NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2026

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ARC's 35th Annual Conference

The 35th Annual Conference was held at Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort on August 31, September 02, 2026. Many topics and great speakers were presented including our keynote Ryan Vaughn, Chief Meteorologist, KAIT Channel 8 Jonesboro, and our breakfast speaker Susan Altrul, Zoo Director, Little Rock Zoo. See photos from the conference starting on page 4.

Scan or click to view the full conference program:

2026 America Recycles Day!

America Recycles Day (ARD) is held on November 15th every year and is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. America Recycles Day educates and encourages individuals on how to be more mindful of what they consume, where and how to properly recycle, and to pledge to recycle more and recycle right in their everyday lives.

2026 Award Recipients Honored



Corporate Recycler of the Year
Water Tech, Inc.



Community Involvement Award
Boston Mountain Solid Waste District



Government Recycler of the Year
City of Jonesboro



School/College/University
Recycler of the Year
Southern Arkansas University



Individual Recycler of the Year
Bob Crawford

2026 Golf Tournament



First Place Winner
Nucor-Yamato Team:
Bobby Tate, Preston Garner,
Chris Brizendine, Jacob Gatlin



Second Place
Team Terracon: Quin Baber,
David Hopkins, Doug Ford,
Jose Aldabot



Third Place
Team Cram-A-Lot/Ecowaste Solutions:
Jordan Kirk, Samir Tibl, Heath Cowgill,
Kody Yandell

ARC'S 35th Annual Conference





























ARC'S 35th Annual Conference








































Arkansas Canoe Club

By: Craig Douglass
Regional Recycling District





BOATR stands for Black Ops Advanced Trash Retrieval. And it's all about a group of friends from the Arkansas Canoe Club (ACC) led by canoeists John Barton and Cowper Chadbourn. What they do is make trips down rivers and streams including the Little Red, Buffalo, Ouachita, and Saline, to haul out litter, trash, and dumped bulk items like waste tires and appliances. BOATR and ACC encourage all paddlers and boaters to join John, Cowper (pronounced Cooper), and other volunteers to do the same, keeping Arkansas's natural waterways clean and beautiful.

News from the City of Hot Springs

By: Samantha Jones-Bennett
City of Hot Springs

The City of Hot Springs Solid Waste Department, in partnership with the Southwest Central Regional Solid Waste Management District, hosted its final Household Hazardous Waste event for 2026 on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Garland County Fairgrounds. This bi-annual event allows Garland County residents to safely dispose of unwanted/unused household hazardous waste containing toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive chemicals. In total, 310 vehicles stopped by to dispose of 28.37 tons of household hazardous waste material and 2,950 pounds of e-waste.



Boston Mountain Solid Waste District Has Two Exciting Programs Ramping Up in November

Submitted By: Taylor Osburn, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District

Pumpkin Composting!

After your pumpkins are passed their prime, bring them to one of our pumpkin drop-off locations! The pumpkins will be picked up and taken to the Fayetteville Compost Facility. Your old pumpkins will live on as compost that will be used as a natural fertilizer in gardens.

Please no painted pumpkins, stickers, glitter, glue, or other decorations.

Pumpkin Drop-off Locations throughout the month of November:
- Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, 11398, Bond Road, Prairie Grove
- Farmington City Hall, 354 W Main Street, Farmington
- Springdale Recycling Drop-off, 1809 S Lowell Road, Springdale

Campaign Sign Recycling!

Do you have campaign signs? Keep them out of the trash can and recycle them with us! Campaign signs are often made of corrugated plastic. Corrugated means it has a wavy line between the front and back on the sign, just like a corrugated cardboard box. Realtor signs and athletic signs are also often made of corrugated plastic. The signs will be taken to Alternative Plastics in Gentry. You can recycle these signs and their metal stands at the drop-off locations listed below.

Election Sign Drop-off Locations throughout the month of November:
- Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, 11398, Bond Road, Prairie Grove
- Washington County Election Commission, 2721 S Brink Drive, Fayetteville
- Madison County Election Commission, overflow parking, 307 Church Avenue, Huntsville

Meet Beth Scism, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District's New Environmental Educator

We are excited to welcome Beth Scism to our team as the new Environmental Educator! Beth taught in public schools for 15 years and brings a vast amount of knowledge regarding school systems and the teacher and student experience. In her role as Environmental Educator, Beth will educate students, community groups, and the public about recycling, composting, and resource conservation, while also helping schools and organizations build and grow their waste diversion programs. Outside of work, Beth enjoys spending time with family and friends, thrifting, crafting, working on renovation projects, being outdoors, and all things Bigfoot! "I look forward to getting to know the schools and communities I'll be working with and making environmental education practical, engaging, and fun," Beth Scism.

White River Regional Solid Waste Management District Brings Recycling and Solid Waste Professionals Together for 2026 Forum

By: Sandra Tucker, White River Regional Solid Waste Management District

On October 27, 2026, the White River Regional Solid Waste Management District hosted its annual Recycling & Solid Waste Forum in Batesville, Arkansas, bringing together recycling center managers, employees, solid waste operators, County Judges, and Mayors for a day of education, discussion, and collaboration.

Representatives from all ten counties within the White River District participated, along with guests from Mississippi County, the Craighead County Solid Waste District, and the East Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District. The participation of neighboring districts and local government officials made this year's gathering an excellent opportunity to share knowledge, exchange ideas, discuss common challenges, and strengthen connections among those working in recycling and solid waste management throughout Arkansas.

The forum is organized each year to provide recycling center managers, workers, and solid waste board members with current industry information, an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions, and gain insight into what the coming year may bring. This year, the District combined recycling and solid waste topics into one forum to address recent changes affecting solid waste operations and ensure everyone had an opportunity to stay informed.

The morning featured several informative presentations from industry and agency representatives.

Solid Waste Rules and Regulations Updates

Ryan Hayden with the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), provided an overview of solid waste rules and regulatory updates. His presentation helped attendees better understand recent changes and what they mean for those involved in solid waste operations and management.

Recycling Markets and the 2027 Outlook

Kayla McDonald with ORE Recovered Materials, Inc., shared an update on current recycling markets and the outlook for 2027. She reported that commodity markets are holding relatively steady as the industry heads into winter, with improvement anticipated for most materials around the second quarter of next year. PET plastics, however, continue to face a very soft market, with little indication of improvement in the near future.

Understanding market conditions and what may lie ahead helps recycling programs make informed decisions about their operations and plan for the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

Lithium Battery Safety and Education

Kayla also presented important information about the growing dangers of lithium batteries entering the waste stream. Improperly discarded lithium batteries can create serious fire hazards in collection vehicles, recycling facilities, and waste management operations. Her presentation emphasized the importance of public education and proper battery disposal.

Attendees were also provided with educational resources that can be shared with their communities, including resources for children at www.batterysafetynow.org and additional educational materials at www.batteryfiresafety.org.

Continued on next page

White River Regional Solid Waste Management continued

Expanding Glass Recycling Opportunities in Arkansas

Robyn Madden and Bob Crawford of EPIC Glass Recycling and ACE Glass Aggregates presented an overview of their glass recycling services and the opportunities available to communities throughout Arkansas. The companies have provided glass recycling services across the state for more than eight years and are working with Keep Arkansas Beautiful (KAB) to offer District members an opportunity to establish new glass collection and recycling programs.

The presentation highlighted how recycled glass can be transformed into Foamed Glass Aggregate (FGA), a lightweight, sustainable construction material made from 100% recycled glass. Weighing approximately 90% less than traditional aggregates, FGA offers potential cost savings and environmental benefits in a variety of applications, including civil engineering, highway construction, structural projects, utilities, and green infrastructure.

This presentation introduced attendees to another opportunity to expand recycling efforts while finding beneficial uses for materials that might otherwise be discarded.

Working Together for a Stronger Future

The annual forum is an important part of the White River Regional Solid Waste Management District's ongoing commitment to education, communication, and support for the communities it serves. Bringing recycling and solid waste professionals together provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, address concerns, learn about new developments, and take valuable information back to their respective communities.

As the recycling and solid waste industries continue to change, staying informed and working together are more important than ever. The District appreciates the speakers who shared their knowledge, as well as the managers, employees, board members, County Judges, Mayors, and neighboring districts who took time out of their busy schedules to attend and participate.

Education, communication, and collaboration remain essential to building stronger recycling and solid waste programs throughout Arkansas.

The Battery Network

The Battery Network can help you find a location near you to recycle your batteries. Go to:

https://batterynetwork.org/locator/

2027 Conference and Trade Show

Mark your calendar to attend our 2027 Conference and Trade Show to be held at the beautiful new Saracen Casino Resort, located in Jefferson County, Arkansas. The 36th Annual Conference will take place September 14-16, 2027.



Have an article or ad you wish to have published in our next newsletter? Contact the ARC office.

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