



AMERICA

the

BEAUTIFUL



ON THE CURRENT RIVER
ON PAGE 1

Purple Mountains Majesty
Sierrans celebrate wild America on July the Fourth in the San Isabel National Forest in Colorado.

Are you attending the 2nd Annual Water Conference?
Well, you should! New topics! New issues! Saturday, October 5.
Page 6

Dallas Executive Committee

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Don Callaway	H: 214-674-5636	don.callaway@charter.net

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Jennifer Lehman	H: 817-263-1357	lehje30@hotmail.com
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Backpacking	Mick Nolen	H: 972-991-9351	mick@dallassierraclub.org
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Program Sales Coordinator

Patsy Huston	H: 972-732-6566	
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Special Events Coordinator

Volunteer needed		
Lisa Silguero	H: 972-307-6791	lisa@dallassierraclub.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer needed		
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MARVIN NICHOLS RESERVOIR

July 22nd marked a banner day for the Dallas Sierra Club. Standing shoulder to shoulder with timber executives, ranchers and landowners from East Texas, the Dallas Sierra Club along with other local and state environmental groups asked our local Region C Water Planning Committee to take Marvin Nichols Reservoir off the table from being considered as a future water source for Dallas.

Before the Region C meeting, a crowd of over 150 people, sweltering under a blazing sun, stood for a short press conference to voice adamant opposition to the proposed reservoir at the Trinity River Authority Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Grand Prairie.

The reservoir would span 5 counties, including Red River, Titus, Bowie, Franklin, and Morris, destroying almost 72,000 acres of ranch and prime bottomland forest. The \$1.7 billion dollar project, to be located just north of I-30 near Mt. Pleasant, would be one of the largest in Texas history, spanning almost 100 square miles. 80% of the water would be pumped almost 170 miles to the Dallas / Ft. Worth area.

"Meet the faces of a new coalition," said Rita Beving of Sierra Club. "From Dalby Springs to Dallas, from Denton to Texarkana ... in all of my years as an

activist, I have never seen such dedication from a group united for a single cause."

Waving fans that read "No Nickels for Nichols," opponents listened and cheered as each spokesman stated their heartfelt sentiments.

"We would like to plead with the people of Dallas to conserve a little water, and this (the building of the reservoir) would be totally unnecessary," said Shirley Shumake of DeKalb. "We want to pass along what we have to our children and grandchildren."

Shumake, along with brother Max, are founding members of the Sulphur River Oversight Society (SOS). SOS is leading strong opposition to the reservoir and organized around 50 people from the East Texas area to make the chartered bus ride to the meeting.

"I've been fighting these kinds of battles against wasteful 'water hustling' projects for over 30 years," said state Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth. "We don't want to pay for these mistakes."

"I think you could take it (Marvin Nichols) out of your plan if you wanted too and I think you would be well advised if you did. I don't think this reservoir is necessary," Burnam stated. "I think it is being pushed for the private agenda versus the public agenda.



State Rep. Lon Burnam of Fort Worth explains why the Marvin Nichols Reservoir is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money.

I don't think we have put enough interest in conservation."

Billie Scroggins Lindsey, from East Texas' Hagansport, said. "I live on a farm that has been in my family since the early 1900s. My dad and granddad dug the farm out of the Sulphur River bottom with a pick hoe and grubbin' axe. I am the fourth generation there. I am real upset that the 250 acres we have has deer, geese, black bear, fox, and one black panther and I hate to see you go in and cover that with water," Lindsey said. "I'm just telling

SEE "MESSY MARVIN" PAGE 6

AMERICA the BEAUTIFUL

September Meeting Photography Contest

Winners will be honored in a special presentation beginning at 6:45pm on September 11, 2002. The contest drew entries from photographers throughout the D/FW area and all entry fees went to help Dallas fund raising efforts.

Volunteers Needed

• Clipboard Coordinator
Help ensure the success of our club activities by coordinating volunteer information. Help is need to: 1. Prepare list of volunteer activities each month. 2. Distribute lists at meetings to obtain sign-ups. 3. Send volunteer names and phone numbers to contact person for each event. Your small investment of time each month will make our activities better.

• Facilities Coordinator
Help the success of our club meetings by assisting with room and audio / visual set up. This is primarily for our monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday each month.

Contact an ExCom member today!

Canoeing the Current



The Current River is part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which was created by an act of Congress in 1964.

One of the most beautiful rivers in the central United States is the Current River in Missouri. Long time Dallas Sierra Club member, activist and trip leader Arthur Kuehne led a five-day canoe trip down the Current in April and will present a slide show about the trip at the September General Meeting.

The Current River is part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which was created by an act of Congress in 1964. The area is administered by the National Park Service. The river is famous for its crystal clear water, beautiful hardwood forest, and magnificent scenery. Over 60 percent of the rivers' flow comes from springs within the drainage basin, making this one of the most reliable canoeing streams in the Ozarks. Some of the springs are truly awe-inspiring. The porous limestone that gives rise to so many springs also contains sinkholes and numerous caves. There is even a large cave you can canoe into.

If you've ever dreamed about canoeing one of the beautiful streams of Central Missouri, you won't want to miss this outstanding presentation.

September's Program

Arthur Khuene and Windel Withrow will be speaking at August's General Meeting. The General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the E.D. Walker Vanguard School.

Galleria	Valley View
	LBJ Freeway
	Harvest Hill
	E.D. Walker Vanguard School
	Wozencraft
	Forest Lane
Tollway	Preston Road

The Dallas Sierra Club's general meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to all interested persons. The meetings begin at 7pm at the E.D. Walker School on the corner of Montfort and Wozencraft, MAPSCO 15S.

THE COMPASS

September 2002
Volume 100, Issue 0902

The Compass is the monthly publication of the Dallas Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Members of the Dallas Group support The Compass and receive the publication as part of their membership benefits.

Opt Out: You can download and view The Compass at any time from our web site at www.dallassierraclub.org. Just click on the 'Compass Online' link. If you don't want to receive The Compass by mail, you can opt out at the above web site location or by sending email to cancelcompass@dallassierraclub.org. Include your name and member number. Or send your name and member number on a post card to Cancel Compass, Dallas Sierra Club, P.O. Box 800365, Dallas TX 75380-0365

Subscriptions: The Compass is available to non-members by subscription for \$12 per year. To subscribe, send a check made payable to "Dallas Sierra Club" to:

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Dallas TX 75380-0365

Address Changes: To change your address, send you name, old and new addresses and member number to:

Sierra Club Member Services
PO Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

or email the information to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions by the deadlines given in the General Calendar. Send submissions to the newsletter editor at the e-mail address and phone number listed on the back fold.

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SIERRA CLUB

"Explore, enjoy,
and protect the
wild places of
the earth..."

AUGUST RAFFLE WINNER

Bonnie Young won an African Woven Platter from Zambia at the August General Meeting.

Congratulations Bonnie!!



LETTER FROM CHAIR

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

WOW DO I FEEL ENERGIZED!! I just received a double dose of natural medicine and I feel GREAT. Wholesome herbal tea leaves? Powerful organic potions? Mighty Mineral Elixirs? NO NO NO. My medicine was much better.

The double dose was back to back outings. The first was a short scenic canoe trip led by veteran Sierran leaders Arthur Kuehn and Beth Johnson. Next came a vacation induced 4 hour solo hike in an undisturbed area of tall trees allowing relaxation and reflection. Both of these are offered through our club.

One of the most important jobs of our club leadership team (Excom, Outings and Conservation) is to provide many opportunities for you to see "America the Beautiful". Your job is to experience it, enjoy it and save it. This month's Compass newsletter illustrates how the Dallas Sierra Club serves you. Outings programs are diverse, led by trained leaders, educational, low cost and FUN. Conservation programs are equally effective, give you the chance to make a personal impact and meet committed fellow Sierrans. Please try them. You won't be disappointed. And don't forget to read about our electronic newsletter option.

Dear Editor

In light of the recent AWFUL news coverage of the Dallas school district's reaction to reported wildlife sightings near the A. Maceo Smith High School campus, I wonder if district educators might try providing students with a more relevant view of our local ecosystems? This wetlands area is NOT new in the context of Dallas' ecological systems! It's part of the much larger creek ecosystem connected throughout Dallas.

I'm personally outraged at how District officials have reacted to recent reported sightings of alligators and snakes. Their incessant and clumsy searching for that "horrible threat to mankind" has likely done far more harm to the wildlife there than any one critter would inflict on a human in a lifetime.

Instead of teaching students the ecological importance of these species and the role they play in our daily lives -- local and state officials have sounded the "idiot alarm" and played-on people's fears of the outdoors! Suddenly, what was a nearly pristine wetland near the school has become a "frightfully deadly swamp"! District officials have reacted with the rather scary recommendation to fence off, relocate, or even eradicate the wildlife there. No doubt the "swamp drainers" are queuing their forces up around the corner. One can only wonder what motivated such an effort.

I'm feeling like our former Governor is having some ever more frightening influences on life in Texas, if not all of American society. Now days, it seems the mantra is forget clean air and our environment -- in the name of "security" and the "economy." It seems if we don't drive the latest "wannabe humvee" through our local creek ecosystems, we're not doing our civic duty. I fear the daily auto industry ads on every TV station are also having a huge influence on today's children.

To the news media, and especially the DISD spokesperson, no-thanks! Students don't need your wrong-headed message! How about teaching them instead the value and intricate workings of that nearby priceless ecological system? So that if any students do encounter a critter of some variety, they don't kill it out of ignorance -- or worse, get injured by a species trying to defend itself from imminent harm! Some of us intelligent beings might like to show those species to others for the sake of learning.

Justin "Bud" Melton
Dallas Sierra Club Inter-modal Coordinator and longtime club activist

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VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

KATHY EMERSON

This month with great enthusiasm we honor Kathy Emerson for the many ways in which she has been a valued volunteer with our Inner City Outings program. Kathy has done the fun stuff like helping on many hikes, but also the necessities like keeping our books and the budget balanced as Treasurer for the last few years. And as if that weren't enough, she's also been Facilities Coordinator for the past few Earth Day Jamborees. This last task even includes securing portable potties for the special event weekend, so that gives you an idea of Kathy's commitment to do about anything to help our outreach program. For her fun loving attitude, great dedication, and hours of giving, we gratefully say thank you Kathy!

GENERAL CALENDAR

9/4 • 10/2 First Wednesday. Executive Committee Meeting 6:30PM at REI 2nd floor meeting room (I-635 between Welch Road & Midway Road, MAPSCO 14Q), to discuss Club projects, policy and finances. All members are welcome to attend and participate. Call John Rath at 817-488-3489.

9/11 • 10/9 Second Wednesday. Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00-8:30pm in the auditorium at ED Walker School (Corner of Montfort & Wozencraft, MAPSCO 15S), come early to pick up activity materials and afterwards join the socializing at Juan's Cantina.

9/13 • 10/11 Second Friday. Deadline for electronic materials to be submitted to The Compass. E-mail matt@dallassierraclub.org or deliver diskettes to editors during the General Meeting.

9/18 • 10/16 Third Wednesday. Outings Committee Meeting 7:00PM REI (MapSCO 14Q), to discuss outings schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome. Call Mick Nolen at 972-991-9351 for more information.

9/23 • 10/28 ICO Meeting. Fourth Monday. 7PM at REI. Contact Liz Wheelan at (214) 739-2269.

9/25 • 10/23 Fourth Wednesday. Newsletter Party 7:00PM at the Chruhill Recreation Center at Hillcrest & Churchill Way (MAPSCO 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Socializing afterward. Contact Donna Evans at 972-686-3360.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Opt-Out

To save money, save paper, and to provide a broader range of newsletter options, the Dallas Sierra Club is proud to announce a new service for its members. The Compass, the Dallas Sierra Club's newsletter, is now available online at www.dallassierraclub.org. Just click on the 'Compass Online' link. Fair warning though, the downloads are pretty big and will take a while if you have a slow Internet connection.

So how is this going to save us money or paper? If you like the idea of getting your newsletter online (you'll also be able to see it about a week before anyone else does), you can cancel your paper copy. Also, if you are not interested in the activities of the Dallas Sierra Club and don't want the newsletter, now you have a way to cancel it.

We have provided 3 easy ways for you to opt out of receiving The Compass:

1. Go to the 'Compass Online' section of our website and click on the 'Cancel Paper Newsletter' link. You will be asked to fill in your name and your member number. Your member number is the 8-digit number on the top of The Compass mailing label. It's also on the top line of your Sierra magazine mailing label.
2. You can also opt out by sending email to cancelcompass@dallassierraclub.org. Simply include your name and member number.
3. If you don't have access to the Internet, and you don't want to receive The Compass, send a post card to Cancel Compass, Dallas Sierra Club, PO Box 800365, Dallas TX 75380-0365. Print your name and member number.

New Member Hike

Sunday, September 15, all new and prospective Sierra Club members are invited to hike about 3 miles at White Rock Lake (all other members are welcome also). We're skipping our usual potluck mixer this month and replacing it with this hike. Learn about the Sierra Club, meet new friends, get some fresh air, and enjoy White Rock Lake. Meet at the Bath House Cultural Center at 5:00 PM. After the hike we'll have refreshments and a few surprises. We should be finished by about 7:00. The Bath House is located on the east side of the lake. Take Buckner Blvd. south from Northwest Highway and turn right on Northcliff Drive. Northcliff dead ends at the center.

For more information, please call George Zimmerman at 972-305-2049 or email george@dallassierraclub.org.

Second Annual October Trinity River Day October 12, 2002

Spend a day on the Trinity River beginning at 9 A.M. with representatives from the Mayors office and Parks Departments of Dallas, Carrollton, Coppell, Irving, Lewisville and the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to see first hand the beauty and abundant wildlife on this river. A donation of \$15 per person is all the river expects of each participant, bring your own lunch and soft drinks. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Elm Fork Nature Preserve for the cleanup of the log jams on the river. Carrollton Parks and Recreation, The Boy Scouts, Elm Fork Nature Preserve and other canoe liveries in the area will furnish canoes and other equipment. BE a part of this media event please contact Terry Sullivan at 972-492-3038 to coordinate canoe equipment and participants. Information along with narratives by local river runners will be presented at the lunch stop to add a history lesson to the trip as well.

Annual Big Bend National Park Bus Trip Nov 27 - Dec 2 (Wednesday - Tuesday)

The Dallas Sierra Club has been going to Big Bend at Thanksgiving for over 25 years and this year we are doing something special - a canoe trip. If you've never been, you owe it to yourself to discover this unique part of Texas. If you've been before, whether its once or a dozen times, join us for a return visit. Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas on Wednesday at 6:30 PM and returns about 4:30 AM on Monday. We will have four backpacking trips from moderate to strenuous and one canoeing trip through Boquillas Canyon. Some backpacking experience is required for the backpack trips and some canoe/camping experience is required for the canoe trip. The trip cost is \$160 for Sierra Club members and \$175 for non-members. Add \$100 if you want to do the canoe trip (this pays for the canoes, and canoe shuttle). The canoe trip is limited to the first 10 that qualify. A \$10 fee is charged for cancellations and no refunds will be made after November 11 unless a replacement is found.

To sign up, send a check payable to:

Dallas Sierra Club to Kathryn Littrell
9046 Redondo Dr., Dallas TX 75218-4145.

Bus Trip Coordinator:

Kathryn Littrell
214-321-4030
mattsamkat@aol.com

The Holidays are just around the bend!!!!

It's that time of year to start planning the Holiday Party. The date is set so now we have to plan the party! If you are interested in helping plan the best Sierra Club Party then mark your calendars for these dates.

September 13 - 7 P.M.

October 13 - 7 P.M.

November 10 - 7 P.M.

December 14 - Christmas Party!!!

We have a lot of tasks to complete before the party. With a silent auction, decorations, food and drawings to set up we need a lot of help. The meeting dates at 7 P.M. will be held at my house and wine and cheese will be served so enjoy a meeting and plan the party with your fellow Sierrans.



For more information contact Terry Sullivan at 972-492-3038 if you are interested in making this party the best of the Holiday Season.

DEATH & TAXES

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972-416-2500

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SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS



WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG

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-  **CANOEOING**
-  **CAR CAMPING**
-  **CYCLING**
-  **DAY HIKING**
-  **EDUCATION**
-  **SERVICE PROJECT**

Notice: To receive this outings list monthly via e-mail, send message to:
outings.list@dallassierrclub.org
 Type **SUBSCRIBE OUTINGS LIST** on the subject line.

HOW THE OUTING PROGRAM WORKS

Dallas Sierra Club Outings are open to members and non-members. Some trips may require special qualifications and capabilities. The leaders of each outing / trip are serving in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of trip organizer. If you have a medical problem, it is your responsibility to inform the leader before the outing / trip. Outing / Trip leaders are encouraged to participate in training and classes to increase their skills, but they are not paid professionals. They will assist you within their limitations. It is the responsibility of the participant to be aware of any personal limitations before going on an outing.

Radios and firearms are prohibited from all outings. Pets are not allowed unless specifically stated. All outings officially begin at the trail head or outing start point. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing for energy conservation and to promote fellowship. All non-commercial transportation is the responsibility of the individual. Car-pooling is SOLELY voluntary, but the costs are shared. The usual method of sharing transportation cost is for all riders in the car, including the driver, to divide the cost of transportation equally. The recommended method of computing cost is to multiply round trip mileage by \$0.13 a mile for small cars, \$0.16 for large cars and \$0.19 for vans. Before leaving, be sure this or some other method is agreed upon.

Most outings require reservations. To participate in an outing contact the leader, who will decide if the trip you are interested in is suitable for you based on your capabilities and the demands of the trip. There is usually a limit to the number of people allowed on a given outing / trip. Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted. If you must cancel, inform the leader as soon as possible so that someone else can go in your place.

Please respect the wishes of your leader who has volunteered his / her free time to allow you to go on the trip of your choice. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in becoming a leader, contact either the Outings Chair or the appropriate Outings Committee Coordinator on the newsletter back page.



SEP 7 (SAT) DAYHIKE at the DALLAS NATURE CENTER We'll hike 5-miles on dirt trails over hilly terrain. Meet at the DNC visitor center at 10:00AM or meet for car pooling at NorthPark Shopping Center near Foly's at 9:15AM. This is the N.E. corner of the property near US-75 & Park Lane under the trees. The Nature Center is located 2.5 miles south of I-20 at 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway. Take the Mountain Creek Parkway exit off I-20 (between exits for Spur 408 and FM 1382, in Southwest Dallas County) and continue south. The entrance is on the right just south of where Wheatland Road intersects Mountain Creek Parkway. Bring hiking boots, water, and a change of shoes if weather warrants. Optional TexMex restaurant lunch afterwards. No reservations necessary, just show up.

Leader: Steve Longley
 (214) 824-1128



SEP 9 (MON) NIGHTHIKE ON THE WHITE ROCK CREEKTRAIL Meet at 7:30PM at Moss Park on the corner of Greenville and Royal (MapSCO 26-G). We will walk 5-miles on a paved path. Bring water, comfortable shoes and a flashlight. No reservations, just show up. Ice cream afterwards.

Leader: Judy Cato
 972-238-5738 (H)



SEP 14 (SAT) BEGINNER BACKPACKING and CAMPING CLASS Aimed at beginners, this class is an ideal way to learn about backpacking. Topics include: wilderness ethics, outdoor clothing, boots, backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, and preparing for a trip. Instructors are experienced Sierra Club leaders. There will be time for questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear. Lunch of backpacking food is included. The class will be held at REI (second floor program room). REI is at 4515 LBJ Freeway, north side, between Midway and Welch. The class will run from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. The fee is \$15 for Sierra Club members and \$25 for non-members. No reservations necessary, just show up.

Contact: Arthur Kuehne
 214-902-9260
arthur@akuehne.com



SEP 15 (SUN) NEW MEMBERS DAYHIKE at WHITE ROCK LAKE We're skipping this month's new member potluck mixer and replacing it with a dayhike. All new and prospective

Sierra Club members are invited to hike about 3 miles with a few of the club leaders. Learn all about the Sierra Club, meet new friends, get some fresh air, and enjoy White Rock Lake. Meet at the Bath House Cultural Center at 5:00 PM. After the hike we'll have refreshments and a few surprises. We should be finished by about 7:00. The Bath House is located on the east side of the lake. Take Buckner Blvd. south from Northwest Highway and turn right on Northcliff Drive. Northcliff dead ends at the center.

Leaders: Arthur Kuehne
 214-902-9260
 George Zimmerman
 972-315-2049

SEP 18 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning summer outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Contact Mick Nolen 972-991-9351(H) mick@dallassierrclub.org for details.



SEP 19 (THR) NIGHTHIKE ON THE WHITE ROCK CREEKTRAIL Meet at 7:30PM at Moss Park on the corner of Greenville and Royal (MapSCO 26-G). We will walk 5-miles on a paved path. Bring water, comfortable shoes and a flashlight. No reservations, just show up. Ice cream afterwards.

Leader: Judy Cato
 972-238-5738 (H)



SEPT 22-25 (SUN - WED) "Best of the South San Juan Wilderness" Backpack Discover the Colorado that one author calls "geographically remote, largely primeval and somehow forgotten." Hike about 22 miles, much

of it above 11,00 ft., some on the Continental Divide. Magnificent views, varied types of forest. Brilliant aspen color. Option to extend for a fifth day. Moderately strenuous. Limited to 8 experienced backpackers.

Leader: Bob Crockett
 972-231-0490(H)
 972-235-0255 (W)
admark@attbi.com



SEP 28-29 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACKING TRIP in the CANEY CREEK WILDERNESS We'll hike about 8 miles total in one of the most beautiful areas of central Arkansas. We will hike along a ridge on the Buckeye Mountain Trail on Saturday, camp near a small waterfall Saturday night and hike out Sunday on the Caney Creek Trail.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne
 214-902-9260(H)
arthur@akuehne.com



OCT 10 (THU) and OCT 15 (TUE) WILDERNESS NAVIGATION CLASS

Learn the fundamentals of finding your way in the wilderness. Among the subjects covered are: purchasing maps, how to read maps, how not to get lost, what to do if you do get lost, GPS, different kinds of compasses, and how to use your compass. If you have a compass, bring it to the class. If you don't have one, we will show you what to look for when you purchase one. The class will be held at REI (second floor program room). REI is at 4515 LBJ Freeway, north side, between Midway and Welch. This two-night class will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 8:45 PM. Also included is an optional weekend backpacking trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness in Arkansas on October 26-27. This trip will give you an opportunity to practice your new navigation and map reading skills. The fee for the class is \$10 for



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If you shop at Kroger - pick up a Kroger card at the next General Meeting, or call George Zimmerman at (H) 972-315-2049 or email george@dallassierrclub.org to get a card mailed to you.

Each time you use these cards to buy groceries, the club receives .05% of what you spend, PLUS the Sierra Club card gives you certain item specials.

Sierra Club members and \$15 for non-members. No reservations are necessary; just show up.

Contact: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260
arthur@akuehne.com
Bill Greer
972-964-1781(H)
wbgreer@worldnet.att.net



OCT 12-13 (SAT-SUN) EASY BEGINNER TRIP on the CROSS TIMBERS TRAIL Drive up to this easy trail on the south shore of Lake Texoma on Saturday morning. We'll hike about 3 miles to a camp overlooking the lake. Preference given to participants of the Beginner Backpacking Class.
Leader: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260(H)
arthur@akuehne.com



OCT 26-27 (SAT-SUN) HALLOWEEN BEGINNER BACKPACK TRIP IN THE BEECH CREEK SCENIC AREA Backpack about 9 relatively flat miles round trip in this beautiful area in S.E. Oklahoma. Camp will be near the creek. As time permits, there will be an optional dayhike. Car camp Friday night and return to Dallas about 6:30PM on Sunday. Preference will be given to the "graduates" of the Beginner Backpack Class. Make sure you have treats for Trick or Treating.
Leaders: Claudia Blalock
Marcos Jorge
(972) 394-2546
mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com



NOV 9-11 (SAT-MON) CARCAMP in Guadalupe Mountains National Park Spend the weekend in one of the most beautiful parks in Texas. Camp will be at the Pine Springs campground. We will meet Saturday morning for a 10-

mile day hike in McKittrick Canyon. On Sunday we will day hike 8.4 miles up to Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at 8,749 feet. Monday morning we will have a short hike before heading back to Texas.

Leader: Wendy Lambert
(817) 251-0016 (H)
wlambert@concrete-pipe.org



NOV 27-DEC 2 (WED-TUE) ANNUAL BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK BUS TRIP The Dallas Sierra Club has been going to Big Bend at Thanksgiving for over 25 years and this year we are doing something special - a canoe trip. If you've never been, you owe it to yourself to discover this unique part of Texas. If you've been before, whether its once or a dozen times, join us for a return visit. Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas on Wednesday at 6:30 PM and returns about 4:30 AM on Monday. We will have four backpacking trips from moderate to strenuous and one canoeing trip through Boquillas Canyon. Boquillas Canyon has walls over 1,200 feet tall. Some backpacking experience is required for the backpack trips and some canoe/camping experience is required for the canoe trip. The trip cost is \$160 for Sierra Club members and \$175 for non-members. Add \$100 if you want to do the canoe trip (this pays for the canoes, and canoe shuttle). The canoe trip is limited to the first 10 that qualify. A \$10 fee is charged for cancellations and no refunds will be made after November 11 unless a replacement is found.

To sign up, send a check payable to: Dallas Sierra Club to Kathryn Littrell, 9046 Redondo Dr., Dallas TX 75218-4145

Bus Trip Coordinator:
Kathryn Littrell
214-321-4030
mattsamkat@aol.com

SMOG DEBATE CENTERS ON ELLIS COUNTY

The Dallas-Ft. Worth "State Implementation Plan" for smog clean-up is officially dead. A new "SIP" will be written and when the re-writing starts, these agencies should demand more from North Texas Congressman Joe Barton and Ellis County.

Congressman Barton chairs the subcommittee where energy and air quality policies are being debated in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a key player on this committee, Barton can dramatically shape clean air policy both in Texas and throughout the United States. Coincidentally, Barton is also the Representative from Texas' Congressional district six among which includes Ellis County.

Home to almost half of all industrial smog pollution in North Texas, Ellis County is currently in violation of the one-hour EPA smog standard - just like Dallas County. However, because its smog violations are falling through a bureaucratic crack at TNRCC and EPA, Ellis County is not being included as a "core county" in the Dallas-Ft. Worth clean air plan. Same air quality violations, different treatment. Bad policy.

Three huge cement plants reside just south of the Dallas County line in Midlothian - TXI, Holcim and North Texas Cement. These plants emit the vast majority of industrial smog in North Texas. Their air pollution blows north into Dallas County on a regular basis. Furthermore, if you look to see who is supporting Barton this campaign cycle, you will note an interesting coincidence.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics (www.OpenSecrets.org), among the top contributors to Congressman Barton's re-election campaign are Ellis County Industries or their trade groups. Topping the list in both pollution and dollars is TXI, who has given the Congressman close to \$10,000. Following TXI is Holcim Cement-\$1,500, Owens Corning-\$1,000, American Portland Cement Alliance-\$1,000, and American Iron & Steel Institute-\$500. These dollars don't account for the more than \$143,000

that was awarded to the Congressman for his position on air quality policy but certainly there's more to follow.

Just before the August recess in what is being referred to as a "sneak attack against breathers", Congressman Barton introduced the Clear Skies Initiative, a bill to significantly "overhaul" the current Clean Air Act. If Barton is successful, some of the nation's largest industrial sources will be forever grandfathered and allowed to use antiquated technologies dating back to the 1900's.

Notably the Clear Skies Initiative does nothing to address the issues related to the three cement kilns residing just South of Dallas nor refineries in Houston. If the bill were truly dedicated to "clearer skies" it would also address these smoggy sources. Barton should look to Europe and its 18 cement plants which were able to make an 80% reduction in emissions by applying modern pollution control technology known as SNCR (selective noncatalytic reduction) for an example of whom to follow.

With the failure of the Dallas/Ft. Worth SIP imminent, a radical departure from current clean air policy is a step in the wrong direction. Barton should tighten-up clean air policy for this country, not weaken it. Barton should be a leader in the North Texas smog debate and should request that industries in Ellis County make greater reductions as a part of their commitment to clearing the air over the region. Barton should ask his fellow colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to require an end to the perpetual grandfathering that exists for large industrial sources.

Katy Hubener is the Executive Director of the Dallas-based air quality group the Blue Skies Alliance and the North Texas cement kiln watchdog organization Downwinders At Risk. Hubener may be reached via email at Info@BlueSkiesAlliance.org or found on the web at www.BlueSkiesAlliance.org and www.DownwindersAtRisk.org.

SIERRA SINGLES OUTINGS

On Monday, SEPTEMBER 23 at 7:00 p.m. join us for dinner at Bahama Breeze, located near the intersection of 114 and MacArthur in Irving (same complex as Champps and BD's Mongolian). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Friday - Sunday, OCTOBER 11-13 is the tentative weekend for our next Caddo Lake outing, to be led by DeAnn McDaniel. Details TBA.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trail head. You may just show up at an event unless specifically told to RSVP. The general rule is that you may show up for day hikes and dinners, and you need to RSVP for weekend camping trips. Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or lehje@wt.net. If you would like to join the Sierra Singles yahoo group to receive these updates, send an email to dfws-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



Bastille Day canoe trip on the Red River: Enjoying an egg are (from left to right) Carol Moore, Jenny Lehman, Beth Johnson, Judy Cato, and Mick Nolen

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CONSERVATION NEWS



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CONSERVATION CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 15, SUNDAY- WINETASTING FUNDRAISER/BREATHER'S BASH SILENT AUCTION Join us for a toast to end Ozone Days and Dirty Haze by helping those who are partnering with Sierra Club in the TXI appeal litigation. Help Downwinders at Risk with their fundraising for in our joint appeal by raising a glass of wine at Tony's Wine Warehouse at another one of those famous winetasting classes we've all enjoyed. Tony's Wine Warehouse is located at 2904 Oak Lawn in Dallas in the Turtle Creek area. Call Katy Huebner for details at 972-296-9100. \$25.00 per couple or \$15.00 per individual. Seating is LIMITED and by reservation only by sending in your check to Downwinders at Risk.

If you miss this winetasting, another one will be held Friday, November 8th at 8:45 pm.... but make your reservations NOW. Members and nonmembers alike are invited.

OCT 5TH, SATURDAY- 2nd ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE AT THE DALLAS DOWNTOWN LIBRARY 9:30 to 4:30 "Water for People and the Environment - Part 2" will be focusing on the water future of Texas and the latest info on this issue. (see article in newsletter also) If you liked last year's conference, then you are sure to like this one. With new topics and new perspectives, learn about the state of water in Texas today and what the future holds to meet our area's water needs. New topics include Desalination, Water Waste and Municipal Water Use, Practical Everyday Conservation Measures We Can All Do to Save Water, plus the 2002 Legislative Outlook on Water.

Cost for the conference is only \$15 and includes lunch. Sign up online at texasierraclub.org or call the Lone Star Chapter office at 512-477-1729, Molly Rooke at 214-369-667 or Rita Beving at 214-373-3808 for details.

MEETING OF POPULATION COMMITTEE September 29, 2002, 3 PM to 5PM. Held at Zach Hilbun's house, 10235 Hedgeway, Dallas 75229. Informal discussion of issues associated w/population growth; learn what you can do Wine and cheese served. Please call 817 430-3035 for information or directions.

A NEW LOOK AT WATER FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2nd Annual Water Conference Set for October 5

How do we get the water we need at a price we can afford? How do we get serious about water conservation? How much water is being wasted through leaks in our water lines? What can each of us do to conserve water in our everyday lives? How does water conservation protect fish and wildlife?

Are we overbuilding water projects to respond to droughts? Is water reuse or desalination the way to meet future water needs? What are the current and emerging conflicts over water supplies? What is the latest on regional and state water planning?

If you want the answers to these questions, plan to attend the North Texas Regional Water Conference on October 5. This conference is NOT a repeat of last year's conference. There will be a number of new topics and new perspectives NOT featured in last year's event.

The conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. (registration to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 5 at the Downtown Public Library in Dallas (1515 Young Street). The cost is only \$15 per person and includes lunch. For a registration form or information check out: www.texas.sierraclub.org, contact local conference organizers Rita Beving (214-373-3808) or Molly Rooke (214-369-9667) or contact the Lone Star Chapter office in Austin at 512-477-1729.

The conferences are sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club in partnership with Environmental Defense, National Wildlife Federation, Texas Center for Policy Studies, Texas Committee on Natural Resources, & other organizations.

Last year's conference was a resounding success. This year's conference should prove to be equally informative and motivating.

MESSY MARVIN

Continued from page 1

you my heart today. I'm not the only family who would be losing my land to this lake," Lindsey continued with tears in her eyes.

It is Sierra Club's viewpoint, along with other groups, that if the metroplex doesn't continue to waste, but begins to use water wisely --- and makes efficient use of the water resources it already has available, there would be no need for Marvin Nichols to be built.

Austin, Houston and San Antonio all have initiated active conservation programs that promote water use efficiency. San Antonio has already cut water useage by more than 30% according to our state Sierra Club office.

STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS WEIGH IN ON MARVIN NICHOLS

On Friday, August 2nd, Congressman Max Sandlin, and State Representatives Barry Telford, Bob Glaze, Tom Ramsey, and Mark Homer requested a withdrawal for the proposed reservoir at a press conference at the Bi-State Justice Center in Texarkana .

A formal request, by the five lawmakers, will be sent to the Northeast Texas Regional Water Planning Group early this week.

This announcement was no accident. It had everything to do with our efforts in allegiance with E. Texas and our allies.

Thanks to all the Sierrans like Becky Fisher and Lisa Silguero who took a day off from work or a sick day to

attend the Region C meeting..... and to outings leaders like Jerry Moore, Arthur Kuehne, Judy Cato, Lige Balcezak and his wife Marion (who was recovering from surgery) and others who made the trip in the 90 degree heat to stand with us. Other Sierrans included Joenie Mein, Matthew Wales, Charles Allen, David Gray, Don Calloway, Ralph Yoas, Kevin Yeats, Marilyn Hamaker, Bruce Hunter, JoAnn Hill, Molly Rooke, Penny Bisbee, Lee Svedeman, Rita Clarke, Becky Bornhorst, Irvin Uphoff, Sue Pope, Katy Huebner (and many others-we are sorry if we missed you as we didn't have a final list).

Many of our allies' members on other issues like Downwinders at Risk, the Arlington Conservation Council, the Denton and Dallas League of Women Voters, the Green Party, the Blue Skies Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Ft. Worth and Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club members and staff, Texas Committee on National Resources (TCNR) and the Tarrant County Coalition for Environmental Awareness all came out.

The results of your efforts have obviously been felt all the way to Texarkana and back by officials and the East Texans who are so appreciative of seeing the support they are receiving in Dallas. And as you can see, in just a short time, it's already making a difference.



Marvin Nichols Reservoir makes Rita Beving-Griggs fighting mad.

Photo was take during a private backpack trip to Utah's High Unitas Wilderness in July 2002.

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Thomas T. Toland, Executive Committee and Recycling Coordinator

Environmentally Responsible Options for your old Personal Computer

Despite the incredible utility of personal computers, the computer manufacturing process generates an amazing amount of toxic pollution. California's Silicon Valley, the center of the world's computer industry, has recently become one of the most polluted places on the planet (29 Superfund sites) as a result of the improper disposal related to computer production. Additionally, the disposal of "old" computers (every year, businesses discard over 10 million PCs for newer models), which is exacerbated by the relentless advance of technology, accounts for a huge amount of landfill space. To mitigate the environmental burden of the personal computers, you can take some of the following steps:

1. Purchase refurbished (used) PCs

Refurbished computers are environmentally responsible and actually may offer certain advantages over new computers. Refurbished computers are usually much cheaper than new machines, and are almost always covered by a solid manufacturer's warranty. Because of the rapidly growing demand for refurbished computers, they are quite easy to locate and purchase as any major manufacturer will have a refurbished computer section on their website. These computers are great from an environmental responsibility perspective because your purchase extends the life (reuse) of a perfectly good machine, postpones the disposal of the computer, and prevents the creation of the highly toxic byproducts.

2. Trade Your PC in for Credit on a New Computer

If you would like to have a little cash while avoiding the headache of reselling your computer, several computer companies accept trade-ins. Dell, Gateway, HP, and IBM all have trade-in programs, sometimes even for computers and computer accessories from other manufacturers. Like buying a car, the potential downside to a trading-in your old PC is that you may not make very much money on the trade. Check with a company's web-site or sales representative to learn more about this option.

3. Resell Your Existing PC

If you have the time and energy, this is a good way to recoup more of your original investment that the trade-in

method. The best and most efficient way to accomplish this is to utilize an online auction or used-goods website. Try eBay, CNET, Yahoo, or Half.com. Make sure to accurately assess the condition of your goods, and correctly calculate the shipping price prior to listing your computer. Additionally, set a reasonable asking price and determine the appropriate method of payment - credit card, check, money order, or online payment service such as PayPal, Billpoint, or BidPay.

4. Upgrade Your Existing PC

You can always attempt to upgrade your older PC, depending on your system and the price of the upgrade. This might be just the thing if you use your PC primarily for applications that don't require much computing power.

5. Donate your PC

There is a tremendous demand for working computers. Therefore, if your PC works, donate it to a school, charitable organization, religious group or a group that can accomplish this for you. Many United Way and Goodwill locations will take older, working computers. However, make sure to call ahead to ensure that a particular location does take computers. For another local option, contact George David, the Executive Director with the Dallas Computer Literacy Program at (214)746-4888. For groups with a national scope, try National Cristina Foundation (www.cristina.org) or Gifts in Kind International (www.giftsinkind.org). These two non-profit clearinghouses match up donors with appropriate, pre-screened charities.

6. Recycle Your PC

If nothing else works, you should still try and recycle your computer. Even though this option often involves a de minimis fee, it is the right thing to do considering that over 220 million tons of electronics are trashed in the United States alone every year. For local computer recycling centers, contact City Industries, Incorporated in Dallas at (214) 421-5406 (www.cityindustries.com), ECS Dallas in Dallas at (214) 388-7088, HOBI International, Inc. in Dallas at (214) 951-0143 (www.hobi.com), Resource Concepts, Inc. in Carrollton at (972) 245-3121 (www.resourcecon.com), or Computer Recycle Center in Ft. Worth at 817-282-1622 (www.Recycles.com).

CLEAN AIR WEDNESDAYS



"I can't think of why anyone would knowingly lock themselves in a wheeled metal can for hours a day when they can actually live a little before and after work." Doug Davis, aboard his fully loaded "Lightning P-38" recumbent bike.

CONSIDER PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH BENEFITS!

I started commuting to work under my own power in 1998, after realizing that my health was in jeopardy due to pending obesity and poor diet. Incorporating the commute by bike gave me an extra 120 miles or more per week of exercise, but more importantly, it put me into the caloric deficit I needed to lose weight.

The first few months were really difficult, but after a while, I got used to it, and even became involved in a lot of cycling-related activities! To make the commute more comfortable, fun and maybe safer, I ride on a recumbent with panniers. (you might have even seen me Downtown a few years back!) These large cargo bags allow me to carry my work clothes and office laptop with me wherever I go. When I changed jobs my employer arranged to have a shower and lockers installed for others like me on the in our office complex, just north of North Park Mall.

The results? In 1996 I was pre-diabetic, lethargic, and weighed 325 pounds. By the summer of 2001, I weighed in at 181 pounds; the lightest I have been since high school! I continue to commute as much as possible today.. My

wife and child also ride with me on weekend jaunts on our tandem recumbent! Recently I've become interested in the city's efforts to promote alternative methods of commuting, and am becoming more active on helping people find ways to commute (you'd be surprised how easy it is to find shower facilities once you know where to look) as well as offering support, help and guidance on navigating Big D safely by bicycle.

Commuting by bike from the Whispering Hills Neighborhood in Northeast Dallas has literally given me my life back. I have more energy than ever, and am the most fit I've ever been in my life. I encourage more people to consider the physiological and psychological health benefits that commuting by bike can achieve!

Doug Davis, Dallas

For a chance to win a free month-long DART pass, e-mail your "Clean Air Wednesday" story and a digital photo to: melbow@swbell.net If yours is published, you're a winner!

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