Memorial Day 2008 - Back to Bandelier!
Great News from the Cool Cities Campaign!

by Lee Berryman-Tedman

A big congratulations is in order for the Garland team for their hard work in getting Mayor Ron Jones to sign the Climate Protection Agreement. After more than a year of presentations and meetings with the mayor and city council, the Garland team—made up of Peggy Henger, Nora Czigan, Caroline Vornberg, Richard Bach, Emil Raggi, Roxanne Seibert, and Jennie Image—were able to convince the mayor of the many benefits of joining the U.S. Conference of Mayors in reducing GHG emissions. Mayor Ron Jones was so proud of his decision that he held a press conference on February 4, with members of the Garland city council, business community, and the Sierra Club present for the event. His signing was covered on the local evening news and can only help our campaign as we continue to approach other cities to join the green movement.

Thanks to all for their hard work!!

Conservation Committee Starts New Local Campaigns

At their January monthly meeting the Conservation Committee of the Dallas group set priorities for 2008 and decided on several new local campaigns to work during the first half of the year. A major campaign for this year continues to be local efforts in the national club's Cool Cities campaign, designed to persuade mayors to sign on to the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. During the second half of the year we expect the club and individual volunteers to be working on political campaigns to help elect environmentally friendly politicians to office. This left us with an opportunity to work other initiatives during the first half of the year. The committee decided to focus on a few relatively small-scale local campaigns.

Two of these campaigns are concerned with education. In one of these we will try to work with Dallas Area Interfaith to develop an environmental seminar for their Civic Academies. This might give us a chance to present an environmental message from a practical, immediate perspective to people who may not normally be exposed to club concerns. The second is targeted toward developing and distributing materials for families and younger children.

Our third campaign is working with local grocery chains to encourage shoppers to just say “NO” to “Paper or plastic?” and bring their own bags.

To help out with any of these campaigns contact the Conservation Committee co-chairs Mike Rawlins, mike@dallassierraclub.org, 972-783-0962, or Robin Sowton, robin@dallassierraclub.org, 214-680-8349.
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

WHO or WHAT is The Sierra Club? It’s a question your friends have probably asked you or you may be asking yourself while looking over this newsletter. This question is being asked more and more these days and the answer is not as simple as you might think.

Frankly, I remember my first meeting in the late 80s walking into an old elementary school auditorium just in time to see the local leaders dressed in outrageous costumes putting on a skit dramatizing the latest environmental issue and wondering exactly what I had wandered into. People were friendly, but I wasn’t ready to join a group I didn’t really understand. I was concerned about the same conservation issues, but content to pay my dues and let others fight the real conservation battles, most of which I didn’t even know existed. I was interested in outings, but let other “priorities” keep me indoors behind a desk.

The breakthrough came in the early 90s when I returned to Sierra Club and re-visited these same monthly meetings with a new mindset that sitting on the sidelines was no longer an option. I had started reading the works of Edward Abbey who reminds us in clear and sometimes blunt language that we all share the need to get off the couch, get out of our cars, and only then will we start to understand and experience the magnificence of nature. Abbey also injects into our very souls the next step, which is to defend that magnificence with whatever skills we have. Abbey as a writer, your fellow Sierrans as activists and outdoor enthusiasts of all types, and finally you, gentle reader... What skill or passion will you bring to the table?

Over the next few months, I would ask each of you to join me in exploring the question: What is the Sierra Club? You can e-mail me atwendel@dallassierracub.org or just tell me at one of our events. In the end, I believe we will all find the Sierra Club experience to be personally rewarding and special for many different reasons. Please share these with me, so others who are still on the sidelines might be inspired to find their own place in the heart and soul of our club. Long live the Wilderness. Long live The Sierra Club.

Wendel Withrow

Collin County Satellite Group

Do you live in Collin County? Are you interested in Sierra Club activities closer to home? A Collin County satellite of the Dallas Sierra Club is starting now! Please join us on Monday, March 17th at 7pm at the Haggard Library (at Coit & Park). We’ll talk about upcoming events and share ideas. We’ll also be showing The Story of Stuff and having a discussion afterwards. The April meeting will also be at the same location on Monday, April 21st at 7pm. For more information, please contact Robin Sowton or Dan Vining.

robin@dallassierracub.org
vininda@voughtaircraft.com

Dallas INNER CITY OUTINGS Outreach Program

Tuesday, March 25 and April 22
6:30pm Guest/New Volunteer Orientation, 7pm Meeting

Inner City Outings (“ICO”) is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club that provides outings, such as day hikes and camping, for selected groups of disadvantaged youth. Screening required and training provided for all outing volunteers. ICO meets the 4th Tuesday of every month (except July and December) at Dallas REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (westbound service road of LBJ between Midway and Welch). Contact Liz Wheelan for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION TO BE RESURRECTED

With the help of James Wilson, a local commercial photographer and Sierra Club member, the Photography Section is looking for all club members who would be interested in improving their skills and attending various photo shoots during the year. The first outing will be at the Dallas Zoo which provides unlimited subjects for some great photography. Other outings will include some local day trips to such places as The Haggard Wildlife Refuge on Lake Texhoma and eventually overnight trips specifically geared to photography.

If you are interested, contact the current Photography Chair, Wendel Withrow, 972-416-2500, wendel@dallassierracub.org or James Wilson, 214-823-6542.
MARCH/APRIL PROGRAMS

March General Meeting - 60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Dallas/Fort Worth

60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Dallas / Fort Worth covers the best trails the metropolis has to offer, including popular trails as well as lesser-known paths. No guidebook has covered before. This is the essential guide you'll need for hiking in the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex. Choose a trek alongside ancient dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park, or follow fresh prints of live coyote and white-tailed deer at Lake Mineral Wells. Explore remnants of Texas' disappearing blackland prairie, or wander amongst the dense hardwood forests of the riparian wetlands. A hike for every mood, you can pick a quiet hike to a secluded pecan grove or an upbeat populated hike to a State Champion Oak Tree – or maybe you just want to feel like a pioneer as you hike through the wilderness of the LBJ National Grasslands. Hikes include treks through open prairies, rolling hillsides, lakeside beaches, and other treasures all found just a daytrip or less from the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex.

Author Bio

An avid hiker, camper and traveler, Joanie Sanchez's love of the outdoors began one summer with the Youth Conservation Corps in Yosemite National Park. That led her to serving as a leader within the group the following year, teaching and mentoring as she shared her passion for nature. Since then her adventures have taken her backpacking across Europe, on a state-to-state bike tour across New England, and hiking through the Caribbean islands. She has traveled extensively throughout Mexico and has written an adventure guidebook to Mexico's Gulf Coast. Sanchez is a graduate of Yale University. She grew up and lives in the Dallas area and spends her free time showing fellow hikers the beauty that Texas trails have to offer.

MARCH SHORT PROGRAM

The March short program will be on Environmental Education of our youth as the future generation who will have to deal with the successes and failures of the current efforts to clean up our planet. Kirk Evans of the Allen Independent School District will be here to tell us about the great progress in environmental education, including the award winning Eco Literacy Project he heads up.

April General Meeting – DFW Wildlife Coalition

Growth and prosperity come at a cost, and wild animals across North Texas are paying dearly. As DFW sprawls, encroaching on wild animals' homes, problems arise. The DFW Wildlife Coalition's strides to educate residents and help them cope with unexpected wild neighbors. Humans can learn to coexist with the local "wildlife." Each day the DFW Wildlife Coalition receives calls from panicked Texans wanting to know what to do about opossums in their backyard and coyotes in their parks. The DFW Wildlife Coalition not only knows what to do, but can also alleviate fears. That makes the DFW Wildlife Coalition an important and unique resource. The DFW Wildlife Coalition can even help you deal with the most feared invaders on Earth, Reptilia: Serpentes – Snakes! The scariest things to ever cross your path, right? Well according to the US Human Society many views of snakes are complete myths. A) Snakes dig holes and burrow in backyards. Snakes are physically unable to dig holes, but do use existing holes of small rodents for shelter and food. B) A snake in the yard is a danger to children and pets. Any snake can bite a child or pet if it feels threatened. If the snake is venomous, depending on the size of the victim, a bite may be life threatening if not treated in a timely manner. But in general, snakes do not waste their time attacking animals too large to be considered a meal. C) Snakes are slimy. Snakes have smooth, dry skin composed of scales. For much more on snakes (and other "scary" reptiles) you may find in your yard, Lucy Carcereano from the DFW Wildlife Coalition will speak to the Dallas Sierra Club at the April 8th general meeting.

An additional note from the US Human Society, "The persecution of snakes and the acts of violence often committed against them can largely be blamed on our societal and cultural prejudices. Snakes instill a deep-rooted fear in many people, even though these shy creatures prefer to avoid humans and most other animals larger than themselves. Of those snakes who share human habitats, the vast majority are harmless." Join us on April 8th to learn more firsthand. For immediate information on dealing with snakes (and many other visitors from the natural world) check out the DFW Wildlife Coalition's website at: www.dfwwildlife.org

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club Meetings and Speakers

Tuesday, March 25, Gary Hogan will speak to the Mid-Suburban Sierra Club on "Gas Drilling: Making an Informed Decision." The gas companies are coming to Northeast Tarrant County and Irving/Grand Prairie. They are full of promises of instant riches and few-to-no-problems. Gas drilling came to Gary Hogan's community in 2004. A gas well drilled there in 2005 catalyzed his association into the realities of that world and caused them to demand changes to the Fort Worth ordinances for Urban Gas Drilling. Hogan, president of The Chapel Creek Neighborhood Association on the west side of Fort Worth, served on the Fort Worth Gas Drilling Task Force from October, 2005, through September, 2006, and will be reappointed to the task force when it reconvenes.

He will not only talk to us of the environmental issues associated with gas drilling, he will also speak to us about the life quality problems that are just beginning when you sign on the dotted line. In short, he has been there; done that. Bring your questions for Mr. Hogan to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville from 7 pm to 8:15 pm on the 25th. Directions below.

Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, Elizabeth Samudio of Elizabeth Anna's Old World Organic Garden will speak to the Mid-Suburban Sierra Club on "Living More Earth Conscious at Home and Simple ways to Do This."

Ms. Samudio communicates the importance of caring for the earth from the home garden to the food we eat, even starting an organic farmers' market at her 8th Ave. center. As a cancer survivor she is committed to non-toxic environments and supporting the earth. As a teacher and author, she is a dedicated organic garden instructor.

Learn ways to care for your home and lawn with non-toxic products, how to start a worm garden for compost, and how to start an organic garden, even in containers. Bring your questions for Elizabeth Samudio to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville from 7 pm to 8:15 pm on Earth Day.

Directions: Healthy Approach Market, 817 399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034 is located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road. Turn right into the Healthy Approach parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's.

For further information, contact Terry Jensen at 817 545-0140 or 972 251-1532.
MAR 8 (SAT) DAYTRIP ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GRAPEVINE LAKE W44 hike about 5 miles on a dirt trail near the lake. No reservations required, just show up. No pets allowed. Take shoes for after the hike in case the trail is muddy. Take snacks and water. Meet at 8:30 am at Rockledge Park in Grapevine. The park is located near the roundabout on the northwest corner of the 12200 block of Salina Avenue. The trailhead is at the Salina Avenue entrance to Rockledge Park. Meet at 8:30 am. Take the left on the driveway after the stop sign to the trailhead. At the park, we'll hike to the trailhead. Then, we'll drive to the north parking lot. Leader: Marcelo Mora 972-894-2546(h) and Claudia Blas 817-924-3642(h) or 817-307-2004(h). NEW

MAR 8 (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 Lake of the Love of the Nature Center of Carroll and Dallas, and Dallas Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful pristine recreation areas, so there are always birds and wildlife to enjoy the lake. The park is smaller than before. Thank you! Leader: Carol Nesh 214-824-0424(h). NEW

MAR 9 (SUN) DAYTRIP ON WHITE ROCK CREEK TRAIL Meet at 9:30 AM at Mixon Park (Sec of Ponder Avenue and Roney Blvd). This will be a nature trail through the park. Bring water. No reservations necessary. Just show up. Optional Transportation: Contact Leader: Dale Baustian 214-343-4714(h). NEW

MAR 14 (FRID) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYES TRAIL WALK, MEET at the Trailhead at 9:30 AM. See the Texas Buckeye Blooms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions depend upon weather. Bring appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Texas Buckeye Naturalists are the Texas Chapter Trailhead at: 7000 Bexar East, Dallas, TX 75215. MagnoSPL. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is available at www.texassuckeye.org. Leader: Jim Floyd 214-557-1144(h). NEW

MAR 15 (SAT) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYES TRAIL WALK, MEET at the Trailhead at 10 AM or 1 PM. See the Texas Buckeye Blooms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions depend upon weather. Bring appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Texas Buckeye Naturalists are the Texas Chapter Trailhead at: 7000 Bexar East, Dallas, TX 75215. MagnoSPL. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is available at www.texassuckeye.org. Leader: Jim Floyd 214-557-1144(h). NEW

MAR 15 (SAT) ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE ON GREENVILLE AVE – DISC PARADE EVENT The Dallas Sierra Club is hosting a celebration (food and awareness entry into this year’s parade scheduled for March 15th. 11 am-2 pm. 1869 Green). BRILLIANT! The City of Dallas has agreed to lend us up to a dozen of the blue, recycling containers on wheels that we’ll push around the parade route for use in gathering parade viewer recyclables. We are seeking volunteers to help (we’ll assign the trash containers (two people per bin) along the parade route or just be part of the parade and walk along with the Sierra Club Group. Total volunteer time would be about four hours, beginning at 10:00 AM. The parade starts at 11:00 AM Meet at the front of Market Station at S. 18th Street, after which, we can hang out to enjoy some of the festivities. To participate, please RSVP by February 23rd to the Young Sierrans email address or call Patr 214-454-8679. We’ll follow up to everyone the week before the parade to go over some final arrangements and details. All are welcome to join in the fun! Organizer: Peter Wilson NEW

MAR 16-17 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK BUCKEYE MOUN- TAIN TRAIL, ARKANSAS Hike one of the most scenic Wilderness trails in Arkansas. In the Caney Creek Wilderness area of the Ouachita National Forest, we’ll enjoy the beauty of a tranquil backpack trip through the lush hardwood forests of the Ouachita Mountain Trail. On Sunday we’ll drive to the Caney Creek Trail. With only the wilderness to be starting to emerge, this trip is rated moderate and would be a great alternative for good beginner or advanced hikers of all ages. 11 1/2 mi total round trip. Meet at noon on Friday or Saturday near a nice little waterfall. Leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h). NEW

MAR 16 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH Plant- based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Registration $21 for Sierra Club. New Start Vlg. (972) 243-0570 2230 Royal Lane, ste 300, Dallas, Texas. 75229 Coord. Janis and James Bolin 468-371-1380(h). NEW

MAR 16 (SUN) 25TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYES TRAIL WALK, MEET at the Trailhead at 9:30 AM. See the Texas Buckeye Blooms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions depend upon weather conditions. Bring appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Texas Buckeye Naturalists are the Texas Chapter Trailhead at: 7000 Bexar East, Dallas, TX 75215. MagnoSPL. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is available at www.texassuckeye.org. Leader: Jim Floyd 214-557-1144(h). NEW

MAR 19 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING Meet at the upstairs common room of RH (at Northeast of I-35 between Midway and Watch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outdoor lovers, future hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts are welcome! Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h). NEW

MAR 30 (SUN) ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB AZALEA DAY HIKING ALONG TURKETTE CREEK (1.5 or 2 hour walk with two stops. Suitable for children outdoors). Contact Leader: Dale Baustian 214-343-4714(h). NEW

APR 6 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH Thai plant-based buffet at Dallas Jasmine, 283-6282, 2304 (now at Midway and I-35), bring your own lunch to enjoy (vegetarian). RSVP needed: Leader: Austin Brooks 214-589-3812(h) NEW

APR 6-7 (SAT-SUN) LABOR DAY BUS TRIP TO THE WENOMIHE WILDERNESS IN COLORADO. Escape the Texas heat this Labor Day weekend and join us on our trip to the Colorado Mountains of the Wenomica Wilderness. This trip has mountains, lakes, waterfalls, and vistas. Trips will range from several hours with day hikes to strenuous long hikes. The Wenomica Wilderness offers a great diversity and all the miles you want to hike. It is a hidden gem one of our most popular trips. Summiting the Rio Grande Pinnacles for an impressive view is a highlight of the trip. Bus driver: Kathrin Hune 214-331-4030(h). NEW

NOV 26-DEC 1 (WED-MON) THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK. The Dallas Sierra Club Thanksgiving holiday tradition continues with our annual bus trip to Big Bend. There will be a variety of options available for this very national park. If you’ve never been to Big Bend National Park, you owe it to yourself to experience this unique part of Texas. If you’ve been before, come on back and explore another adventure! Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas at 8:30 AM on Thanksgiving Day, 4:30 AM on Monday. We will have five back packing trips to moderate to strenuous. Some back packing experience is recommended. Leader: Kathrin Hune buses@simi.org. Bus trip leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h). NEW

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 outtings 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 that you have been seen, come on back and explore another adventure! Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas at 8:30 AM on Thanksgiving Day, 4:30 AM on Monday. We will have five back packing trips to moderate to strenuous. Some back packing experience is recommended. Leader: Kathrin Hune buses@simi.org. Bus trip leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(h). NEW

The following are primarily sponsored and administered by the Dallas Sierra Club and may not represent the views of the Sierra Club. They are all run as a service for the benefit of interested readers of this list.

APR 26-27 (SAT-SUN) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS WIL- DERNESS POW WOW. Come to the woods of East Texas for guided nature walks, live music, interesting programs, a great camping experience in a unique environment. This Pow Wow Pow Wow will be held the first time ever at Village Creek State Park in the Piney Woods. Sponsored by the Dallas Sierra Club and the Big Thicket Association. More information here. For reservations, contact the Dallas Conservation Alliance 512-327-4119(h). NEW

GET OUTSIDE

NEW

sierra singles outlings

MAR 3 (MON) SIERRA SINGLES REGULAR MONTHLY DINNER A casual monthly gathering of Sierra Sings at a local restaurant. Watch for details as always. Sierra Sings return requested. Contact: Paul Halter 214-920-1703(h). NEW

MAR 30 (SUN) HOUSE CONCERT AND POTLUCK 6:00 PM This popular event brings singing/long- writers to a living room in Farmers Branch. Enjoy some great live music and share a meal with other singles in a friendly setting. RSVP’s are use requested. More details later on the Sierra Sing email list a few weeks before the event. Contact Paul Halter 214-920-1703(h). NEW

young sierrans outings

APR 6 (SAT) YOUNG SIERRANS DINNERT AND LIVE MUSIC EVENT Please join the Young Sierra Section for an evening of live music and dinner. Performing artists will be doing karaoke at Krazy Kitchen, one of Dallas’ most hip and cozy spots. This is a new event in the creative sounds of Oktenski River (out at the Granada Theater). Dinner reservations are made for 7:00 PM which should give us plenty of time to enjoy our meal prior to heading over the show. See the Granada site for more information. RSVP your names to Paul at paul@halter.net by February 1st. Please RSVP by April 2nd for dinner; be sure to buy your concert tickets while in advance to assure that you receive your preferred admission. Email Paul for details. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Contact: Peter Wilson NEW

non-sierra club outings

Notice: to receive the outings list monthly via email, visit www.dallassierriclub.org/subscrib
Memorial Day 2008 - Back to Bandelier!

by Bill Greer

For many years the Memorial Day sleeper bus trip to Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico was one of our most popular trips. Several years ago this ended when a non-Sierra Club hiker started an illegal campfire that escaped and burned parts of the area. Not too long after a Park Service controlled burn also escaped. Like Yellowstone did, Bandelier has recovered nicely from the fires and in 2006 we returned to this unique area for a great trip. Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2008 we will pay it another visit.

One main attraction of the area is unique scenery. Bandelier takes in part of the Pajarito Plateau, a slab of volcanic tuff spreading out from the Jemez Mountains. The Plateau is split by several canyons resulting in a kind of upside down topography. Instead of mountains rising from the plain you have a plain with canyons cut into it.

An aspect of Bandelier not matched by any other Dallas Sierra Club trip is the extensive Ancestral Pueblo ruins and rock art. The area was home to a thriving community from about 1075 AD to 1550 and today much evidence of their occupation remains. Bandelier was established to preserve these ruins. Many of the finest examples can only be reached by hikers.

The Dallas Sierra Club bus trip will feature 5 different backpack trips. All 5 trips will hike in to a base camp the first day, do a dayhike the second day, and hike out the third day. The trips differ in how long the backpacks and dayhikes are. The easiest trip will concentrate on extensive ruins and water falls near the visitor center. Camp will be in a shaded canyon with water nearby. Other trips will backpack farther into the backcountry, get to see more of the area, and visit more remote ruins. A highlight of many of these trips will be Painted Cave.

Like most of our bus trips this one will leave Friday evening. When you first board the bus seating will look more or less like a regular bus. Around 10pm the bus will convert to “bunk mode” and we’ll stretch out to sleep the rest of the way to Bandelier. When you wake up Saturday morning you’ll be there and it will be time to go hiking! Seating and trips are assigned in the order you sign up for the trip so sign up soon and come along with us to this very scenic area. Visit the Dallas Sierra Club web site (www.dallassierraclub.org) to find out how to sign up.
St. Patrick's Day Parade on Greenville Ave.

The Dallas Sierra Club (DSC) will be entering a conservation-themed/DSC awareness entry into this year's parade scheduled for March 15th. We're green; St. Paddy's green: BRILLIANT! The City of Dallas has agreed to lend us up to a dozen of the blue, recycling containers on wheels that we'll push around the parade for use in gathering parade viewer recyclables. We are seeking volunteers to help (woman the blue containers (2 people per bin) along the parade route or just be part of the parade and walk along with the DSC group. Total volunteer time would be about four hours beginning at 10:00 AM. The parade starts at 11:00 AM near Park Ln. and usually lasts a couple hours, after which, we can hang out to enjoy some of the festivities. To participate, please reply by February 28th to the Young Sierrans email address or call Peter's contact info located on the Contact Us page of the DSC website. We'll follow up to everyone with an email that includes additional details. All are welcome to join in the fun!

Don't Get Left Out In the Cold...
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible, they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $2.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

THE COMPASS
A Publication of the Dallas Sierra Club

Young Sierrans Outing - Canoeing with Everlast

by Jenny Lehman

Last fall a group of friends who met in the Dallas Sierra Club Young Sierrans group decided to spend a Saturday canoeing the Trinity River. We expected warm weather, quirky water, trees, camaraderie, and sweaty bodies at the end. We got that, and more.

When we met at the put-in spot, we noticed a mangy dog hanging around often carrying trash in his mouth. Our canoeing guide asked us not to pet or feed him because someone had dropped him there and he didn’t want the dog to try and follow us ten miles down the river.

We managed to rappel down the steep bank for the put-in, and we were on our way in 2-person canoes. We heard stories from our highly knowledgeable guide about the river, the sights and scenes along the way, and how the upcoming referendum could impact the river. We also watched the dog continue to follow us.

Ten miles later, we arrived at the take-out, with all of us - and the dog - still intact. A couple of times we thought the dog had left us, but then we would see him again. He swam most of the way, but occasionally walked along the riverbank. At that point, some of the folks named him “Everlast.”

We called animal control and the Humane Society, with no success. We could not take him in the shuttle van. One of the kindhearted couples from the canoeing trip returned the next day to try and rescue Everlast, but he would not get in their car. Finally, on Tuesday, three days after our trip, the canoe guide saw that Everlast was still there, and decided to rescue him. If the dog wanted to survive that badly, he deserved a chance! The latest word is that he makes a great pet, and truly is “man’s best friend.” Some of the Young Sierrans sent money to Petco or Petsmart gift cards to the guide to help with expenses for his new pet. Although it breaks my heart that some evil, rotten person would leave their amazing dog for dead at a river bank, it warms my heart to know there are wonderful, caring, kindhearted people who, when possible, will save a life, risk themselves to remedy a bad situation, and give this story a happy ending.

I encourage others to canoe the Trinity River like we did. It has a lot to offer, it’s a wonderful resource right in our backyard, and it’s not just home to many animals grazing on used baby attire. We traveled the Main Stem, which offers scenic views of downtown Dallas, an insider’s view of the Great Trinity Forest, shale and limestone outcrops, various bridges with construction dates back to the early 1900s, and a couple of old lock and dam structures which required careful navigation. In addition, there are native floral and wildlife sightings.

Photos by Peter Wilson
Young Sierrans (and friend) at the Trinity River

3/5 • 4/2  First Wednesday. The Executive Committee (or Excom - the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club) and other Club leaders meet to discuss Club business and plan for the future. See www.dallassierraclub.org/calendar for details, or contact the Group Chair.

4/7 Monday before General Meeting. Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to editor@dallassierraclub.org.

3/11 • 4/8 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.dallassierraclub.org for directions. Come at 6:00 PM for refreshments and socializing and to pick up activity materials.

3/19 • 4/16 Third Wednesday. Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (MapSCO 14Q). Discuss schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

3/25 • 4/22 Fourth Tuesday. Inner City Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (MapSCO 14Q). All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

4/23 Fourth Wednesday every other month. Newsletter Mailing Party at 7:00 PM at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest and Churchill Way (MapSCO 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Just show up.

The Compass
A PUBLICATION OF THE DALLAS SIERRA CLUB

CALENDAR

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG

The Dallas Sierra Club's general meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 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, 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115. Check www.dallassierraclub.org for directions (MapSCO 14Q).