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Outdoor Lighting and Sustainability

By Julie Schaar

Let's add responsible outdoor lighting to the sustainability equation! Proponents of the green 'sustainable' building movement emphasize interior conservation of energy, and rarely publicize the impact of artificial lighting on the entire site. In fact, the intent of the US Green Building Council LEED certification Credit #8 for 'Light Pollution Reduction' is to "Minimize light trespass from the building and site, reduce sky-glow to increase night sky access, improve nighttime visibility through glare reduction, and reduce development impact on nocturnal environments.

The bottom line here is to save energy and money (by not over-lighting), to improve safety and security (by reduction of glare), and to protect the natural biodynamics of wildlife and humans through quality outdoor lighting. Accomplishing these goals would automatically reduce urban clutter and protect and preserve the beauty of the night. We all win when this happens!

HOW TO LIGHT OUTDOORS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

• Avoid glare to see better into the dark shadows at night.
• Use fixtures that shield the lamps from glare, as lamp shades do inside.
• Direct fixtures downward where the light is needed, not tilted upward.
• Point your landscape lights with the visor down instead of tilted or up.
• Recess porch lights and service station canopy lights so the lamps are 'not seen'.
• Install Infrared motion sensors on your shielded porch and yard lights as an alert that someone is there. Closed circuit (CCTV) 'web' cameras with or without infrared illumination can be added as witness.
• Use low wattage, high brightness (efficient) bulb lamps such as compact fluorescent, metal halide, high pressure sodium or LEDs.

Shielding lamps to focus the light where it is needed allows you to reduce wattage. The source of the light should not be seen—only the effect. Simple mathematics highlights the energy savings ratio: Switching from 150 Watts to 100 Watts or 100W to 70W saves about 30% of energy costs, from 150 to 25 W (compact fluorescent) saves 85% from On to Off saves 100%.

There is not a single solution to our global environmental crisis. We need to 'leave no stone unturned' and push every possible source that contributes to our carbon footprint. One important source that many people overlook is responsible outdoor lighting: Shield fixtures from glare and aim them downward, using energy-efficient lamps, only when and where necessary, with enough wattage and lumens to light the way but not make you a target.

BRAND NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: GLOBAL WARMING

4 Weeks, Wednesdays, starting March 21 in East Dallas

Join fellow Sierrans and others to explore personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, as well as the history and science of global warming. You will leave this discussion group with not only hope for the earth, but with a much clearer knowledge of the tools we can each use to wield change for the future.

This study group meets once a week from 7:30-9:00 at the Tippery Inn in East Dallas... (Arrive at 7:00 if you would like to order food; discussion begins at 7:30.) Location is 5815 Live Oak St, Dallas, 214-821-6500. Please contact Robin Sowntown to preregister: robin@dallasgreenzine.com or call 214-422-7193. Cost of the book is $18.00, payable at the first class. Please respond quickly to secure your place. For more information about this course and the Northwest Earth Institute, please go to: http://www.nwei.org/pages/simplicity2.html

If you are interested but cannot make this time or day, do not despair! New classes are always forming. Email Chris Unruh to express interest: trulyunruhly@earthlink.net.

GREEN HOME TOUR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Help organize the 2007 Green Home Tour fundraiser. A committee of five is needed. Duties will include contacting possible sponsors and exhibitors; requires traveling around the DFW area. Need skilled brochure layout person, distribution of brochures, etc. Work time about 6 hours.

If you have the time and are interested in green and sustainable issues then this committee is for you. Be a part of the Green Team!

Contact Lisa Silguero for meeting times, details or questions: tour@dallassierraclub.org or please leave a voice mail at 214-893-7990 (cell).
March: Green Building

OK all you Sierrans. Judging by the phenomenal success of the green home tour we brought you last year and the interest you have shown in all of the green building programs we have brought you over the last couple of years, it is clear to us that green building topics are very important to you. If this is true for you, then you certainly don’t want to miss our March general meeting.

Are you confused about green building? Do you think green, sustainable housing has to be expensive? Are you unsure about what green or sustainable actually means? Can you buy a green house in Dallas? How will you know a green house if you see it? In March find out how “green” homes are built better for people, pocketbooks, and the planet. They are more energy efficient, have lower utility bills, they are more comfortable and quiet, they have lower maintenance costs, healthier indoor air quality, reduced water usage, less air pollution from utilities, and improved resale. The average inefficient home uses more energy than the average car. And how about those high utility bills?!

Powering our homes and buildings causes almost half of the dangerous greenhouse emissions produced by the U.S., the world’s largest emitter of these pollutants. Less energy usage by our homes means fewer power plants and healthier air to breathe.

"Green building" is under way in North Texas and throughout America. Industry pros say that what we call "greenbuilding" today will just be considered “building” in 5 years or so. Come hear about programs that certify new green built homes and about techniques, features and benefits of new and retrofitted green homes.

Well-known environmentalists and native Texans planning to build their own affordable green home, our speakers are a Dallas-based couple who will share in layman's terms highlights from their greenbuilding training through Energy and Environmental Building Association, U.S. Green Building Council, Energy Efficient Green Building Institute, Residential Energy Services Network, National Association of Home Builders, and elsewhere.

Arthur Kuehne chairs the Dallas Sierra Club's Green Building Committee and has served as a Sierra Club leader at local, state, and national levels in conservation, outings, educator, and chairmanship roles. He helped organize, and provided onsite tours explaining green construction practices, the educational event unveiling the Metroplex’s first “attainable” all-green subdivision.

He is completing professional residential building performance technician courses at North Texas’ own Energy Efficient Green Building Institute.

Beth Johnson served for 29 years as professional staff for Sierra Club and other environmental advocacy organizations regionally and nationally, and she is now the only North Texas REALTOR® specializing in greenbuilding who is not directly affiliated with a builder. She is the world’s only REALTOR® to achieve both the nationally recognized EcoBroker Certification and the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP) professional credential, and she was the first REALTOR® in Texas to earn either of these accreditations that provide additional education on energy and environmental issues that relate to building and real estate.

April: International Outings Program

And for all of your outings enthusiasts, in April we have an amazing outing program for you. Austin Brouns has been a long time Sierra Club member in the North Texas region since 1972. In fact, he was the very first Chair of the Dallas Sierra Club in 1973 when the North Texas Region Group of the Sierra Club was split into two groups first forming the Dallas and Ft. Worth Groups.

Austin served as the Outings Chair for two terms, and continued for many years thereafter to lead backpacking, canoe outings and dayhikes.

In 1999 Austin joined his first International Sierra Club trip to Grand Paradiso National Park in the Italian Alps. Since then he has participated in numerous international outings. At our April program, he will discuss the International Outings program, their destinations, their requirements for participation, prices, and he will take us on a pictorial tour of some of the most scenic outings he has participated in throughout Europe, Asia and South America. This will be a program you won’t want to miss.

Fun Volunteer Event to benefit Dallas Inner City Outings Outreach Program

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area and Wildlife Management Area

Saturday, April 28

Thanks to Starbucks “Make Your Mark” community giving program, your volunteer time at this event will result in grant funds for the Dallas ICO program.

Have fun along side Starbucks’ employees, adult Sierra Club and ICO volunteers, and ICO youth participants while we work together to improve LLELA trails. Free time to explore other trails, frontier village, river areas and maybe see a buffalo or two! For more information, add your email address to ICO listserv (option at bottom of home page for dallas.sierraclub.org), or contact Liz Wheelan, Liz@dallas.sierraclub.org or 214-568-2306.
The Ten Essential Groups: An Updated Approach to Outdoor Safety

The ten essentials have a history as far back as the 1930’s and were created by the Mountaineers, a Seattle-based outdoor organization. After new climbing students often showed up for a climb with inadequate gear, a list of essential items became necessary to require on trips. The original list included matches, fire starter, map, compass, flashlight (extra batteries and bulb), extra food, extra clothing, sunglasses, first aid kit, and pocket knife. Over the decades this list has undoubtedly saved lives. The problem with a single list of ten items is that any given trip may need more than ten items for safety or comfort. Nearly every ten essentials list seen today has ten items and then a few more.

In my weekly reading from backpacking and preparedness websites, the thought of making a list combining ideas from both of those groups came about. That list has turned out to be the “Ten Essential Groups” listed below. It is a grouped listing of items for review to determine what is best for a particular outing. For example, a backpacking trip to Arkansas in March might have one set of essentials, but a snowshoe trip to Taos in February will have additional essential items. Some items in the groups have multiple uses, and some items such as a map and compass should never be left out of your gearlist. Other trips (paddling, caving, hiking or canyoneering) will have more items in the tools group specific to that sport. Gaining outdoor skills knowledge by taking a class specific to your chosen sport is recommended. In the worst case scenario, having the gear to remain dry, warm and hydrated until rescued is the goal.

The Ten Essential Groups

Medical - ID/medical tag, first aid kit, medications, insect repellant. In addition to the usual first aid kit contents, identification with pertinent medical information is good to have along. That information should include your next-of-kin’s phone number, allergies, major diseases such as diabetes or hypertension, etc. Some people even carry an “ABC Kit” (Airway, Breathing, Circulation), an emergency kit stored in an accessible location (not in the bottom of your pack) that includes gloves, a pressure bandage, a mouth protector (for CPR), instructions on pressure points and rescue breathing, a Ziploc bag for biohazard materials, an accident report form, etc. Seconds may count in emergency situations.

Shelter - raingear, garbage bags, emergency blanket, bivy sack, tarp, tent, rope. A shelter from the elements might range anywhere from garbage bags to rain gear to a tent depending on the dayhike or overnight outing.

Fire - matches, lighter, sparker/tinder, Fresnel lens, stove/fuel. Many preparedness websites recommend having three ways to start a fire. Even though fires are not permitted on most Sierra Club trips except in an emergency, fire making skills are essential to learn.

Hydration - water container, purification method. The importance of staying hydrated cannot be emphasized enough both for the enjoyment of an outing and for survival in the event of an accident or emergency.

Communication - safety plan, whistle, pen/pencil and paper, signal mirror, cellular phone, satellite phone, HAM radio, personal locator beacon. This group contains items that may allow you to, more quickly, get found if lost or rescued if injured. Simply leaving a safety plan with a loved-one will allow Search and Rescue to find you or your group quicker.

Navigation - map, compass, light, altimeter, GPS. Map and compass skills are mandatory. Other items such as a GPS can be a great addition.

Nutrition - extra food, fishing kit. An extra day of food is always a good idea. In a survival situation lasting days, some advocate a fishing kit small enough to fit inside a pill container.

Insulation - jacket, hat, gloves, footwear, foam pad. Proper clothing for the anticipated temperature range is necessary.

Sun Protection - sunscreen, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat. Protection from ultraviolet rays is needed for the prevention of debilitating sunburn, skin cancer and snow blindness. Sunburn may also make one susceptible to thermoregulation problems as well.

Tools - knife, repair kit, wristwatch, bandana. This group includes miscellaneous items for cutting, repairing gear, and the multipurpose bandana. The listed items may change for other sports.

Hikers on the Crest Trail in the White Mountains Wilderness in New Mexico. Hike the White Mountains on our Memorial Day bus trip. See the outings list for details.
MAR 9-11 (FR-SUN) FLOAT THE BUFFALO RIVER FROM YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA. MILES The Buffalo National River flows thru the hills north of Arkansas. The river is very pretty and fun to paddle. The river has lots of twists and turns but no navigational difficulties. Visit the Gilbert General Store in Gilbert, Arkansas Friday morning at 9:00 AM and take an outfitter shuttle to Carver. The Gilbert General Store has camping and cabin rentals available. They rent canoes and provide the shuttle. They have a website at [www.gilbertgeneralstore.com](http://www.gilbertgeneralstore.com) for details and availability. The trip size is limited; so, call 1-800-487-9576 or 1-870-785-9234 for reservations.

MAR 10 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8-10 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd and Northwest Blvd. This is a great area for bird watching, as well as a service to the public. There is a grassy area with benches, and a parking lot for your vehicle. Parking is limited.

MAR 10-11 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK SUGAR MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA Hike one of the most scenic Wilderness areas in Arkansas in the Caney Creek Wilderness of western Arkansas. Saturday we'll enjoy the views from the ridge tops Buckeye Mountain Trail. Sunday we'll hike out along the creek bottoms of the Caney Creek Trail. With any luck we will see deer, turkey, and maybe even a bobcat or two etc. This is a moderate hike suitable for beginners in good shape.

MAR 15 (SUN) BIKE THE WHITEROCK TRAIL Cycle the trail for one of the longest continuous trail rides in the state. From the Whitewater Preserve to the Middle Fork Sinks to the Arkansas River at Mountain Home. The ride is 110 miles of backroads.

MAR 23-25 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK AT MCGEE CREEK IN OKLAHOMA This is a great trip for beginners - easy hiking, nice scenery, and close to Dallas. The area is designated as a natural scenic recreation area and has thick woods, scenic bluffs, and interesting trails going down into the creek. There will be a shuttle back to camp, then plenty of opportunities for day hiking or just hanging out. The trip will start late Saturday morning, so you can stay home Friday night if you prefer. Leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h) or mcggie@earthlink.net

MAR 25 (TUE) GREEN DRINKS FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS From 6:30 on Tuesday evening at the usual location at the Dallas Arboretum. Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781 or bgreer@earthlink.net or another environmentalist at Don Pablo's, 817-964-0915. Bring a beverage and enjoy socializing with other environmentalists at Don Pablo's, 817-964-0915.

APR 1 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH Plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817 283-8226, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. $5 for adults, $4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table, Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-998-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@vnetmail.com

APR 1 (SUN) ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB OUTING An all-day trek along the Little Red River near Little Rock. Usually in 1 or 2 hours with rest stops. Suitable for single, untrained students. Meet 8 AM at the University of Arkansas parking lot on Oak Street, just north of Wynn. Take Oak Lane Exit off I-40, then exit off Center St. No reservations needed. Leader: Austin Brouns 214-528-3812(h)

APR 7-8 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK ACROSS THE LITTLE RED RIVER WILDLIFE AND SCENIC RIVER IN WESTERN ARKANSAS. The Little Red River is a wild and scenic river. We will be hiking along a stream, the stream is fairly flat and will require a few stream crossings. The tress and wildflowers should be blooming then. Take your camera as there are many scenic spots along the route. This trip is fairly easy and is suitable for beginners. Leader: Marcie Lowe 972-234-2546(h) or mjorge@juno.com

APR 14 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8-10 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd and Northwest Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine recreation areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards. Leader: Carol Nash 214-824-0244(h) or crnash@dallas.sierraclub.org

APR 14-15 (SAT-SUN) PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK CAMPING Saturday day hike to Jones Spring and eat lunch. Saturday evening cook dinner on the grill. Sunday morning go to Honey Pothole and hike 2 miles round trip to the Pedernales River. Lunch will be at The Salt Lick in Driftwood where the trip will end. The park is west of Austin, about four hours from Dallas. This is the peak of the wildflower season in the hill country. Leader: Greg Holman 214-389-0811(h) or greg90937@earthlink.net

APR 18 (WED) OUTFITTING COMMITTEE MEETING Meet at the upstroms park room at RCJ (north side of UBJ between Midway and Wychol). At 7:30 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and national outings, and interested Sierra members are welcome. Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h) or bgreer@earthlink.net.

APR 24 (TUE) GREEN DRINKS FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS From 6:30 on Tuesday evening at the usual location at the Dallas Arboretum. Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781 or bgreer@earthlink.net or another environmentalist at Rios Mangome, 817-354-3214, 5150 Hwy 121 Colleyville, 76034.

APR 30 (SUN) BIRCHMONT TRIPLE CROWN BIKE Ride from 8 AM to 4 PM. Meet at the top of the Crest, just north of Wynn. Take Oak Lane Exit off I-40, then exit off Center St. No reservations needed. Leader: Austin Brouns 214-528-3812(h)

MAY 6 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH Thai Jasmine, 817 283-8226, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. $8 for adults, $4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table, Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-998-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@vnetmail.com

MAY 12 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8-10 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd. and Northwest Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine recreation areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards. Leader: Carol Nash 214-824-0244(h) or crnash@dallas.sierraclub.org

MAY 12-13 (SAT-SUN) KEY EXCHANGE LACOSA LITTLE RED RIVER WILDLIFE AND SCENIC RIVER IN WESTERN ARKANSAS This popular trail is justifiably famous for its scenery, great campgrounds, and easy hiking. It is seldom hiked to cost is for all riders in the car, including the driver, to divide the cost of transportation equally, before the departure. Be sure this is some other method is agreed upon.

Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted in the outing description. To sign up for an outing, contact the leader. The leader will decide if the trip you are interested in is suitable for you based on your abilities and the demands of the trip. There is usually a limit of number of people allowed on each outing. 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 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 the leader of the outing listed in the email address listed under the leader's name.

MARCH/APRIL 2007

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Notice: to receive the outings list monthly via email, visit www.dallasierraclub.org/subscribe
Hundreds Rally to Stop the Coal Rush

by Pryor Lawson

On February 11, a rally at the Capitol in Austin brought hundreds of people from all over Texas—Tyler, Longview, Athens, Fairfield, Bonham, Sherman, D/FW, Waco, Georgetown, Austin, San Marcos, San Antonio, Houston, Uncertain (yes, that’s really a town in Texas), and other parts of the state. Above the Capitol dome flew a small monoplane and its trailing banner, a photo of a grimy-visaged urchin with a message that stated the theme of the rally plainly: “Face it: Coal is Filthy.”

The rally to “Stop the Coal Rush” (see www.stopthecoalrush.com), a response to Governor Rick Perry’s intent to fast-track permits for dirty coal-fired power plants, was held under gray skies on a chilly winter day, but that didn’t subdue the festive yet determined participants’ spirits. A band called Diddley Squat warmed up the crowd with some old-time rock’n’roll, and then it was time to begin serious business.

Led by masters of ceremonies Sam Canup, mayor of Uncertain, and our own Ann Drumm, speaker after speaker came forward to the podium on the Capitol steps to voice their concerns about the proposed coal plants. Some notable speakers and their salient points:

--Charles “Doc” Anderson: Mr. Anderson, a Republican state representative from Waco, has filed House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 43, calling for a moratorium on the plant permits. He noted that nine of the plants would be located within a hundred miles of eight million people and three river basins, and that, contrary to the claims of the plants’ proponents, Texas faces “no immediate crisis” in meeting its energy needs. His moratorium (which, at the time of this writing, still needs a sponsor in the state senate) would buy time to analyze the problems that the plants would create and examine other possible solutions for the future. “This is not about moving left or moving right,” he added, emphasizing the bipartisan support that HCR 43 will need, “it’s about moving forward.”

--Michael Garrison: Professor of Architecture at UT Austin, Michael Garrison is a self-described “solar enthusiast” (check him out on the internet). He noted that there is enough solar energy falling on Texas every ninety minutes to “power the world.” And he compared the “green” practices of Austin Energy, the power company for Austin, with those of TXU and other coal-loving companies, stating that “Austin Energy has saved the equivalent of 600 megawatts.”

--Dr. Gregg Scheff: Dr. Scheff, of Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility, spoke of the health effects that the plants would produce: increased asthma, heart attacks, lung disease, damage from toxic mercury emissions, and, of course, more global warming gases to contend with.

--Rev. Greg Rickel: Reverend Rickel, of the St. James Episcopal Church in Austin, spoke of the moment in Genesis in which God gave humankind dominion over all living things, “appointing us as the beings most responsible to other beings.”

Ann Drumm announced that fifty organizations had lined up behind the moratorium, and that opposition to the fast-track process included farmers and ranchers, religious organizations, and business owners. What was perhaps most heartening at the rally, however, was the large number of young people—including teenagers—who attended and spoke out. Their message was clear: they are the ones who will suffer most for the short-sighted, greedy actions of today.

Several people who attended the rally on Sunday stayed in Austin overnight to visit their representatives personally on Monday. For the rest of us, contacting our legislators—by phone, or by snail mail or email—is imperative. Keep abreast of updates by visiting the Sierra Club website or at stopthecoalrush.com.

General Calendar

3/7 • 4/4 First Wednesday. The Executive Committee (or Excom - the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club) and other Club leaders meet to discuss Club business and plan for the future. See www.dallassierraclub.org/calendar for details, or contact the Group Chair.

3/12 • 4/9 Monday before General Meeting. Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to editors@dallassierraclub.org.

3/13 • 4/10 Second Tuesday, Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Come to the Center for Spiritual Living located at 12005 Hillcrest Road, Suite 115. Contact the center at 214-363-8300. See www.dallassierraclub.org for directions. Come early to pick up activity materials and afterwards join the socializing at Pappa’s Pizza.

3/21 • 4/18 Third Wednesday, Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapco 14Q). Discuss schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

3/27 • 4/24 Fourth Tuesday, Inner City Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapco 14Q). All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

4/25 Fourth Wednesday, Newsletter Mailing Party at 7:00 PM at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest and Churchill Way (Mapco 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Contact Charlotte Forst at 972-248-7581 or just show up.
end due to the loopoing car shuttle. We’ll get around that on this hike by starting groups from both ends of the trail. We’ll camp together Saturday night high on the car parking area, and hike out on to each other’s cars. Sunday we’ll meet again and travel together.”

May 25-29 (FRI-TUE) MEMORIAL DAY BUS TRIP TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS Mountain Wilderness Area contains about 48,000 acres located in the Sierra Blanca Mountains near Socorro, New Mexico, near the Ruidoso, N.M. area. The area contains a rugged, rocky landscape with some of the best views and sunsets to be found anywhere. Many unique geological features are found in the forested canyons on the gently sloping east side of the ridge. The main trail runs along the top of this ridge and is known as the Crown Trail. The Crown features some of the best views and sunsets to be found anywhere.

August 30-SEP 4 (THU-LABOR DAY BUS TRIP TO THE WEMINICHE WILDERNESS IN COLORADO). This trip features the highest mountain in the state, the 14,353’ high Mt. Elbert. The trip includes a bus ride through the Arapaho National Forest and besides hiking and backpacking, there is also an opportunity to make a thrilling trip down the ‘Economic Canyon’ river. The trip is limited to 24 people and registration closes on July 28th.

November 21-28 (WED-MON) THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK. The Dallas Safari Club is sponsoring an exciting trip to Big Bend National Park, one of the most remote and least-traveled areas in the United States. The trip includes visits to the Chisos Mountains and the Rio Grande River. The trip is limited to 24 people and registration closes on November 10th.

Singles Outings

MAR 11 (SUN) SINGLES HOUSE CONCERT AND POTLUCK 6 PM. The Farmers Branch Watch for complete details. Contact: Paul Heller 972-620-1703 (H) or paheller@coastal.net.

MAR 14 (WED) MID-SUBURBAN SIERRA SINGLES Mingle at 6:30; dinner at 7. Contact: Terri Jenkins 972-988-8667 x3101 (W) or sfw@msn.com.

MAR 14 (WED) MID-SUBURBAN SIERRA SINGLES Dinner at 6:30; enjoy dinner at 7. Contact: Terri Jenkins 972-988-8667 x3101 (W) or sfw@msn.com.

MAR 14 (WED) FORT WORTH SIERRA SINGLES Dinner at 6:30 at the Fort Worth Club. Contact: Terri Jenkins 972-988-8667 x3101 (W) or sfw@msn.com.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Citizen Advocacy in Action

One of our supporters recently sent us a check with the instruction, “Lobby like hell.” That’s exactly what many Dallas-area Sierrans are doing.

About 200 Dallas-area citizens, including many Sierra Club members, traveled to Austin in February for the “Stop the Coal Rush” rally and lobby day. Organized by a coalition of organizations, the purpose was to voice support for HCR 43, a resolution asking for an 18-day moratorium on the permitting of more coal-fired power plants.

For many, it was their first foray into citizen advocacy. Some were students from local area colleges. Some were new Sierra Club members, and others personally met with a legislator. Some were parents and grandparents who hadn’t been to Raleigh since the late 1960s.

All were united by an understanding that there are better ways to power Texas’ future than to rely on a dirty fuel and outdated technology that will exacerbate air pollution and global warming, with all the attendant public health, economic and environmental consequences.

I brought personal experience into my visits with my home energy audit notebook and the recommendations it made to lower my home energy use by 38%. It’s a concrete example of the potential of energy efficiency to meet our needs. A study published in January by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Ceres shows how efficiency can meet Texas’ needs more quickly and cheaply than building new supplies, with net economic benefits for the state. Called “Power to Save: An Alternative Path to Meet Electric Needs in Texas”, it’s worth your time to read. Download it at www.ceres.org/pub.

My own teenagers went with me and learned that they have power to influence policies that will affect them and their generations to come. (They also noted how young many of the legislators’ staff members are.) I was proud of all the young people who showed up to participate in the process rather than sit back and indulge their cynicism and apathy.

Back in North Texas, our Cool Cities campaign continues. So far we have successfully persuaded the mayors of Richardson, Carrollton, Coppell and Westlake to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Other teams are working on Addison, Allen, Bedford, Flower Mound, Forney, Garland, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Irving, Lewisville, Mesquite, Plano, and Van Alstyne. Teams will continue to be formed for other areas of the campaign.

Sierrans are also attending and testifying at hearings locally and in Austin on the North Texas clean air plan and the coal plant permits.

The challenges that we face are daunting, and none of us alone has the power to solve them. But we all have the power every day to get up and be part of the solution. We have the power to motivate, inspire, and educate others through our own example and through our activism.

So be part of our citizen advocacy work. Come to our monthly general meetings and conservation committee meetings, send me an email and sign up for the next Cool Cities training. Subscribe to the Conservation News email list and get notices about volunteer opportunities and trainings.

However you choose to do it, exercise your power and responsibility. And lobby like hell.

Ann Drumm
Dallas Sierra Club Chair
214-350-6108
ann@dallassieracclub.org

*Sign up at www.dallassieracclub.org.

Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following are privately sponsored and administered trips. Sierra Club takes no responsibility and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision, management or management of these trips. They are published as a service because they may be of interest to readers of this list.

APR 27-29 (FRI-SUN) 28TH ANNUAL TEXAS WILDERNESS POW WOW. Come to the woods of East Texas for guided nature walks, live music, interesting programs, a great campfire, and surprise features. This year’s Pow Wow will be held for the first time ever at Double Lake Recreation Area in Sam Houston National Forest. Sponsored by the Texas Committee on Natural Resources. For more information: TCORN 512-441-1122 (W) or tcorn@tx.net or www.bcnz.org

APR 27-28 (FRI-SAT) BACKPACK TRIP TO GRAND CULPE - Backpacking trip to Grand Gulch in southeastern Utah to see Ancient Puebloan ruins and rock art. Expect a 5000’ climb out at the end in moderate heat. Ride in Coco van or rent or fly to Albuququrque and rent a car. Leave after work April 27 return evening of April 28. We will day hike one other park on the way home. Leader: Donald Purinton 972-985-1774(H) or dpurinton@verizon.net

Photo by Cheryl Leimbach

MARCH/APRIL 2007
Wendell A. Withrow
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Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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