*

*“Your dedication long ago protected habitats for ivory-billed woodpeckers and all other fish and wildlife species that inhabit the Cache and White River bottoms.”*

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