Trinity Vote Petition Success!

By David Gray
Conservation Co-Chair

On July 29, 2007, the Dallas City Secretary certified that the Trinity Vote petitioners had turned in more than the 48,000 signatures required to force a referendum vote on the Trinity toll road in November. Trinity Vote officially turned in nearly 90,000 total signatures on June 29th, 60 days after the petition drive was launched, according to the City Secretary.

An exciting press conference with nearly 100 volunteers, political leaders, press and spectators was held in the Flag Room at City Hall on June 29th prior to the delivery of the petition signatures. Among the speakers at the press conference were the Trinity Vote leader Angela Hunt (Dallas City Council-member District 9), former Dallas Mayor Pro Tem and mayoral candidate Don Hill, former Mayor Pro Tem John Loza, and former Dallas City Council member Sandy Greyson.

The Trinity Vote proposition would have any high-speed freeway or toll road from the Trinity River greenbelt that runs from north of downtown Dallas to south of downtown and into the Great Trinity Forest. Trinity Vote proponents believed that the original Trinity River Project called for a true, low-speed “parkway” with direct access to the proposed park and adjacent neighborhoods. The word “parkway” was explicitly used on the actual ballot language during the 1998 bond election.

Instead, the voters ended up with as feared the Trinity “toll road”, a “bait and switch” on Dallas voters who thought they were approving a park project. In any case, Dallas voters will now get a chance to decide at the polls whether or not a major, high-speed toll road should be built in the Trinity River floodway at a cost of more than $100 million dollars per mile.

Volunteers, including many Sierra Club members, played a vital role in the success of the petition effort. Hundreds of volunteers helped collect signatures for the petition at public events and at the polls during the recent council election and mayoral runoff. Many volunteers worked all day in the hot sun during the two elections. Many had to fend off “blockers” hired by the opponents of Trinity Vote to confuse and dissuade voters from signing the petition. Nevertheless, the voters themselves were still willing to sign. Volunteers also pitched in to work on the process of “verifying” the petition signatures from their home computers.

Despite the dedicated efforts of the volunteers, the campaign decided that in order to assure success within the mandated short 60-days, more people were needed to gather the necessary signatures.

Thanks to the timely contributions of many key donors (including the Dallas Sierra Club) sufficient money was raised to hire professional signature collectors in order to supplement the volunteer effort. Pros were flown in from around the country and quickly went to work citywide gathering signatures.

Meanwhile, other volunteers were urgently needed to verify signatures. Verification was required to monitor our progress toward obtaining the total number of “good” registered Dallas voter signatures to meet our 48,000-plus signature goal. Again, Sierrans and other citizens across the metroplex rose to help Trinity Vote realize their goal.

“Sierra Club played a vital role in this campaign,” commented David Gray, conservation co-chair of the Dallas Sierra Club. “We hope to see that same volunteer and financial support from the club as we make the final push toward success at the November election.”

News coverage of the campaign was widespread with Ms. Hunt appearing on radio talk shows, speaking to homeowners associations and political clubs, and appearing on television news reports. Jim Schütze wrote numerous articles in the Dallas Observer, while both Dallas Morning News reporters and editorial writers weighed in. Traffic on local Internet blogs about Trinity Vote was also at a high level and frequency.

The Dallas City Council voted at its meeting on August 15 to put the proposition on the November 6 ballot. The campaign is expected to heat up as entrenched interests for the Trinity toll road will have access to plenty of cash and the support of many political leaders in the city.

The Trinity Vote committee has launched its Trinity Vote Yes! campaign in anticipation of the upcoming election. This campaign is expected to be a grass roots campaign similar to the one in 1998 that opposed the original Trinity River Project bond proposition—with limited funds relying mostly on volunteer power. Trinity Vote is actively seeking volunteers for its get-out-the-vote effort—if you are willing, visit trinityvote.com for more information and to sign up.

The Dallas Sierra Club has launched its own club initiative in support of Trinity Vote Yes! Volunteers are needed for fundraising, mailing, writing, speaking, phoning, precinct walking, and organizing. Please contact Robin Sowton, robin@dallas sierraclub.org or Alan Lagrone alagrone@verizon.net to get involved. Contributions are urgently needed to get the Yes! campaign up and running. Please consider making a contribution to Trinity Vote today at www.trinityvote.org or Trinity Vote, P.O. Box 223986, Dallas, TX 75222 or look for a contribution form in an upcoming Compass newsletter.
We STILL Want to Speak to your Community Group!

In a recent Chair letter, I asked you to invite one of our Cool Cities team members to come speak to your Adult Sunday School Class, Homeowners Association meeting, PTA or business group. Thank you to those who responded. Now I'm back asking again!

This time I have an exciting new announcement: We now have team members who can make this presentation in Spanish!

This presentation is positive, non-political, and focused on solutions. Here's the synopsis:

1. We remind people of the extent of our dependence on fossil fuels, both for transportation and electric generation. We assert that there are at least 4 problems that result from that dependence and that it doesn’t matter which one they care about because the answer to all of them is energy efficiency.
2. We reframe global warming to encourage people to see it as an opportunity, not just a problem.
3. We highlight what cities are already doing to make city operations more energy-efficient.
4. We talk about what individuals have the power to do: make their homes more energy-efficient, choose efficient transportation, and promote energy efficiency in their workplaces, faith communities and schools.

We need 30-40 minutes to make the presentation and take some questions. We always take questions. It’s the most important part of public speaking. (I get a lot of questions about light bulbs.)

Speakers Wanted

Not only do I want to come speak to your group, I want to add you to our speaking team! I guarantee you that public speaking is just about the maximum fun any person can have. Really! It has its own special adrenaline rush. I’ll work with you to help you learn the presentation and get comfortable with the background material.

Take a look at the PowerPoint presentation that I’m using. You can download it at http://www.clubhouse.sierriclub.org/txx/coolcities. Under “Cool Cities Resources” click “Downloadable Documents”, then “Public Ed”, then “Ann Drumm’s Public Education Presentation”.

Public Speaker Support Needed

Our speaking outreach coordinator needs people to help secure speaking appointments. She’ll give you everything you need and assign a particular zip code to you so you can contact churches and other organizations in your zip code and get appointments for our speaking team. If you can help with this very important support function, please contact Elaine Starr at elainesstarr@sbglobal.net or 214-361-0262.

Still Forming Lobbying Teams

We’re still forming teams to ask local mayors to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. I’ll schedule another training for Cool Cities volunteers soon. If you want to be notified of the next training, contact me and I’ll put you on the list.

At the training sessions we assign volunteers to teams focusing on specific cities. If there’s an existing team working in your city, we can add you to that team. We really have a need for volunteers who live in the southern sector of Dallas county (Duncanville, Desoto, Emis, Waxahachie, etc.) to step forward and help us create teams for those cities.

Lobbying, speaking, and speaker support – there’s a place for you in our Cool Cities campaign. Contact me and let’s get you involved.

Ann Drumm
Cool Cities Campaign Coordinator
ann@dallassierrclub.org
214-350-6108

ENERGY SUMMIT IN DENTON

On July 24th there was an “Efficiency and Conservation Summit and Fair” hosted by U.S. Congressman Michael C. Burgess, 26th Congressional District of Texas, at the University of North Texas in Denton. Congressman Burgess is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, so it is encouraging to see him pushing energy efficiency back home.

The event included seminars on “Existing Home Energy Conservation”, “New Home Construction”, and Transportation. Congressman Burgess, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell, and UNT President Dr. Gretchen Bataille made introductory remarks. Dr. Bataille took the opportunity to announce the creation of a Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering at UNT, the first of its kind in the United States.

The Fair included an exhibition hall with everything from new washers and dryers to solar panels and wind turbines. There were exhibits from Wal-Mart, Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Home Depot, Lowe’s, and many more. Of particular interest was an exhibit by MFI/Tex, composites manufacturer in Gainesville that makes blades for wind power generators. Outside, there were hybrid vehicles from local car dealerships, a clean-running commuter bus, and a mammoth, yet extremely energy efficient, Peterbilt truck that is made in Denton.

According to the company website, Peterbilt offers hybrid trucks that will result in a 30 to 40 percent reduction in fuel use through the combined improvement of on-road fuel economy and stationary jobsite operation. The trucks use a parallel hybrid design that employs an electric motor to assist the mechanical diesel engine with supplemental torque for improved fuel economy.

The seminars discussed how we as individuals, communities and corporations can make more efficient use of existing power sources and migrate in ways big and small toward clean-renewable sources. Some of the presentations are available for download from Congressman Burgess’ website: http://burgess.house.gov/

Seminar 1: Existing Home Energy Conservation
Texas Home Energy Raters Organization – Larry Taylor
Home Energy Raters provide inspection and testing services to lower the cost for heating and cooling. Rating standards and certification are available from RESNET, an industry standards organization. RESNET Ratings provides a relative energy use index called the HERS Index that is recognized by mortgage industry and government agencies that have compliance requirements.

State Energy Conservation Office – Mike Myers
Simple things you can look for may make the most improvement in energy efficiency. For instance, many older houses have significant leaks in ducting that wastes energy.

Energy Star Program – EPA Coordinator, Patrick Kelly
There are ratings for appliances, electronics, heating and Continued on Page 7
**Take Action!**

By Robin Sowton and Pryor Lawson

Have you been looking for an opportunity to increase your participation in Sierra Club activities, but didn’t know how to fit meetings or outings into your schedule? Do you wish you knew more about a topic that never seems to make its way into any of the Sierra publications that come in the mail, or appear on the local, state, or even national websites? Would you like your family and friends to recognize your commitment to our planet and all of its inhabitants? We have a great new way for you to accomplish any or all of these goals, and it’s called, appropriately enough, ”Take Action!”

"Take Action!" is a project designed to inform fellow Sierrans and others about key conservation issues that they can each take action on. The Take Action organizer, Robin Sowton, is looking for volunteers to write and maintain ”Take Action!” papers on several topics. Each topic will include:

  - an overview
  - a description of key local issues specific to that topic
  - the Dallas Sierra Club position on the issue
  - how to participate
  - how to lead
  - what you can do in your life or home
  - resources

These Take Action papers will be distributed at tabling events, and will be posted in the newsletter and online. You do not need to be an expert on the topic. This is a great way to learn more about something that interests you! Your Take Action paper can start as just 2-3 pages and then expand as issues arise or change. We will give you a template and guide you through the process. In time, you may even find yourself becoming an expert!

If you get stuck on something or have trouble finding information, the Take Action team or the Conservation Committee can help you.

We’ve had several excellent volunteers step forward so far, but there are still several topics that we need help on. And if you see don’t see a topic listed that you’d like to work on, please let us know.

- Clean Air
- Responsible Trade
- Sustainability
- Sustainable Business
- Voluntary Simplicity

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

An Infusion of New Leadership Talent & Energy

After 4 ½ years as the Dallas Group Chair, I am stepping down from the Chair position. I’m not going anywhere, just taking off one hat and putting on another. Our leadership team has been infused with new energy, and it’s a very exciting time for the club.

One of my motivations for letting go of most administrative responsibilities is to free up more time to focus on the Cool Cities campaign. It’s my baby, and I want to nurture it. I am also helping other groups around the state launch their own Cool Cities campaigns.

We’re doing a little musical chairs on the Executive Committee (ExCom), and we have some great talent stepping up. Wendel Withrow, a longtime Sierran who has held many jobs in the club, has taken over the Chair position. He has lots of great ideas and infectious energy. Peter Wilson, co-chair of our Young Sierrans group, has joined ExCom. And Robin Sowton, who has extensive experience in leader training and performance consulting, is coming on board.

ExCom nomination season is upon us. We’re looking for candidates with leadership skills, not necessarily years of experience in the club. Is this the job for you? The deadline for nominations to the Executive Committee is September 18. Contact me if you want to explore the possibility.

Our leadership meeting is on the first Wednesday each month at 6:30 at REI in Dallas. Join us and participate in the behind-the-scenes excitement of Dallas Sierra Club leadership. These monthly meetings are open to everyone, and we value the input of all our members.

It has been my pleasure to be of service, and I am looking forward to the next stage of my Sierra Club career. I’ll see you at the next meeting, just wearing a different hat.

Ann Drumm
(former) Dallas Sierra Club Chair
ann@dallassierclub.org
214-350-6108

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PROGRAMS**

**Tuesday, September 11**

Commercial and residential buildings in the United States emit about 50% of the annual emissions in the U.S. There is a tremendous emphasis on how we can make our existing buildings and new construction projects “greener.” For our September meeting, Master Builder Jim Sargent speaks to the Dallas Sierra Club on Green Building and Home Renovation.

**Tuesday, October 9**


**General Calendar**

The Dallas Sierra Club’s general meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. The meetings are held at the Center for Spiritual Living located at International Place Business Center, 4803 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115. Check www.dallassierclub.org for directions. (Maps 14)

**THE COMPASS**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007
SEP 8 (SAT) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING CLASS. This class is an ideal way to learn about tent-based car camping. All beginner trips are to locations with flush toilets and campsite based running water. This class is NOT about RV, Pop-Up, or van-based camping methods. Topics include: all the food and gear, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, preparing for the trip and wilderness ethics. Instructors are experienced Dallas Sierra Club Leaders. There will be time for questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear. An outdoor snack will also be prepared during the class. You will also have the opportunity to learn about, and sign up for, several beginner car camping trips. The fee is $10 for Sierra Club members and $15 for non-members (cash or check). You can sign up at the class or by contacting Ellen. For more information: Arthur Kuhrne 214-902-9259 or arthur@dallas Sierraclub.org.

SEP 9 (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. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people wearing free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Leader: Bob Gales 277-678-1221(H) or gales@verizon.net.

SEP 19 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING. Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welsh) at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for our Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested parties are welcome. Contact: Bill Gill 214-964-1781(H) or wgilger@verizon.net.

SEP 29-30 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING AT RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK (ELE DU BOIS UNIT). We will walk some of the Jordan Park Trail approximately mile round trip and eat lunch tomorrow evening cook dinner on the grill. Sunday morning walk the Nature Trail and local park trails. Lunch we be at Babes (Great Fried Chicken) in Spring where the eating will be a good time. Leader: Robert Gates 972-678-1227(H). Contact: Bill Gill 214-964-1781(H) or wgilger@verizon.net.

OCT 6-7 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACKERS BACKPACK AT MCGEE CREEK. This very nice nature trail is located in southeast Dallas. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Trailhead. Leader: Mike Rawlins 214-783-0962(H) or mrwalins@dallas Sierraclub.org.

OCT 13 (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. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people wearing free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Leader: Bob Gales 277-678-1221(H) or gales@verizon.net.

OCT 13-14 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK AT MCGEE CREEK, OKLAHOMA. This group is for those who want to learn the fundamentals of finding your way in the wilderness in this two evening class. Among the subjects covered are: purchasing maps, how to read maps, how not to 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 on Saturday (second floor program room). REI is at 4515 LBJ Freeway, north of White Rock Lake. This is a two-night class will start at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 4:00 PM. The fee for the class is $15 for Sierra Club members and $20 for non-members (cash or check). No reservations are necessary. Contact: Ellen for more information: 214-902-9259 or arthur@dallas Sierraclub.org.

OCT 17 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING. Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welsh) at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for our Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested parties are welcome. Contact: Bill Gill 214-964-1781(H) or wgilger@verizon.net.

OCT 20 (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 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people wearing free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Leader: Bob Gales 277-678-1221(H) or gales@verizon.net.

DEC 29-30 (FRI-SUN) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING AT ENCHANTED ROCK STATE PARK. Meet in Enchanted Rock and some of the area Hill Country Attractions. This longer beginning car camping trip is for all who want to better understand cooler / winter car camping in Texas. Because this is a winter outing the weather will help us to decide if we are able to do this. Contact: Bob Gales 277-678-1221(H) or gales@verizon.net.

JAN 12-13 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING AT LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK. We will take some walks around both the lake and rock areas in this very special State Park. Saturday evening meeting will be held at the Nature Trail and park trails will begin early Sunday morning walk the Nature Trails and local park trails. Among the topics that will be discussed will be some other related topics. This should be a very interesting outing to visit this park with the trees getting ready to produce their spring leaves with cool nights. Leader: Robert Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gales@verizon.net.

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 Sierra Club outings are serving in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of a trip organizer. If you have a medical problem, it is your responsibility inform the leader before the outing. Outstanding judges 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.

Radio and firemats are prohibited from all trails. Pets are not allowed unless specifically stated. All outings officially begin at the trail head or outing start point. Leaders cannot assign campsites, but may help coordinate ride sharing for those who wish to conserve 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. Before leaving, you must be sure this or some other method is agreed upon. Reservations are necessary on some outings. It is your responsibility to inform the leader of the leader before the outing. Outstanding 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.

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Outings Photography 101

Photography on outings is one of the most interesting aspects of the trip. It gives you a chance to record where you have been and what you saw. You know a picture is worth a thousand words. Photography also allows you to create memories of your activities with your hiking friends. It also allows you to create art. So, let’s discuss the key aspects of photography on an outing.

You need to have 4 things to make it happen.
1. A camera suitable to the task.
2. Be prepared to take the photo.
4. Great light.

Camera Selection

1. Your camera will most likely be a digital camera. A few professional photographers still use film, but even most of the photographers in National Geographic are from digital SLR cameras (expensive ones). The digital medium allows you to share your photos via e-mail, websites, computers, and projectors so much easier than film. Digital provides much faster feedback.
2. SLR vs compact – An SLR has some capabilities that currently do not exist on compact models. However, an SLR is more expensive, heavier, and requires multiple lens for multiple uses. The SLR is great for some applications, but not really required for amateur nature photography on Sierra Club trips. However, if you plan on submitting photos to National Geographic, you should bring your SLR.
3. Megapixels – Unless you want to print large photos, 5M will be enough for viewing on a computer or sharing with your friends.
4. Zoom – Really compact digital camera have 3-4x optical zoom. This is enough in many circumstances. HOWEVER, we saw a grizzly bear and her two cubs at a hundred yards in Glacier National Park August 2006. My 12x optical zoom made them look good, instead of a spec on the photo. BTW, digital zoom is meaningless, so don’t pay any attention to this spec when buying a camera.
5. Automatic vs manual – All cameras have automatic settings and many have manual settings. I usually use my camera in a manual mode called aperture priority. If you are really into advanced photography, you will need the manual settings.

So, what you need is a compact, digital with 5 Megapixels and you have a choice between the really small ones that fit in your pocket or the ones that need a small carrying case with the 10-12x zoom.

I carry a Canon S2-IS on most Sierra Club outings. This is a 5M digital with 12x zoom with manual options. I have also taken great photos with the smaller version with the 3x zoom.

Be Prepared to Take the Photo

You will need a carrying case that fits your camera, easy to carry, easy to access the camera, and protects your camera from the elements. So, stop carrying your camera in your backpack. Do you really think that the horny toad, mountain lion or black bear that just appeared is going to wait for you to get your camera out of your backpack? In Sept. 2003, Emil Raggi was the only person in our Kings Canyon group ready to take a photo and successfully captured the black bear on “film” as it crossed our path.

Also, when you become aware of a great photo opportunity, get the camera out and turn it on ASAP. In March 2007, I was hiking in Bandelier National Monument with the Santa Fe group of the Sierra Club. Some one ahead, said “look a horny toad”. Before, I had caught up to the group, I had my camera out, turned on, and starting to aim it. I got two great photos before it scampered away.

Also, be aware of your surroundings. In January of 2005, Arthur Kuehne, John Shannon, and I were exiting the restaurant in the Chisos Basin in Big Bend. We looked to our right and saw the most awesome example of Alpen Glow I have ever seen. Of course, none of us had a camera in hand, so we ran to John’s car to get our cameras. We had about 15 seconds left to take photos before the sunlight changed. I got some awesome photos. Most people that see the photos think that I modified them in Photo Shop.

Proper Composition

Composition is about story telling. Just a broad view of the landscape is boring. Even double rainbows are considered boring by many people. Put something of interest into your photos. Put people in your photos. About 20 years ago, I was proudly showing my dad some photos that I had taken of some interesting landscapes. He said “where are the people? I want to see what the people look like there.” People also help to demonstrate scale. If you do not put something in the photo of known size, that huge mountain or cliff in the background will not seem as big as in real life. Another technique that is useful is to put an

Continued on Page 7
Dallas Sierra Club Online Survey Results

In May, the Dallas Sierra Club conducted an online research survey of the membership to determine current and desired involvement in club activities. This survey addressed a major group goal for 2007 of encouraging more participation in volunteering and club activities.

The survey consisted of 17 questions, and an email from the Club’s Chairperson was sent out to 1,741 members with an invitation to go on the club website to complete the survey. Subsequent announcements were made at two General Meetings, and in the Compass requesting survey participation. We were pleased to have 179 people complete the survey for a 14.4% response rate, which was quite adequate for statistical analysis, with the ages and gender largely reflecting that of the overall Sierra Club membership.

Age Groupings  Gender
18-24  1%  Male  46%
25-39  20%  Female  46%
40-49  22%  
50-64  44%  
65-74  10%  
75+  3%

Following are the key Findings from the survey, along with selected exhibits showing the responses.

A. Almost half (47%) of respondents have been Dallas Sierra Club members for less than two years, while 33% have been members for more than two years.

EXHIBIT I. Among the members 69% live in Dallas County, 16% live in Collin County, 5% live in Denton, and 10% live in some other county.

B. Roughly half (46%) of the respondents have attended a General Meeting, and 39% have been on an outing.

C. Sixty percent of those surveyed indicated they have not volunteered in club activities over the last year.

D. Of those who did volunteer, the vast majority “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their efforts were greatly appreciated and that the tasks they volunteered to help with were made clear to them.

E. Forty percent of respondents do not know how easy it is to get involved as a volunteer. When they are taken out of the sample base, among those who have volunteered 90% think it is either Very Easy (65%) or Somewhat Easy (25%) to volunteer.

F. While 56 of the respondents said they do not have time to get involved in volunteer activities, and 21 said they just preferred to contribute money, communications and personal contact would encourage others to get more involved EXHIBIT II.

G. Among potential conservation volunteer activities of (1) public education/speaking, (2) educating children on conservation issues, (3) lobbying elected officials, and (4) tabling and campaign work, the greatest interest (60%) was expressed in educating children on conservation issues.

H. There were not many comments on ways to make the General Meetings more valuable. Out of the 179 respondents, the greatest response (26 people) suggested moving the meetings periodically. More Q&A on issues was second with 19 responses.

I. The club is responding well to member’s ideas and questions. Thirty percent said the club was “Very Responsive” and 55% said “Somewhat Responsive.”

J. Regardless of whether the Compass is published bi-monthly or quarterly, 87% of respondents found both choices acceptable.

K. While 38% of respondents don’t know if Dallas Sierra Club does a good job reaching out to new members, those who have an opinion are divided on how good a job is being done. Forty-five percent think DSC does an “Excellent” or “Very Good” job, while 55% think DSC does a “Fair” or “Poor” job.

L. The most interest in activities was expressed for (1) Seminars on green living 85% “Very or Somewhat Interested,” (2) Outings without backpacking 76%, (3) Specific topics discussions at a local restaurant 64%

EXHIBIT III.

The Club leadership will use these survey results as a foundation for future programs and decision-making. As announced in the July/August issue of the Compass, the decision has been made to reduce publication to bi-monthly. We will continue to explore opportunities for new programs and enhanced communications with members. The fact that the current volunteers are very satisfied with their involvement suggests DSC is doing the right things – we just need to do more of them to increase overall participation.

NEW: Choices for Sustainable Living Book Discussion Group

Nine Wednesdays, starting September 12 at the String Bean Restaurant in Richardson (Spring Valley Road at Coit Road, northwest corner) from 7:30 – 9:00 with optional meal beforehand. Cost to participate is $18.00 for the book. Leaders: Kirk and Coralie Miller

We’re moving into Fall, and our thoughts turn from summer relaxation to a more serious study mode. We become more concerned with learning how to help save our planet and ourselves. This class begins by examining the broader definition of “sustainability,” and then gradually focuses on what that term means in relation to our food, housing, and transportation. In addition to articles on what others in the world are doing, the class members are encouraged to share and explore what sustainability can mean for their own lives.

The group will meet each Wednesday for 1.5 hours at the String Bean Restaurant. Arrive early if you would like to order food; discussion begins at 7:30. Location is 7879 Spring Valley Road, Richardson TX 75024.

http://www.thestringbean.com

Please contact Coralie or Kirk Miller to rsvp: kirkmiller@juno.com or call 972-699-1687.
Energy Summit - Continued from Page 2

and cooling and the entire building. Energy Star is the label to look for.

Seminar 2: New Home Construction
American Institute of Architects, Fort Worth
Chapter — Paul Denny
Green Built North Texas – Dan Fette
Dan introduced the Home Builders Association initiative presenting goals for construction site management and waste recycling, water efficiency, indoor air quality, energy efficiency and more.
Examples were given from Nevada Court, a project of the Denton Affordable Housing Corp. that show you don't have to be a millionaire to build an energy efficient home.

Seminar 3: Transportation
AAA – Patrick O'Reilly
Hybrids are neat, but there are things you can do to maximize efficiency of the car you have.
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers – Clinton Blair
America's love affair with the automobile is not over, and the industry is moving forward with flex fueled vehicles with better mileage.
Biodiesel Industries, Inc. – Charles Fiedler
A partnership between Denton landfill and Biodiesel industries is using landfill gas to power the process of converting fats and oil waste into biodiesel.
Denton County Transportation Authority – Charles Emery
The Authority was established by the Texas State legislature in 2001. It operates bus service in Denton and is planning a regional rail service that will connect to the proposed DART extension in Carrollton.

Take Action! - Continued from Page 3

Topics already covered include:
- Energy (Bob Fisunato)
- Education (Arthur Kuehn)
- Water Conservation, Rivers, Trinity River, Rivers, Wetlands (Milton Hickman)
- Sprawl (Emil Raggi)
- Sustainable Food (Chris Unruh)
- Recycling (Caroline Vornberg)
- Wildlife Conservation/Protection (Debbie Winters)

Why not add your name to the list? We need you! So, if you would like to volunteer or you just have questions, please contact Robin Suton, robin@dallasgreenzine.com or 972-422-7193.

Outings Corner - Continued from Page 5

object in the foreground, life a flower, with the mountain in the background. Depending on your creative style, you can have both the foreground and background in focus or your can choose just one of them to be in focus and have the other one fuzzy. (This will require that you learn to use aperture priority for taking your photos.)

Great Light
You photograph light, not objects. The light is usually the best at sunrise and sunset. You have certainly seen great sunsets and sunrises, but have you ever seen a great noon? No. The light during the day is so strong that it washes out most colors. So, get up early to take great pictures. The early bird catches the great photos. Also, taking a photo with dark and light areas is very difficult. If you have a lot of contrast, just photograph one of the areas. If you try to capture both, the light areas will be too light or the dark areas will be too dark. Your camera just cannot see like your eyes. Your eyes are much better than any camera.

Recycling Computers (and other HHWs)
by Pryor Lawson

Gone are the bad old days of tossing everything—and I mean everything—into the trash. Today, the list of recyclable material continues to grow, and products that aren’t recyclable, but which pose long-term problems when dumped in a landfill, can be disposed in a safer way. According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), even our beloved computers contain mercury, cadmium, and lead, as well as more exotic toxic substances like hexafluorinated chromium and brominated flame-retardant plastics. I don't even want to pronounce some of that stuff, let alone give it to Mother Earth as a present.

Unfortunately, hazardous waste isn’t "officially" hazardous when it comes from a household, or so says federal regulations. According to the TCEQ website, hazardous waste produced by households (that's "HHW," for the acronym-minded) are exempt from federal regulations, even though the waste may contain the same chemicals as waste from businesses, schools, etc. So, when you toss your hexavalent chromium-laden computer in the trash, it goes straight to the city dump.

Even more unfortunate: the TCEQ estimates that, out of 1.5 million computers discarded in Texas annually, 1.3 million of them are not recycled—they're either stored (for a while, anyway) or sent to landfills. Annually!

The good news is, it's a lot easier to recycle or dispose of HHWs than it used to be. In the Dallas area, you can take your HHWs to The Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center. To find out what kind of products they accept, go to www.dallascounty.org, then search for "planning and development," then go to "hazardous waste," and there you'll find a list of all sorts of chemical products for home use, paints, batteries, cell phones, and yes, computers.

Here's how you do it: the Collection Center is open at different hours each day, so check out the times they're open on their website, or you can call them at 214-553-1765 for hours of operation and directions to their northeast Dallas location. Go to the Center, drop off your computers, cell phones, and HHWs, and that's it!

Keep in mind, however, that the service is paid for by participating communities within Dallas County. Those communities get their funds for the Collection Center from the money charged their residents for trash or stormwater fees. Accordingly, residents of those communities are not charged for using the Collection Center. If you live in Carrollton, Dallas, DeSoto, Duncanville, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Irving, Mesquite, Richardson, Rowlett, Sachse, Seagoville, Sunnyvale, University Park, or an unincorporated area in Dallas County, you're in luck—you get to use the Collection Center at no additional charge. If you don't, it's $95 a visit, however much you bring.

For people outside the Dallas area, take heart—there are cities and counties throughout Texas that have programs for recycling and/or disposing of HHWs. A list of those cities and counties, and a separate list of private businesses that accept electronic recyclables, can be found on the TCEQ website. Be forewarned, however, that you should research the procedure of the city or county that you live in, to make sure that their recyclables are really going to a reputable recycling company.

For instance, for used computers and other electronics, The Dallas Collection Center contracts with Texas Recovery Systems (TRS) in Southlake, which in turn contracts with Global Investment Recovery, Inc., a nationwide outfit. Sandy Cook, Program Manager for the Collection Center, says that one of her cohorts in Irving assiduously researched both companies, and both companies are bona fide recyclers. In fact, says Sandy, one of the head honchos at TRS was "actively involved in setting standards and guidelines with TCEQ." She adds that "TRS sends [the Collection Center] a monthly report detailing how much electronic recycling they received and a percentage estimate of how much is reusable or recyclable."

Another thought about computers: many major brands, including Dell, Apple, Hewlett Packard, and Gateway, now offer computer recycling and donation services. Dell, for instance, will take back any manufacturer's computer for free when you buy a new Dell computer. Check your brand's website for information on recycling their products.

No good reason exists to throw (or drag, or lug) your old computer into the trash. That computer contains lots of recyclable goodies, and also lots of poisonous stuff that will find its way into places we don't want it to go when it's dumped in a landfill. So get thee to a recycler!