TRINITY VOTE YES!

By David Gray

Do you want a park or a toll road? That’s the basic question that Dallas voters will decide on November 6th when voting on Dallas Proposition 1. We believe that a 6-lane, high-speed, limited-access toll road cannot co-exist with a park that people will have access to, be attracted to, and actually use and enjoy. The Dallas Sierra Club supports Trinity Vote YES! and urges all Dallas voters to vote FOR Dallas Proposition 1.

After the deceptive campaigning for a park in 1998, we can’t trust the opposition or believe their new edition of glossy illustrations and slick videos that portray the toll road as a small, tree-lined, innocuous highway nestled up against the levee. First, the Army Corps of Engineers generally does not permit trees to be planted on its levees, but, the Corps has requested that the road be moved away from levee and further into the park. Finally, the pictures don’t show the necessary toll booths, acceleration/deceleration lanes, safety shoulders, exit/entrance ramps, overhead lights and signs, and truck traffic.

We believe those voters who approved the Trinity Project in 1998 voted for a true parkway as specified on the 1998 ballot—not a toll road. Approval of Proposition 1 would legally guarantee that only a true parkway could be built in the downtown Trinity Park—a parkway with maximum speed limits of 35 mph and no more than 4 lanes.

A true parkway in a world-class park built between the levees would be a great asset to Dallas and the region—an attraction and bigger economic engine than the toll road. We believe the park would help bring the two halves of an often divided city together to play, to recreate, and to relax. A toll road in the park would serve only to widen that divide both physically and symbolically.

Obviously, our opponents disagree.

1. Our opponents accuse us of not having any alternatives to the floodway alignment. The Major Transportation Investment Study by the Texas Department of Transportation and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement done by the North Texas Toll Authority (NTTA) both identified a number of alternatives. Routing the toll road along Industrial and Lamar is one of the more desirable options. Our opponents claim it would cost several hundred million more but the fact that the original toll road’s cost have risen from $450 million to over $1.3 billion does not seem to have slowed down the park alternative. We cannot trust any of their figures when the original cost has tripled—more than the rate of inflation and rising cost of concrete.

Other alternatives include the low-speed Trinity Parkway itself, a widened Industrial/Lamar boulevard with advanced signalization and reversible lanes, a widened Stemmons Expressway with overhead express-lanes, a widened and improved Loop 12 and Spur 404, and other regional solutions. And mass transit seems to have been forgotten.

2. Our opponents complain about delays to the project if Proposition 1 is approved. But after almost 10 years, we still don’t have even a final design for the proposed alternative.

Many good projects like the Trinity Interpretive Center and canoe launches are already underway and haven’t been and won’t be affected by Proposition 1. If anything, Proposition 1 will allow the City to focus on building the park which could make it a reality much sooner than trying to overcome the engineering problems with the current approach—something that’s never been done anywhere in the country.

3. Our opponents claim monies will be lost. Today, of the $1.3 billion cost for the toll road, Dallas voters have approved only $84 million in bonds and NTTA can justify investing only about $200 million. That leaves about $1 billion unfunded. We can’t lose money we don’t even have. Since this toll road will be so expensive, the NTTA is considering redirecting fees from other toll roads to cover the costs of this one.

4. Our opponents claim without a toll road, we’ll have more congestion and worse air pollution.

These are dubious claims at best, but true or not, Proposition 1 does not prohibit any road—just a toll road in the floodway. If the proposed toll road reduces congestion and lowers air pollution, then so would an Industrial/Lamar toll road, for example.

Most people respond with “Why would they do that?” when it’s explained where the toll road is proposed to be built. A floodway is not a place for a major highway—most people get that. It is ultra-expensive place to build and it is not certain that FEMA will ever allow it. It increases our chance of major catastrophic flooding from unforeseen effects of massive amounts of floodwater ripping down the floodway during major storm events. The slightest miscalculation in design or construction could spell disaster—this is the lesson of Katrina and New Orleans.

A park or a road—that is what is at stake on November 6. A visitor attraction, a wonderful, unique, gathering place for citizens across the region, north and south, rich or poor, to join together in the celebration of the outdoors and nature or an ugly, noisy, dirty, smelly toll road with out-of-control costs and a threat to our flood protection. The choice seems clear. We urge you to vote FOR Dallas Proposition 1 on Nov. 6th. Please visit www.trinityvote.com to volunteer, contribute, or to get more information.

Environmental Impacts

Sustainability—Building a parkway that gives direct access to the park enhances the growth of the attractive urban, mixed-use community expected to go up nearby. This means that people could live, work, and play all in a single community and is the basis for building a sustainable urban landscape. Putting the toll road in the park eliminates the option of a low-speed parkway that would provide access to the park and the local communities and destroys the value of the park.

Sprawl—This toll road anywhere would promote sprawl because it is designed to move people through Dallas rather to Dallas so that suburbanites can get from one end of town to the other. Proposition 1 does not eliminate the toll road, but if it passes, there’s the chance that our urban planners would take a harder look at designing a road that works for Dallasites and not just suburbanites and give them the opportunity to reconsider how DART and mass transit fit into the picture.

Air—Slower moving traffic on a low speed parkway creates less pollution than fast moving traffic on a crowded tollway.

Water—The NTTA would not be allowed to discharge water collected from the toll road directly into the watershed. It is unclear how the collected water will be treated. Furthermore, under heavy rain conditions, the excess runoff will have to be pumped into the floodway to try to avoid flooding and damaging of the road thus increasing the pollution of our storm water.

Natural, open space—The toll road would impair the quality of the park, the experience of people trying to use it, and their ability to actually get to the park. To compensate for the toll road being placed in a flood zone, the river channel would have to be significantly widened, thus destroying what little riparian habitat that has been preserved along the river.
HOLIDAY PARTY AND WINE TASTING
December 9, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake

All Sierra Club members and their guests are invited to the annual holiday party at Winfrey Point located on White Rock Lake. This year’s party will feature a wine tasting contest, dinner, music, and a live auction. Everyone is asked to bring either their favorite bottle of wine or a special dessert. The Club will provide the main meal and drinks. Great prizes (well maybe pretty good prizes) will be awarded to those bringing the best organic wine, the bottle with the most original holiday label, and other surprise categories.

Come join us for an evening of fun and celebration of another great year for the Dallas Group.

Tickets are $7 in advance and $10 at the door. Send checks payable to Dallas Sierra Club to Calvin Nichols, 2401 Northridge Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

Your Generosity is Paying Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year-End Commitment and Memorial Gifts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name _____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address ___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City __________________ Zip __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone __________________ Email ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please accept my commitment for the amount indicated:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentalist $1,000 + $ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservationist $500 - $999 $ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Builder $125 - $499 $ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacker $50 - $124 $ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Hiker $1 - $49 $ __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ I don't need the tax deduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My check is payable to Dallas Sierra Club Group. (Contributions to the Dallas Sierra Club Group are not tax-deductible. They support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ I prefer to have the tax deduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My check is payable to Sierra Club Foundation. (Contributions and gifts to Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club’s conservation goals.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors will be recognized in the Compass in early 2008. If you do not wish to be recognized in this honor roll, please check here: ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My donation is: ___ In Memory Of ___ In Honor Of: ___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please send notification to: ________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail commitment form with check payable to Dallas Sierra Club Group OR Sierra Club Foundation to: ________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Drumm 4340 Valley Ridge Rd., Dallas TX 75220-1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please note: Your donation to the Dallas Group is used locally and does not renew your membership with the Sierra Club. When your membership comes up for renewal, please renew through the national Sierra Club or through our website, <a href="http://www.dallasiserracclub.org">www.dallasiserracclub.org</a>. Thank you for your support!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007 the Dallas Sierra Club has given unprecedented financial support in four important areas:

- In addition to our endorsement of the Trinity VoteYES petition drive and campaign, we have made generous donations to help pay campaign expenses;
- We made a donation to the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club to help pay the cost of the lobbyist at the Legislature who advocates on issues that are important to North Texans, such as clean air and renewable energy;
- We helped fund the Stop the Coal Rush rally in Austin in February, and
- We helped fund ongoing litigation against dirty coal-fired power plants.

These expenditures, totalling $33,000, were outside of our normal operating budget.

We made a decision several years ago to eliminate most fundraising events and build a donor base so that our volunteers can focus their time and energy on projects that serve the Club’s conservation mission. Being able to use money in this way to support our work is very powerful. Your generosity has made it possible. Please help us rebuild our coffers so that we can continue to use our financial resources as well as our volunteers to serve our goals. A year-end donation form is printed in this issue for your convenience.

Money is a tool for doing good in the world. At my church we bless our offerings in this manner:

Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give, and all that I receive. Thank you, Father-Mother God.

I say that blessing silently every time I write a donation check. Thank you for the way you continue to bless the Sierra Club volunteers in their work.

Ann Drumm
Former Chair and Campaign 2007 Director
JOHN MUIR
LIVE ON STAGE
YOSEMITE THREATENED!

December 19, 1913
Huge dam to be built in Middle of Park!

PRESIDENT WILSON WILL SIGN OR VETO LEGISLATION TODAY!

INVITATION FROM MUIR - For an evening of conversation - stories & wisdom of John Muir, which will inform, enrage, amuse and warm you.

DATES
Mon, Nov 12
PLACE
Center for Spiritual Living
4801 Spring Valley Rd
Suite 115
(west of Tollway)

TUESDAY, NOV 13
same

"The Spirit of John Muir" featuring highlights of Muir’s wild adventures

"Conversation with a Tramp" featuring Muir’s dedication to wilderness protection and the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.

Date: 7:00 pm
Cost: No Charge to all who love our National Parks. (Donations to offset cost will be accepted)

TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY

ARRIVE EARLY FOR FOOD, DRINKS, AND BEST SEATS

LEE STETSON - after nearly two decades of steeping himself in Muir’s articles and unpublished journals, and following his footsteps throughout Yosemite, STETSON has created a one-man theatrical tour de force. STETSON, a professional actor and director, has performed more than 40 roles on stage, film, and television. He currently performs every summer in Yosemite National Park for thousands of visitors and unruly black bears who might wander into his shows.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

THE DALLAS SIERRA CLUB
PART OF AMERICA’S OLDEST, LARGEST GRASS ROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION SINCE 1892

CANADA-WITHROW L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS
FOR A BETTER PLANET
Serving North Texas for 28 years
972-416-2300

GRANITE FOUNDATION REPAIR, INC.
Sierra Club Supporter Since 1987
972-304-6664
817-999-2161

ICO awarded
REI grant!

Mike Williams, REI Outreach (left) and Todd Callaway, REI Store Manager (right) attended the September meeting to present Liz Wheelan of our Inner City Outings outreach program with a check representing REI’s $5,000 grant toward the group’s outings program that takes disadvantaged kids into the outdoors. This amazing contribution helped ICO expand its program this fall to include kids from Sam Houston Elementary School in southwest Dallas. Many, many thanks to the employees of Dallas REI for nominating our ICO for this great gift!
OCT 13 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP. Walk and talk while picking 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 Rd. and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Trash bag areas are unique areas including one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildlife to see. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards. Leader: Carol Nash 214-824-0244(H) or cra@lclsaoisd.org.

NO TIECE: To receive the outings list monthly via email, visit www.dallas Sierraclub.org/subscribe

THE COMPASS • A Publication of the Dallas Sierra Club

OCT 14 (SUN) DAYHIKE WHITE ROCK CREEK TRAIL. Meet at 9:30 at Moss Park (SE corner of Greenville Ave. and Royal Lane). Hike 5-6 miles along paved trail. Bring water. No reservations necessary. Just show up. Google Maps Directions and Leader: Dale Edelman 214-343-6741(H) or dme@me.com.

OCT 17 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING. Meet in the upstairs program room at 7 PM. Bring your ideas on what programs you want to see in the future. All are welcome. Leader: Carol Nash 214-824-0244(H) or cra@lclsaoisd.org.

OCT 20-21 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK TRIP TO THE CANYON CREEK WILDERNESS. Join us for one of the Dallas Sierra Club’s beginner backpacking trips. We’ll backpack about 4 ½ miles and camp near the stream. We’ll hike up the stream, and there will be a few small hills to climb. As time permits, we’ll go on a short dayhike after setting up camp. The total round trip distance is about 9 miles. This backpack trip is fairly easy and suitable for beginners. Leader: Terry Sullivan 214-432-3034(H) or terrys@juno.com and Liz Wheeler

NOV 2-19 (FR-SUN) CANOE KAYAK MATAJORDA ISLAND. Meet at the campgrounds at Matahorada Visitor Center Friday night and set up camp. In the morning, at 9AM, you leave Rock Island to begin your adventure. This trip is open to all ages and abilities. Leader: Dave Schindel 214-343-6741(H) or dme@me.com.

NOV 9-19 (TWEED) PENGUIN页面 ON THE LAKE. Join us for a weekly outing to the lake on a designated day and time. This outing is designed for those who are new to birding and not comfortable with the traditional birding outing. Leader: Dan Ackerman 214-432-3034(H) or danack@me.com.

NOV 21-26 (WED-MON) THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK. The Dallas Sierra Club looks forward to continuing with our annual bus trip to Big Bend National Park. This year we will be visiting the Chisos Mountains, a wonderful backpacking trip on the Outer Mountain Loop, an easier backpacking trip in the desert southwest of the Chisos Mountains and a backpacking trip on the spectacular and remote Mesita Del Anguila. If you’ve never been to Big Bend National Park, you owe it to yourself to discover this unique part of Texas. If you’ve been before, come back and explore another area. Our charter sleeper bus leaves Dallas on Thursday at 6:30 PM and returns about 12:30 PM on Monday. We will post the backpacking trips from moderate to strenuous. Some backpacking experience is required. The trip cost is $195 for Sierra Club members and $275 for non-members. There is a cancellation refund after November 10 unless a replacement is found. To sign up, send a completed trip description at www.canyoncreekcruising.org/tentpole2021.pdf to the contact leader (the lady you can’t see it on the web), print it out and fill out the forms and return them with your check to the address provided. You are not signed up until we have your check. Leader: Alice Kuehne 214-902-9260(H) or ar@kuehne.org.

DEC 1-2 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING AT CADDO STATE PARK. We will rent one of the State Park Screened Shelters (may have to cover the screens with some tarps). We will walk some of the local trails and walk around part of Lake Caddo, a natural lake (not man made) in east Texas. Saturday evening we will prepare a handy dinner and enjoy the right skies. Sunday morning explore more of the area. Lunch in Caddo and a stop at the famous Marshall Pottery Works where the ouitings will end. This is a beginning car camping trip where we will discuss car camping, shelter options, cooler weather camping, and Leave No Trace techniques. Leader: Robert Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.r@verizon.net.

DEC 2-3 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER CAR CAMPING AT JAMESCON FISHING CAMP. Meet at the Jamescon fishing camp at 9 AM on Saturday and discuss car camping and shelter options. This is our last outing of the year. Leader: Robert Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.r@verizon.net.

FEB 7-11 (TUE-SAT) ANNUAL TAOS BUS TRIP. Join us on this very popular bus trip and enjoy the scenic beauty and winter magic of the northern New Mexico. This trip offers a variety of skiing and snowboarding activities, including day skiing while staying in the lodge, as well as winter and evening activities. Leader: Robert Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.r@verizon.net.

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 trip organizer. If you have a medical problem, it is your responsibility to tell the leader before the outing. Outing leaders are encouraged to participate in training and classes to increase their skills, but they are not paid professionals. They will assist you within their limitations. It is the responsibility of the participant to be aware of any personal limitations before going on an outing. Radios and firearms are prohibited from all outings. Pets are not allowed without specific staff permission. All outings officially begin at the trail head or outing start point. Leaders cannot assign cabins, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Follow Leave No Trace conservation and 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 vehicle, including the driver, to divide the cost of transportation equally. Before leaving for an outing, be sure this or some other method is agreed upon. Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted in the outing description. To participate in an outing, contact the leader. The leader will decide if the trip you are interested in is suitable for you based on your capabilities and the demands of the trip. There is usually a limit to the number of people on any given 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 or her free time to allow you to go on the trip of your choice. If you have any questions, or are interested in becoming a leader, contact either the Outings Chair or the appropriate Co-Chair. Committee Co-ordinator listed on the newsletter back page.

Outings - Continued on Page 6

HOW THE OUTING PROGRAM WORKS

Notice: to receive the outings list monthly via email, visit www.dallas Sierraclub.org/subscribe

THE COMPASS • A Publication of the Dallas Sierra Club

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007
Lightning Safety in the Outdoors: Prevention is the Goal

There are few weather events in the outdoors that startle a person more than a close-striking bolt of lightning along with the sound of thunder. In the United States, lightning is the second most common cause of weather-related deaths (flood-related deaths are number one) with an average of 62 deaths per year. It can strike up to ten miles away from a thunderstorm, roughly the distance you can hear thunder. More than one half of deaths occur after a thunderstorm has passed.

In the simplest terms, lightning is the result of the buildup and discharge of electrical energy during a thunderstorm. Because the air in a lightning strike is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, a shock wave is produced resulting in thunder. The distance from a strike can be calculated by counting the seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the thunder. For every five seconds counted, the lightning is one mile away.

Lightning injuries affect 800 to 1000 persons per year. In lightning injury, cardiac arrest is the main cause of death, burns tend to be superficial, and injuries often are what one would expect of short-circuiting or overloading the body’s electrical systems (ringing ears, blindness, confusion, memory loss, abnormal heartbeat, and abnormal blood pressure). Because victims in cardiopulmonary arrest might gain the greatest benefit from resuscitation efforts, they should receive immediate first aid (reverse triage). The good news is most victims survive a lightning strike with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary; however, long-lasting neurological effects are common. All victims of lightning strike should seek immediate medical care.

The principle safety guideline during lightning activity is the 30-30 rule. The first "30" represents 30 seconds. If the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is close enough to hit you. If you haven’t already, seek shelter or safer terrain immediately. The second "30" stands for 30 minutes. After the last flash of lightning, wait 30 minutes before leaving your safe area or entering unsafe terrain. The time constraints of reaching a certain campsite may pose a challenge during outdoor activities. Be prepared and have alternate plans.

The safest location during lightning activity is inside a large enclosed building, and the second safest location is an enclosed, metal, hard-topped vehicle. If a safe location is not nearby, look for safer terrain so that you are not the tallest object. Safer terrain is below tree line and away from open areas such as peaks, ridges, and open spaces of land or water. Do not stand under a small group of tall trees, but get at least 200 feet below the tree line. If the tree line is too far away, look for a depression, ravine or valley. Cave entrances are not a safe location. Get away from metallic objects including trekking poles, backpacks, boats, and bikes. Take proper clothing to remain warm and dry, and take something insulated to put under your feet. After reaching safer terrain or at any time there is evidence of imminent lightning strike (sensation of hair “standing on end”, crackling noises or a visible glow), assume the lightning safety position. To get into the lightning safety position, squat down (on a sleeping pad or life jacket if possible), put your feet together, position your head downward, and place your hands over your ears. If hiking in a group, spread out at least 15 feet apart so the lightning won’t travel between you if someone is hit.

Additional measures should be taken for specific outdoor recreational activities during lightning activity. While hiking, plan to be off peaks by early afternoon, when thunderstorms are most likely to occur in mountainous regions. While paddling, get to the shoreline as soon as possible, take your rain gear and life jacket, and get 200 feet within the trees or away from the shoreline. If paddling in deep canyons, seek safe moorage and get away from your boat. Bottoms of canyons are rarely struck. While cycling, seek appropriate shelter or safer terrain and get away from your bike. More information can be found at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.
CONSERVATION NEWS

Take Action! Papers Update

In September, the Dallas Sierra Club Conservation Committee announced the Take Action! papers project.

These papers, designed to inform fellow Sierrans and others about key conservation issues that they can take action on, will be distributed at tailing events and available through our website.

Volunteers have already stepped forward to learn and write about several topics.

Energy
  Bob Fusinato

Green Building
  Arthur Kuehne

Recycling
  Barbara Carr

Sustainable Food
  Terry Jensen

Voluntary Simplicity
  Seann Ducote

Water Conservation, Rivers, Wetlands
  Milton Hickman

Wildlife Conservation/Protection
  Debbie Winters

The committee is still looking for people who can write on three additional topics.

Clean Air

Responsible Trade

Sustainable Business

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Robin Sowton at robin@dallasgreenline.com, 214.680.8349.

Outings - Continued from Page 4

Young Sierrans Outings

OCT 13 (SAT) SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK! DALLAS Please join the Young Sierrans for an evening at the Samuell-Grand Amphitheater in Dallas to enjoy Shakespeare’s melodrama “Macbeth.” We are planning a group reservation and will need participants to “firmly” RSVP by October 10th. (1) Date: Saturday, October 13th, 2007 (2) Location: Samuell-Grand Park - 6200 E Grand Ave., 75223. The Amphitheater is located inside the S/G Park off Tension Parkway, across from the Tension Park Golf Course. (3) Time: Early admission begins at 6:30 PM, Let’s meet at 7:00 and eat prior to the performance. (4) Cost: Discounted group rate of $5 per person. Peter will front the group fee based on RSVPs received by 10/10. Pay Peter at the event, if you RSVP and don’t show. Peter will spam your email address hourly until you send him the $ . (5) Details: STP is a casual, outdoor event where you can bring your own picnic and favorite adult beverages. Recommended items to bring: blankets, etc. on which to sit in our group’s reserved lawn area; food and drink of choice; bug spray. All 20s/30s are welcome; you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. Leader: Peter Wilson peterwilson@dallassierclubs.org

OCT 27 (SAT) PLANO RECYCLING CENTER TOUR AND OPTIONAL LUNCH Please join us for a tour of the Allied Waste Services Recycling Center (AWSRC) of Plano. More details to follow - stay tuned “STP”! RSVPs are requested to the Evite which will be sent out in early October or to Peter/Young Sierrans’ email address. (1) Date: Saturday, October 27th, 2007 (2) Time: 10:30 AM length (1.5 hours) (3) Location: The AWSCR is located at the SE corner of Lovers and E. 14th Street. (4) Details: The center is operated during our tour. Optional breakfast or lunch location TBD. All are welcome; you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. Leader: Peter Wilson peterwilson@dallassierclubs.org

OCT 30 (TUE) YOUNG SIERRANS HAPPY HOUR Please join us for Happy Hour at the Ginger Man in Dallas on 10/30. The weather should be just right for mixing in the grove out back, look for us there. Arrive any time after 6:00 PM. The GM has a light menu. All 20s/30s are welcome; you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. Individual checks. ** The Ginger Man – Dallas, 2718 Trolley Sq., 75204 – Located E of the Quadrangle. Phone: 214-754-8779 ** Leader: Peter Wilson peterwilson@dallassierclubs.org

NOV 4 (SUN) GREAT TRINITY FOREST DAY HIKE - OPTIONAL PRE-HIKE BREAKFAST (YOUNG SIERRANS) Join us for a day hike in the Great Trinity Forest on Sunday, 11/4. The Great Trinity Forest is less than 4 miles from downtown and is one of Dallas’ true natural treasures. Each trail is a natural surface nature trail and offers the hiker a unique opportunity to experience the magic of the Great Trinity Forest, one of the largest (7,000 acres) urban, bottomland, hardwood forests in the country. Groundwork Dallas will guide us on a 4 mile hike (approx. 2 hours) that would be considered “easy” to “moderate” since the terrain is level or on a modest incline. We will also provide everyone with trash bags that can be used to help clean up the forest while we are hiking. Let’s meet up for breakfast and then we will drive to the trail head to start our hike around 10:30 AM. When: Sunday, 11/4 Where: Breakfast at Kozy Kitchen (http://thekozy.net/) Time: Breakfast at 8am. Hike starts at 10:30 AM. Details: We will hike The Gatewater Trail. Hike starts at Renda Rd meadow trailhead (http://www.groundworkdallas.org/CT4-TM). Trail could be muddy so wear appropriate shoes. Bring gloves for trash pick up. Cost: Breakfast is individual responsibility. Hike is FREE! All 20s/30s are welcome; you need not be a Sierra Club member to attend. Please RSVP by 10/31 to the Evite or email youngsierrans@dallassierclub.org so we can inform Groundwork Dallas of our number of participants. You are welcome to attend one or both of these events. If you would just like to come to the hike, please email youngsierrans@dallassierclub.org to get more details on where to meet. We hope to see you there! Contact Candace Weinberg youngsierrans@dallassierclub.org

Step It Up! Global Warming Rally November 3

On November 3rd, Americans will demand real leadership on global warming. From coast to coast, we'll rally in our communities and invite our politicians to join us. We'll see who rises to the occasion and who has a real plan to tackle the defining challenge of our time. One year before the election, let's make sure the world witnesses our national call to action:

A local Step It Up rally and festival will take place in Colleyville from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. at the parking lot and community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Ilwy 121. For more information visit the Step It Up campaign website, www.stepitup2007.org or contact Terry Jensen at 817-545-0410.

General Calendar

11/7 + 12/5 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.dallassierclub.org/calendar for details, or contact the Group Chair.

11/10 Monday before General Meeting, Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to editor@dallassierclub.org.

11/13 + 12/11 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.dallassierclub.org for directions. Come at 6:00 PM for pizza and socializing and to pick up activity materials.

12/16 Outings Committee special holiday get together. Contact the outings chair, Bill Greer (billgreer@dallassierclub.org), for details. No regular Outings Committee meeting in November or December.

11/27 Fourth Tuesday, Inner City Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapscro 142). All outings leaders, future outings leaders and interested Sierrans are welcome to attend in December.

12/26 Fourth Wednesday every other month, Newsletter Mailing Party at 7:00 PM at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest and Churchhill Way (Mapscro 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Just show up.
Scarlett Silva

I joined the Miami Sierra club in the '80s interested in outdoor activities. The outings program achieved its mission of making people aware of the human impact on the environment, but not enough for me to take serious action and be eradicated away. Late in 2005, after a very active hurricane season, I was trying to do something about global warming and was looking to return to the Sierra Club, this time as an activist. I moved to Dallas during the worst of the drought with a new imperative to act in any way within my means to help protect Earth's delicate balance.

I have primarily been involved in the Cool Cities Campaign, and with the Farmers Branch City Council to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. But I am most driven by public education missions that bring an awareness of the impact individuals and societies have on the environment and at the same time, an awareness of the power of individuals to be a spark in a growing movement to effect the change needed to fight this global climate crisis. I believe the Sierra Club is in an excellent position to do more to reach out beyond “green people” and bring environmental awareness to people of all frames of mind, political persuasions, and cultures. I am honored to be nominated to EXCOM and I would consider my participation as an opportunity to do just that.

Bill Greer

The Sierra Club motto, found at the top of most documents, is to “Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.” For many years as an Outings leader and Outings Chair my main interest has been the “explore and enjoy” part. But I have tried not to lose sight of the “protect” part. The Sierra Club, after all, is not primarily an outings organization. It is a conservation organization that does outings.

It’s hard for me to believe that I have been a Sierra Club member for over 20 years. Time does indeed fly when you’re having fun. During that time I have served as Outings chair twice, served on Excom, and worked on National Forest issues with the Osiachita National Forest. I have served on a committee that wrote the management plan for Caney Creek and Black Fork Wilderness Areas. I would like to use that experience to give something back to the Club and help it continue to grow.

As part of Excom I would like to see our Outings program continue to enjoy the success and support from Excom it has enjoyed for many years. But our conservation work needs attention too because those efforts become expensive and not nearly as much fun. To make the Club what its motto promises both need to prosper. I would try to bring that balance to Excom.

Dan Vining

Some of my most pleasurable activities are trekking on a trail somewhere or climbing on some mountain peak. This has taken me climbing to the top of Killimanjaro, Mount Rainier, the Grand Tetons and Half Dome. It has also taken me on hikes along the pristine Na Pali coastline in Hawaii and the rugged desert terrain of the Guadalupe National Park twice.

In the short 5 year period I have been a member of the Dallas Sierra Club I have been able to take advantage of many of the numerous activities the club offers. A few of these activities include bus outings, NorthWest Earth Institute discussion groups, “Cool Cities Campaign” for the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the bus trip to Austin for the “Stop the Coal Rush” rally and a talk with our state legislatures. We members are fortunate we have had talented, dedicated leaders and volunteers that have made these activities possible. As a candidate it is my wish to help these people in these endeavors and bring in more volunteers and leaders to offer even more opportunities.

Areas I would focus on if chosen would be:

- Make it possible for all demographics in our membership to enjoy the outdoors by offering a wide variety of outings. Offering outings for families with children, seniors, singles, etc.
- Continue to bring the Sierra Club to the community through the Inner City Outings Program.
- Encourage members to become a part of their community through casual discussion sessions such as those offered by the Northwest Earth Institute.
- Continue to support community efforts in environmental issues.

Peter Wilson

I am an active member of the Dallas Sierra Club and I am seeking election to the 2008 Executive Committee so that I may contribute my professional organizational practices, leadership experiences and passion for conservation to our group’s leadership team. I currently serve as a co-chair of the Young Sierrans section, which is responsible for driving new Sierra Club membership and interest among young professionals in their 20s and 30s. Since this section’s re-launch in February of this year, membership has grown by over 200% to more than 210 new members due to the planning of relevant social, education and service oriented activities (GROWing over 20 so far!). Additionally, over the last year, I have volunteered in various capacities to many committee units and have organized activities through the ADDI (Addison) team, lobbyist at the Stop the Coal Rush rally in Austin and volunteer for the TrinityVOTE campaign, to name a few. I also currently serve as an appointed leader for the Executive Committee. My goals for 2008 include expanding awareness of the Sierra Club across the North Texas area, increasing membership outreach and participation and identifying opportunities to make the organization as effective and efficient as possible. I would appreciate your vote.

David Gray

I wrote 2 years ago in this space that local issues matter. Since then I have worked on water resource issues including the Marvin Nichols reservoir proposal and a local sustainability issue, the Trinity Vote campaign. I am running again for Executive Committee of the Dallas Sierra Club Group to continue serving the conservation causes of Texans in greater Dallas.

For the past two years, I have served not only on the Ex-Com, but also as Conservation Co-Chair, and I continue to serve as the Conservation Coordinator for Rivers/Wetlands. I have been a national Sierra Club member for over 25 years and am now a Lifetime member. For more than 12 years, I have been active at the state and local level of the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations.

For the past year, I have made a serious commitment to the Trinity Vote campaign that first completed a petition drive to force a referendum to keep the Trinity toll road from being built in the Trinity Park, and then for Trinity Vote Yes as we work to win the referendum. For Trinity Vote, I have done planning, fundraising, petition signing, precinct walks, research, more fundraising, sign delivery, and volunteered at debates.

From 1998 until recently, I served as chair of a grass-roots campaign, Save the Trinity, formed to defeat Proposition 11 and continue to work against undesirable Trinity River projects. With the help of the Dallas Sierra Club, we helped set up a buyout of Cadillac Heights, and we won an injunction against the Dallas Floodway Extension.

In 1999, I was elected to a three year position on the Ex-Com of the Lone Star Chapter. In 2003, I was elected as Chair of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources (now known as the Texas Conservation Alliance), a statewide conservation organization and the Texas affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

I continue to serve on the board of TCA, and I also serve on the board of Save Open Space and the Texas League of Conservation Voters.

Many environmental issues continue to face us today: grandfatherted air pollutants, water resources management and water quality protection, wet development, clearcutting, sprawl. I believe my conservation background will continue to help me effectively pursue the conservation interests of rivers, wetlands, forests and other native habitats as well as water quality and water resources management. My role on the Ex-Com if re-elected will continue to be an experienced and knowledgeable advocate of conservation for the Dallas Sierra Club.

I look forward to continuing to help protect the environment of Dallas and all those who live here by serving on the Dallas Group Executive Committee.

Milton Hickman

My introduction to the outdoors and the natural world coincided with my life. My teachers were my grandfather, my father and his friends, and a great scountmaster from my Boy Scout days. These people spent many, many hours outdoors in the Neches River bottomlands of East Texas. They hunted, fished, paddled canoes, camped, and I always tagged along. They truly believed in the heritage of the outdoors, and they certainly had a sense of place. They passed this rich heritage and passion for the outdoors along to me, and they wanted me to pass it along to future generations.

Our outdoor life is threatened today. Clean air, clean water, and habitat loss are serious issues facing us. We have a responsibility to preserve and protect the wild places of Texas, the nation, and the planet. And part of that responsibility is educating our fellow citizens about the beauty and richness of the outdoor environment.

I am willing to make a major investment of my time and energy in the effort of educating people about the outdoors, and effectively telling the Sierra Club Story. Currently I am a conservation committee member, I work on the Cool Cities campaign, and I do tabling events for the club. I would like to have your vote to place me on the Executive Committee in order to take on more responsibility. Thank you.

Dallas Sierra Club • Executive Committee Election Ballot

Candidate (random order) | Joint Member | Member
---|---|---
Scarlett Silva | Bill Greer | Dan Vining
| | | Peter Wilson
| | | David Gray
| | | Milton Hickman

Instructions: Vote for up to 4. If you have a joint membership, both members may vote. Send completed ballot to: Dallas Sierra Club Election, PO Box 800365, Dallas TX 75380, or deposit in ballot box at Sierra Club General Meeting in November (Nov. 13) or December (Dec. 11) or at the Holiday Party (Dec. 9). All ballots must be received by December 11.

Note: Your mailing label must be on the back of this ballot for validation purposes. If you are using a blank ballot, write your member number on the back of the ballot.