ICO Outreach Program Partners with Starbucks to Transplant Native Plants at LLELA

By Lisa R. Gewax

ICO outings are always fun, but April 28th was a truly great day. Volunteers from Starbucks, Inner City Outings, the Sierra Club and the community joined 34 seventh and eighth graders from Dallas’s Pegasus School, a partner agency with ICO, for a service day at the Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area. There were two important tasks for everyone - there were over 200 native plants rescued from Garland and Richardson to replant, and there were bugs to find and count! The “Make Your Mark” event started with coffee and tea for the adults, hot chocolate for the kids and pastries for everyone, all compliments of Starbucks. Everyone was divided into teams and trekked off to their sites. The first site was to an empty field (almost ½ acre) where holes where dug and native plants planted and watered. The participants then planted shrubs by each finished planting, leaving a field of orange flags and rescued foxgloves, prairie phlox, purple coneflowers, purple prairie clover, and other beautiful blooming plants. Everyone’s amazing efforts resulted in getting all 36 bins planted. That’s over 200 plants! Teams also went bug gathering in a nearby meadow waving large butterfly nets through the tall grass and emptying the many bugs inside into a specimen box. LLELA’s education coordinator Lisa Cole put the bugs into a jar filled with alcohol at the end of the day to preserve the sample. She will collect another sample in a few months so a comparison can be done to show the variety and quantity of insects to Saturday’s sample to see if the new plants create an attraction for bugs in the area. The LLELA staff, volunteers, teachers, and students all learned a lot from each other and had a great time. The kids also learned how fragile nature can be and the importance of protecting it.

Many thanks to Violette (“Vi”) Barrett with Starbucks for partnering with Dallas ICO to make the “Make Your Mark” day possible. Thanks also to all the volunteers from Starbucks, Dallas ICO, Dallas Sierra Club and the community, and to Jennifer Hoag, Associate Principal, Noel Navarrete, Teacher and all the participating students from Pegasus for spending their Saturday doing something great for Texas! Many thanks also to Ken Steigman, Lisa Cole and Richard Freiheit with LLELA for your guidance and teaching everyone about plants and bugs and for providing a safe haven for these otherwise doomed native Texas plants that would have been lost to bulldozers the following day.

When the event was ending, a 13 year old student looked around at what had been done and said “I never knew one person or group could make such a difference.”

Yes, it was a truly great day.

Labor Day Bus Trip

Since our first trip to the area in 2000, the Dallas Sierra Club has been visiting the magnificent Weminuche Wilderness in southwestern Colorado every Labor Day holiday. Everyone who has been to the area raves about it. So, we keep going back. If you haven’t been to the Weminuche, you owe it to yourself to see one of the most spectacular areas of Colorado. If you’ve been there on a previous bus trip, you already know what a wonderful area this is. You’ll want to go back and explore another trail.

Our trip goes to the remote north slope of the Weminuche. This area is only lightly visited because it is very remote. No large cities or airports serve the area and only a remote state highway provides access. Our bus trip will include 5 different backpacking trips rated from moderate to strenuous. All of the hikes will have ample water and visit lightly used campsites. This area has great wildlife viewing potential. In past years we saw moose, bear, mountain goats, elk, and coyotes.

It takes a little longer to get to the Weminuche Wilderness than our other bus trip destinations. The trip will leave Dallas on Thursday, August 30 at 4:00 PM. This will require some of us to take a day of vacation on Friday. We will return to Dallas at about 5:00 AM on Tuesday, September 4.

If you can take Friday off and spend a few extra hours on the bus, you must visit the Weminuche Wilderness. The Weminuche Wilderness offers a special wilderness experience including hiking through aspen and conifer, camping beside rushing streams, visiting clear mountain lakes, and standing on a high alpine meadow with 60 mile views in every direction. Come end the summer with us in this special place. Visit www.Dallas SierraClub.org/Outings for complete details.
JULY/AUGUST PROGRAMS

July 2007 Program

In July, the Dallas Sierra Club is honored to have a local “Ambassador” come speak to us about some of the science of climate change. Dr. Marcy Brown-Marsden, Chairman of the Biology Department at the University of Dallas, will be here to talk to us about the realities of our changing climate, and what steps we can individually and collectively do to combat the threat of climate change. Dr. Brown-Marsden has worked at the university teaching a wide range of courses from ecology and animal behavior, to biostatistics, Darwin, and evolutionary biology. She has received the Marcus Chair in Environmental Science, and the Haggard Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Off campus, Dr. Brown-Marsden serves on the boards of several nonprofit and city organizations. At the state level she serves as the chair of Audubon’s state JBA scientific committee, and as part of the avifauna working group for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, by Texas Parks and Wildlife. She also serves annually on the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship panel in Washington, D.C. Recently, Dr. Brown-Marsden was selected for The Climate Project, a program led by former Vice President Al Gore, with the goal of making presentations in and around Dallas-Fort Worth, discussing how individuals and businesses, schools, and other organizations can be a major part of the solution to the growing crisis of global warming.

Rumor has it that she is bringing Al Gore with her to assist her with the presentation, but we can’t substantiate that at this point. This is sure to be an interesting and fascinating presenter you won’t want to miss. So please join us.

August 2007 Program

OK all of you avid gardeners. We know that August isn’t the best time of year to be planting things, but fall is just around the corner and it is the best time of year to be planting things. And there are no better plants to incorporate into your landscapes than Texas natives that thrive in our brutally hot summers. Native plants are well adapted to our temperatures, our rainfall averages, and our soil types. They attract beneficial insects, they provide food sources for wildlife, and they are beautiful too – many species bloom for several months, and if you plant the right assortment of natives, you can practically have year-round color.

In August, professional native landscape designers and organic gardening experts David & Christy Lifrey with NativeDave.com will be here to talk to us about the benefits of planting native plants in our landscapes. What has come to be coined “Xeriscaping” in many instances involves something as simple as planting the types of plants that have always grown in this region, and are used to the elements it presents. Dave and Christy will be focusing on how planting water miser plantings can help minimize the drain on our precious water resources from mechanical irrigation, and additionally how gardening organically can protect our vital watersheds from toxic chemicals. With Fall just around the corner, this is a highly educational and entertaining program you will definitely want to attend.

And as if that wasn’t enough for one evening, your Program Chair and Organic Gardening aficionado, Bryan Carpenter, will be educating us with a short program on “The Soil Food Web.” What is that you ask? You’ll have to come to the meeting to find out. So please join us in August.
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

What You Think of Us

The Dallas Sierra Club recently conducted an online survey to help us make some decisions. It yielded some interesting comments about how well you think we're doing our job, and it points to some opportunities for you to help us expand the areas in which we work.

Based on the information you provided, the ExCom has decided to further the number of issues of The Compass we publish each year. As you know, we've been slowly moving away from reliance on paper communications toward greater reliance on electronic communications. We'll soon be moving to a bi-monthly publication schedule for The Compass (six issues a year).

Among potential volunteer activities, the greatest interest was expressed in educating children on conservation issues. That is an area where we have very little to offer right now. We don't currently work in schools, but we could if a group of interested volunteers would put together a curriculum and make it happen. Energy efficiency, water conservation, and recycling are obvious topics that we could help educate kids about. So if this is something that appeals to you, bring a proposal to our Conservation Committee and let's see what kind of program we can build in this area.

Most respondents expressed interest in "seminars on green living", and our general meeting programs on that topic have been well-received. How can we get the message out to more people? Respondents were also interested in the idea of specific topic discussions at a local restaurant. Both of these ideas merit further discussion at a Conservation Committee meeting.

Many people express interest in the club's work but profess a lack of time to get involved personally. I think people avoid getting involved in volunteer organizations because they fear being drawn into a bigger commitment than they reasonably can handle. Our response should be to create meaningful opportunities that don't require a large investment of time and to be respectful of limits on people's time. But we can't just ask current club leaders to create more programs. We need your participation if we are to expand our volunteer offerings.

The praise we received from survey respondents was gratifying. We're glad you think we're doing a good job. And to the handful who think we're not, my response is: come help us do better. Don't just sit on the sidelines and criticize.

Here's what I ask of you:

- Subscribe to our email lists. Go to www.dallasierraclub.org and click the "stay informed" link on the navigation bar.
- Attend the monthly Conservation Committee meeting. It's always on the 4th Thursday, but the location varies. The best way to get details about each month's meeting is through the Conservation News email list, which you can subscribe to on our website.
- Make a commitment to help us improve our programs. Set your personal boundaries about the limits of your involvement, and we'll do our best to respect them.

Your participation will redefine our relationship from one of "you and me" to "us", which is the only pronoun that really matters.

Ann Drum
Dallas Sierra Club Chair
ann@dallasierraclub.org
214-350-6108

General Calendar

7/9 (not usual date due to holiday) • 8/1 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.dallasierraclub.org/calendar for details, or contact the Group Chair.

7/9 • 8/13 Monday before General Meeting. Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to editors@dallasierraclub.org.

7/10 • 8/14 Second Tuesday. Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Come to the Center for Spiritual Living located at International Place Business Center, 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115. Check www.dallasierraclub.org for directions. Come early to pick up activity materials and afterwards join the socializing at Pappa’s Pizza.

7/18 • 8/15 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.

8/28 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. No meeting will be held in July.

8/29 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. Just show up.
JUL 7 (SAT) RAY ROBERTS GREENBELT DAYHIKE This trail follows a dean branch of the Trinity River below Lake Ray Roberts through a nice patch of woods. We’ll do an 8 to 10 mile dayhike at what passes for me as a fast pace. (Figure on 20 minute miles.) We’ll pretend we’re in the mountains so don’t nod off at the bench or hike some; you can stop for a rest for a nap and/or pick up the pace. (One stop at the bench to enjoy the water along the trail so bring plenty. Bring a snack for a break at the turn-around. Bring some rain gear just in case. The date changes $5 admission to the park. Meet at the Green Belt Condon Park on Westlake about 3 miles east of Denton at 8:00am. Optional: optional stop at Star Deck. No reservations required. If in doubt about the weather call me on the cell phone Saturday morning leader: Dan Johnson. 972-243-0970 or 972-800-0729C or wagner@verizon.net.

JUL 14 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP and STAFF 2007. Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club’s adopted section of White Rock Lake near the park. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration 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 or cris@ dallassj.org.

JUL 15-16 (SAT-SUN) EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BASIL CHILLS CANOE TRIP. Celebrate this French national holiday more in the French way, at a “out and back” revolution with our annual canoe trip on the Red River. We’ll put in at the Kenli Park on the Red River at 9:00 PM and take out Sunday at 5:30 PM. We’ll spend the day canoeing, paddling, and camping on a large sandbar Saturday evening. We’ll spend the night on the sandbar to take a few swim stops on the way. Saturday morning, we’ll cook breakfast and you must furnish your own canoe and camping equipment. Also, you must bring something French, or you will be pillaged at dawn. Leader: Arthur Kuehn 214-922-9260(3) or artifact@akuehn.com.

JUL 15 (SAT) SUNDAY SUNDAY LUNCH Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 PM. Regularly $10, $1 off for Sierra Club members. (972) 243-0970) 2320 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75220 just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen earnt@fortworthemail.com and James Bisy 469-371-1938(H)

JUL 18 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING. Meet in the upstairs program room at the Dallas Sierra Club Clubhouse (on the SW corner of LBJ between Midway and Welsh), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for a Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome. Ask Bill to be placed on the email list: Bill Truex 214-922-1761(H) or wagner@verizon.net.

JUL 21 (SAT) CARS, FOOD, AND PLANET EARTH: How to keep the planet green. Dr. Harch Chandra, an internal combustion scientist, speaks to the Mid-Southern Sierra Club on the interactions between the cars we drive, the food we eat, and our planet. 5 pm. Community room in Healthy Approach Market, 5:00 PM at 121, Coitville, between Hall-Johnson and Glade on west side of freeway. Remain to eat dinner at adjacent Rio Pecos after Dr. Chandra speaks. Organizer: Terry Jensen earnt@fortworthemail.com.

AUG 8 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP and STAFF 2007. 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 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northwest corner of Garland Rd and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration 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 or cris@dallassj.org.

SEP 8 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP and STAFF 2007. 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 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northwest corner of Garland Rd and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration 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 or cris@dallassj.org.

SEP 15 (SAT) BEGINNER BACKPACKING CLASS. Aimed at beginners; this is an introduction to backpacking and outdoor skills. No experience is necessary and no prior arrangement required. The fee is $20 for Sierra Club members and $30 for non-members (cash or check). You can sign up to be a Sierra Club member at the class. No reservations are necessary, just showing up. The class will be held at 9:00 AM at the LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welsh). The class will start at 10:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. Coordinator: Arthur Kuehn 214-922-9260(1) or artifact@dallassiercclub.org.

SEP 16 (TUE) AND SEP 20 (THU) WATERFORD MISSION NAVIGATION CLASS. Learn the fundamentals of finding your way in the wilderness. In five one-hour sessions. Only $60. All ages welcome. Individual schedules. Please RSVP by 7:00 PM to the contact below. Contact: Peter Wilson 214-327-1134.

JUL 24 (TUE) YOUNG SIERRANS’ HAPPY HOUR: If you know what a “non-tie” is or you’re a “fodle” fan, then please join the Young Sierrans for Happy Hour at the Londoner Pub - Addison (www.londonerd.com), Addison, TX 75201 at 6:00 PM. If 20030s are welcome, you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. The Londoner has a diverse food (veggie approved!) and adult beverage menu. We’ve reserved a room on the second floor for out-of-towners. Please RSVP by 7:00 PM to the contact below. Contact: Peter Wilson 214-327-1134.

HOW THE OUTING PROGRAM WORKS

Dallas Sierra Club Outings are open to members and non-members. Some trips may require special qualifications or capabilities. The leaders of Sierra Club outings 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. Outings directors have encouraged participants to increase their skills and, if they do, you will 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). RHC is at 4651 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welsh). This class will be held at REI (second floor program room). RHC is at 4651 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welsh). This two-night class will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 8:00 PM. Also included is an optional weekend backpacking trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness in Arkansas on October 7-8. This trip will give you an experience to practice your new navigation and map reading skills. The fee for the outing is $60 for Sierra Club members and $20 for non-members (cash or check). No reservations are necessary, just show up. For more information: Arthur Kuehn 214-922-9260(3) or artifact@akuehn.com and 214-824-0244 or wagoner@verizon.net.

NOTICE: To receive the outings list monthly via email, visit www.dallassiercclub.org/subscribe

THE COMPASS: A Publication of the Dallas Sierra Club:

This week features:

**Sierra Club Outings**

**How the Outings Program Works**

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**Young Sierrans Outings**

JUL 24 (TUE) YOUNG SIERRANS’ HAPPY HOUR: If you know what a “non-tie” is or you’re a “fodle” fan, then please join the Young Sierrans for Happy Hour at the Londoner Pub - Addison (www.londonerd.com), Addison, TX 75201 at 6:00 PM. If 20030s are welcome, you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. The Londoner has a diverse food (veggie approved!) and adult beverage menu. We’ve reserved a room on the second floor for out-of-towners. Please RSVP by 7:00 PM to the contact below. Contact: Peter Wilson 214-327-1134.
Kids with Backpacks
An Interview with backpacking parents Ken Woolley and Dana Geldon See

“Our people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.” John Muir.

To children, not only will the trees speak, but also the flowers, bugs, and rocks.

This month, Compass editor and Outings Corner contributor Laura Kimberly interviews two families who have hit the trail to share the wonder of wilderness with their kids. Jake was five years old on his first three-day, six-mile roundtrip backpack. At age eight, Hunter’s first overnight was a two-day, eighteen-mile roundtrip with almost 2,500 feet in elevation gain. Noah, Emily, Anna, and Elizabeth ranged from ages six to ten on their first overnight trip. Elizabeth, Jake, and Hunter have even been on Dallas Group bus trips. Dana Geldon See and Ken Woolley tell their families’ stories and give advice.

Editor: How did you know the kids were ready? (How did you know you were ready?)

DGS: We knew Hunter was ready physically because he had completed several long day-hikes including a five-mile trek with a 1,500-foot elevation gain. As for mental readiness, he had heard many stories from his Dad and me about our adventures and expressed interest in going along.

KW: It was easy to know I was ready. I like to backpack. I have kids. It is easier to take them with me than to figure out where they go while I am gone. Besides, they want to go with me.

Editor: How did you choose location, distance, and days, and go about planning the trip?

Both families choose a trail with an interesting destination: close enough for the kids to reach, trail not too steep or technical, interesting enough to prevent boredom for kids or adults.

KW: The proper planning up front takes some effort to match kid’s abilities to mileage, elevation gain, and difficulty level. If you have a good destination with an appropriate difficulty level, everyone will have fun. Err on the side of easy. Our early trips were low mileage and included a rest day.

DGS: We have two- and three-person tents. The kids stay together in their own tents. We pitch them in close proximity, but not door to door. One night, Noah had a bad dream and came over to tell us about it. Amazingly he walked across the camp without a flash light. That was when we realized a night light near our tents would help the kids navigate after dark.

Editor: What do you do when the kids get scared, bored (does that happen?), tired?

DGS: Memories of bee stings and fire ant bites are the fear factors. We always take an antihistamine as well as a pain reliever in our first aid kit and make sure we know the dosage for a child of his weight. Now, we keep an eye out for stinging creatures. To combat boredom, we carry cards and an activity book, or find a natural solution.

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Woodson Place “Parkscape Community” Receives Lone Star Land Steward Award for Conservation Development

by Tom Harvey, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas leads the nation in the loss of green open space, with homes, building and roads replacing what used to be wildlife habitat, a trend that threatens people and water and air quality as well as wildlife. The Woodson Place “conservation development” on the eastern edge of the Metroplex represents part of the solution, and for this reason is the first residential developer/builder to earn a Lone Star Land Steward Award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The 12-year-old Lone Land Steward Awards program recognizes accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The Woodson Place is being recognized as the first Texas community to integrate “greenbuilt” homes with conservation development goals of parkscape living, wildlife habitat preservation, and native plant wildscaping. The award was presented May 23 in Austin.

The Woodson Place also earned statewide recognition in 2005 when its model “Idea Home” became one of the few to achieve a top, 5-star rating under the Austin Green Building Program, the world’s oldest and largest such program with more than 5,000 homes rated.

The Woodson Place is located north of Canton about 80 miles east of Dallas in the post oak savannah between Lakes Tawakoni and Fork. It is a small-scale residential development led by the seventh generation owners of a 108-year-old family farm. More than half of the community’s 66 acres are preserved as shared woodlands, meadows, ponds, and trails, professionally managed for recreation and wildlife habitat.

“The Woodson Place’s innovative way of managing wildlife and natural resources to provide a home for people and wildlife is a model for other developments to emulate in today’s changing Texas,” said Linda Campbell, TPWD Private Lands Program director. “By demonstrating how residential development and conservation can co-exist, The Woodson Place is part of an important emerging trend in the state to shape new thinking and approaches at a time when suburban sprawl and rural land fragmentation are causing an escalating loss of open space.”

The Woodson Place’s “Idea Home” serves as an interpretive center to demonstrate native plant wildscaping and green building methods. Lot buyers

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Outings Corner
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During one rainy spell, we thought we were stuck in the tent, but Hunter put on his rain gear and played outside. Singing can keep a sluggish child going for a while. Our favorite tune is “The Ants Go Marching One by One” with our family names and backpacking lyrics.

KW: The kids may get tired on longer, steeper, or back-back days. They will express boredom, when really they are tired. I bring lots of candy to bribe them to go a little farther down the trail. We take more, but shorter breaks—we don’t want to sit too long and get cold; we do want to make camp before dark.

Editor: How do you teach them about safety, security, and hygiene?

KW: The biggest concern is that they will get lost, especially when they go off to the bathroom. We convince them to go behind a tree close by. If we are in an area with grizzly bears or other predators, we emphasize it is important to stay close by so they won’t become a snack for another animal.

DGS: Hunter has always loved to dig; so “cat holes” were a natural for him! He learned the trawl, hole, and baggie system when he was 5. We still remind him about the proper distance from camp and from water sources and explain why. If we are in bear or cougar country an adult goes with him. Otherwise I watch the direction he goes.

Editor: What rules do you have? Do you start going over those at home or at the trailhead?

DGS: We talk about safety before the trip and remind Hunter at the trailhead. The safety talk includes:

- Don’t run too far ahead.
- “STOP!” means STOP, no questions, just do it.
- Drink water, stay hydrated.
- If you get lost, stay put, get comfortable using your emergency gear, and blow your whistle.
- Let Mom and Dad know if you are uncomfortable, whether with gear, surroundings, or your feelings (physical or mental).
- Specific dangers of a particular trail (cliffs, cougars, poison ivy, bees, etc.)

The rules emphasize non-destructive behavior like no cutting switchbacks, no digging, breaking, kicking, or throwing—but we do skip stones and catch and release bugs and reptiles.

KW: We focus on safety and staying within sight. On one of our earliest day hikes, I let Elizabeth get out ahead of me in an area with mountain lions. When I realized my mistake, it seemed to take forever to catch up with her. Not a good plan! I go over the trip itinerary. The kids get a map. They have their own emergency gear. We remind them to stop if they become lost.

Editor: What hints and advice do you have for parents that may want to backpack with their kids?

DGS: Keep it simple. One destination. No side trips. Include your kid in everything from the trip planning and packing to setting up and breaking down camp to meals. Plan simple meals and bring food your kids will like.

You will have to take more breaks—at a moment’s notice you will be called upon to look at bugs, plants, or rocks; you probably will need to attend to mosquito bites, stickers, or pebbles in boots; and you will at least once help your kid repack his pack because of something poking him.

I always have Hunter wear a brightly colored shirt - red, orange, lime green or yellow. He is easy to spot and the color makes for good pictures.

KW: Just do it. Be age appropriate. Let them bring some kid things like a stuffed animal. Don’t be surprised if they want to put rocks in their packs. They operate on a micro level, while we operate on the macro level. But if you slow down to their pace, you see more flowers, grasses, rocks, and bugs. It can be fun to see things at the micro level again.

Woodson Place
Continued from Page 6

get six hours of free consulting with a landscape architect who specializes in native plant wildscaping, and those choosing The Woodson Place’s team for their custom homes will get greenbuilt homes rated 3-star or higher.

“Our family is honored to be recognized for our approach that combines respect for tradition with commitment to the future and innovation,” said Chris Allen, project manager and Woodson family descendant who continues the family tradition of real estate development. “You could sum up The Woodson Place in three words: craftsmanship, community, conservation.”