

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - January, 2023



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Dallas Sierra Club Holiday Party - Footnote

Thanks to all for attending the Holiday Party in December. I think everyone got a raffle prize except a few late comers, including Jody who just moved here from New York. Please feel free to contact me as I have some extra prizes. Your Holiday Cheer Meister. - Wendel Withrow, phone 214 287 1046

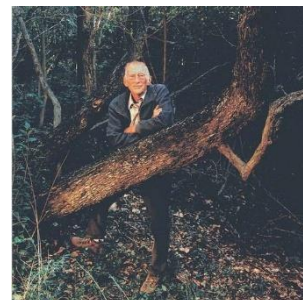
Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, January 10

The Ned Fritz Legacy

Please join us as the Dallas Sierra Club welcomes Amy Martin and Kristi Kerr Leonard who will discuss their new project: The Ned Fritz Legacy featured at NedFritz.com

Ned Fritz, one of Texas' most impactful environmentalists, and his wife, Genie, built a coalition that defeated the Trinity River barge canal and brought initial attention to the Great Trinity Forest. In addition, they added crucial organizational and legislative acumen that led to the creation of Big Thicket National Preserve.

As the first acquisitions chair of The Nature Conservancy Texas and co-founder of the Texas Land Conservancy, Ned (with Genie's help) started the state's land trust movement; and with their group, Texas Committee on Natural Resources (now Texas Conservation Alliance), they fought clearcutting in East Texas national forests and shepherded



several wilderness areas into being.

Journalist Amy Martin won an award from Ned's Texas Committee on Natural Resources and she has enjoyed a 45-year career writing for local and national publications, alternating between entertainment and environmental journalism. She is currently senior features writer for GreenSourceDFW. Her third book, *Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas-Fort Worth*, will be published in late summer 2023 by Timber Press.

Kristi Kerr Leonard leads restoration efforts on the Ned and Genie Fritz Texas Buckeye Trails in the Great Trinity Forest. After receiving an MBA from the American School of International Business, Kristi enjoyed a long career at The Richard's Group advertising agency. She now uses her business skills to manage estates of high-net-worth individuals and serves as marketing director for C3 Financial Services and The Bottoms Group.

FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 10 via Zoom

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. you can log in to the meeting, chat, and ask questions. The meeting will begin at 7:00 with announcements, followed by our speaker's presentation.

How to join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99535860396>

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,99535860396#

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 995 3586 0396

Go to <http://dallassierraclub.org/> for details.

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member.

For more information, contact Victoria Howard, 214 855 1580 Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org

Note from the Chair

by Victoria Howard

Dear Friends,

Welcome 2023 and Happy New Year to you! As with the rotation of the calendar to a brand new year, so goes the rotation to new faces at the Dallas Sierra Club. After several years as our Chair and fearless leader, Dan Moulton is stepping down from his post, and I now take over as Chair with our friend and colleague, Kathryn Bazan, serving as my Vice Chair!

Thank you, Dan, for all that you have done to help the Dallas Sierra Club navigate the choppy waters of advocacy the last few years! We look forward to continuing our work with you in a different capacity as an Executive Committee (ExCom) member.

We also welcome with open arms other new faces on our ExCom. Allen McGill replaces our longtime friend and colleague, Wendel Withrow, who is expanding his advocacy to new and exciting arenas! I must say a big thanks to both gentlemen for their past and future guidance at the Dallas Sierra Club. They are both princes amongst men.

Last, but certainly not least, we welcome Lynn Marple as the new Chair of Outings and Jim Robarge as Vice Chair. I have no doubt that they will continue the stellar work of their predecessor, Mark Stein, and continue to take our Outings Committee to new heights.

I realize that all of these new names need faces to connect to, so please join us at our General Meeting on Zoom this next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We welcome Amy Martin and Kristi Kerr Leonard as they discuss their endeavors in honoring longtime environmentalist, Ned Fritz, and their newly created website devoted to his life's work.

All of the details for the meeting and the zoom link are easily found on our website <http://dallassierraclub.org/>. Please join us Tuesday for conversation and community. I would love to meet as many of you as possible and hear how the Dallas Sierra Club can support each and everyone in their environmental journey.

Cheers to 2023, new beginnings, old friends, and our cherished environmental community. You are all truly valued!

Respectfully,

BACKPACKING 101 CLASS - Saturday, January 28

Ready to camp away from your car and get into the wilderness? Register now and join us for one of our Club's most popular classes. This interactive class is for anyone new to backpacking and those who want to refresh their backpacking knowledge and skills. Dallas Sierra Club leaders with decades of experience will present a comprehensive overview of backpacking topics, including packs, footwear, tents, sleeping bags, food and cooking, clothes, wilderness ethics, sanitation, safety and more. Learn tips to make your time in the wilderness more comfortable, less expensive, and fun!

Saturday, January 28, 10:00 am - 3:45 pm, Dallas Library - Preston Royal Branch (note location change). **Please register by Tuesday, January 24.** Complete details and link to register are on our Outings page; [click here](#) Questions? Liz Wheelan, 214 207 4997, Lizwico@aol.com



ICO OUTREACH - January 29 Training!

It's an exciting time for Inspiring Connections Outdoors ("ICO"), our program to connect underserved youth with nature. We've recently partnered with Wesley-Rankin Community Center, an organization which has been helping youth in West Dallas for over 100 years. Adult volunteers are needed for an occasional Saturday to help with taking these fun, special kiddos to local destinations such as nature preserves, state parks and more. Sound like something you'd enjoy? Volunteer orientation and training (required) is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, January 29. Send email to Lizwico@aol.com to sign up or for more information. Can't volunteer - donations also welcome and needed to support our activities.



Big Bend National Park Outing - February 8-12

A detailed description of Dallas Sierra Club's outing to camp and hike at Big Bend National Park is ready for viewing by [clicking here](#). Big Bend has been an annual destination for the Dallas Group for decades. This year's outing offers a choice of three itineraries, including one suitable for beginner backpackers with good fitness. There's another option with just day hikes, returning to the same camp with tables and toilets each night.

All trippers will arrive by car or carpool at group campsites we have reserved in the Chisos Basin Campground by late afternoon on Wednesday, February 8, to explore Big Bend for three days, then depart for home on Sunday morning or late Saturday. Each itinerary option has limits for participation, so early registration is advised.



Windows That Generate Electricity

All that natural light flowing through your windows may one day do much more than brighten your mood. Scientists in Switzerland have reached a new efficiency record for transparent solar cells, paving the way for electricity-generating windows that could help power our homes and devices.

These see-through solar panels are transparent, flexible, and can be manufactured in a wide range of colors for a relatively low cost. They are already being used in skylights, greenhouses, and glass facades.

[Click here](#) to read the interesting article.

First 100,000 kg Removed from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

by Boyan Slat, CEO and Founder



Editor's Note: This is a follow-up to a video in our [April, 2022, newsletter](#).

Today [July 25, 2022], our operation in the Pacific Ocean reached an exciting milestone: **The Ocean Cleanup has now officially removed more than 100,000 kg of plastic from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP).**

Since deployment in August 2021, System 002 (or "Jenny") has now collected **101,353 kg** of plastic over 45 extractions, sweeping an area of ocean of over 3000km² – comparable to the size of Luxembourg or Rhode Island. Added to the 7,173 kg of plastic captured by our previous prototype systems, The Ocean Cleanup has now collected **108,526 kg** of plastic from the GPGP – more than the combined weight of two and a half Boeing 737-800s, or the dry weight of a space shuttle!

According to our [2018 study](#) in which we mapped the patch, the total amount of accumulated plastic is 79,000,000 kg, or 100,000,000 kg if we include the Outer GPGP. Thus, if we repeat this 100,000 kg haul 1,000 times – the Great Pacific Garbage Patch will be gone.

I'm proud of The Ocean Cleanup team for crossing this milestone, which is all the more remarkable considering System 002 is still an experimental system. Now our technology is [validated](#), we are ready to move on to our new and expanded System 03, which is expected to capture plastic at a rate potentially **10 times higher** than System 002 through a combination of increased size, improved efficiency, and increased uptime. Our transition to System 03 is [starting soon](#).

Uniquely, our catch reporting follows DNV's [Chain of Custody standard](#). This independent certification guarantees that every single kilogram of plastic came from the ocean. You can read more about how our plastic catch is verified [here](#).

Right now, we're scaling up to the next phase in our cleanup with System 03. Onwards to adding another zero behind our catch figures!

[Click here](#) for this article on the Internet.

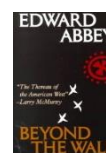
Recommended Reading

Click on a book's title (below) for a link to information about the book at [goodreads.com](#)

NEW - [Beyond The Wall](#) by Edward Abbey, 1971

In this wise and lyrical book about landscapes of the desert and the mind, Edward Abbey guides us beyond the wall of the city and asphalt belting of superhighways to special pockets of wilderness that stretch from the interior of Alaska to the dry lands of Mexico.

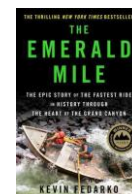
Available at local and online bookstores



[The Emerald Mile](#) by Kevin Fedarko

This is the thrilling true tale of the fastest boat ride ever, down the entire length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon, during the legendary flood of 1983. I read this book at the urging of some friends, even though it didn't seem to appeal to me, and I'm glad that I did. Great book, easy read, difficult to put down. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

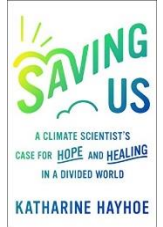


[Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World](#) by Katharine Hayhoe, 2021

In *Saving Us*, Hayhoe argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research and personal stories, Hayhoe shows that small conversations can have astonishing results. *Saving Us* leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change.

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores



Previous book recommendations are here. <http://dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?buystuff>

Please give us YOUR reading recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

Recommended Viewing

NEW - [Click here](#) for a 5 minute video on how trail designers build hikes.

[Click here](#) for a 4 minute video on how furniture is made from recycled plastic

[Click here](#) for a one minute video about the Sierra Club's values.

Previous video recommendations are here. <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?videos>

Please give us YOUR viewing recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

Et Cetera

Leave the road, take the trails. - Pythagoras

Sleeping bags are the soft tacos of the bear world.

Two's company; tree's a crowd.

Limerick

Lost my contour map, suffered grief,
Though the time it went missing was brief.

Elevation lines show

What I need, so you know

When I found the map, 'twas a relief.

- by Kirk Miller



Let Us Know

Please let us know **your opinion**. Give us **an article** for the newsletter. Give us **feedback** on articles. What would you like to see in the newsletter? Changes? Improvements? What **books** and **videos** do you recommend? Please let us know. This is **YOUR** newsletter. Feedback is welcome (comments, suggestions, letters to the Editor, etc.). Submit feedback to newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

Previous issues of our newsletter are available [here](#).

Videos of prior General Meetings are on YouTube

[Click here](#) for a list of meetings with varied topics such as national parks, Critterman, beautiful photos from around the world, wild animals, activism, and more.



Dallas Sierra Club Outreach Speakers Program - Speakers for Your Group

The Dallas Sierra Club provides outdoor/environmental education in the form of entertaining and informative presentations by Dallas Sierra Club members with expertise in the topics offered. These presentations range in length from 30 minutes to one hour and cover a variety of topics in the general categories of outdoor adventure, environmental education, and general ecology. These talks are appropriate for a wide range of audiences including youth groups, school classes, civic and social groups, nature and gardening clubs, church groups, etc. Any group interested in an available topic is welcome to contact us. To see available topics and to schedule your speaker, [click here](#).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is our calendar for the next few months. For complete listings, click [here](#).

January 10, Tuesday - General Meeting

The Ned Fritz Legacy - [click here](#) for details.

January 28, Saturday - Backpacking 101 Class

[Click here](#) for details.

January 29, Sunday - ICO Outreach Training

For details, see the article in this newsletter.

February 1, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting

The Executive Committee (Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. For more information, contact the Dallas Group Chair.

February 8-12 Big Bend National Park Outing

[Click here](#) for details.

February 14, Tuesday - General Meeting

Topic will be determined and posted soon.

February 18, Saturday - Goat Island Trail Hike

Day hike - Explore the Trinity River floodplain and woods of southeast Dallas County's Goat Island Preserve. [Click here](#) for details.

March 1, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting

The Executive Committee (Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. For more information, contact the Dallas Group Chair
