

MARCH 2003

DALLAS SIERRA CLUB
THE COMPASS



WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG

Grand Theft Bicycle

by Dallas Morning News writer
Kathy A. Goolsby

John Rath routinely beats his co-workers to the office, and he does it on a bicycle.

Mr. Rath lives in Grapevine and works at Frito-Lay on Legacy Drive in Plano, where he is manager of the company's employees' association. It's a 22 mile commute each way, and he traverses it on two wheels at least twice a week in winter and more often in other seasons.

The biggest problem in winter is there's less daylight,"said Mr., Rath, 46. I won't ride at night. It's just too dangerous, so I have to think about when I have to leave to make it home by dark."

His route takes him along State Highway 26 in Grapevine, which merges into State Highway 121 just past Grapevine Mills mall. From There, it's a straight shot through Lewisville to his office in Plano.

The journey takes about an hour and 10

SEE "GRAND THEFT BICYCLE"
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Save our Seashore!

WHAT: Camp-in and Sea Turtle Sandcastle Building Contest at Padre Island National Seashore

WHEN: 3:00 PM Saturday, March 29-- Beach Clean-up
10:00am -2:00pm Sunday, March 30--Sea Turtle Sand Castle Contest

4:00 pm, March 30-Campfire Sing-a-Long
WHY: Save the Turtles and Protest the Bush Administration's Reckless Destruction of our National Parks and Public Lands

REGISTER BY MARCH 21!
Call 512-477-1729 or go to www.texas.sierraclub.org

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THE DIRT DOCTOR

We have a house call scheduled with the Dirt Doctor, Howard Garrett. See page 3 for details.



STOP THE DRILLING! SAVE OUR SEASHORE

Camp-in at Padre Island National Seashore March 29-31 to protest drilling in our national park and the Bush Administration's destructive public lands agenda

"Another part of me wants to go camp out on Padre Island and resist the bulldozers that are going to drill for gas on that island now that George Bush has given them permission. I want to resist."

--Ann Richards in Texas Monthly, February 2003

Sierra Club is engaged in a fight to stop gas drilling on Padre Island National Seashore, and we need your help to send a message that is loud and clear to the Bush Administration-Don't mess with our public lands!

On March 29-31, hundreds of people who treasure this great national park and the critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles that nest there will head for the beach in opposition to new drilling that will take place in the park and has been approved by the Bush Administration.

Incredibly, BNP Petroleum has embarked on what it calls an "aggressive drilling campaign" in the park that could last 30 years! This spring, while critically endangered turtles are coming ashore to nest, BNP plans on having 18 wheeler trucks driving up and down the beach up to 200 times a week where the turtles lay their eggs!

In order to protest this callous destruction of our seashore and raise national awareness of the Administration's reckless agenda for our public lands, the Sierra Club is sponsoring a Camp-In and Sea-Turtle Sand Castle Contest along the beach route used by BNP's trucks.

We'll use the event to call for a federal buy-out of the oil and gas rights underneath the park, like the buy-out that the Administration has proposed for a national park in the Florida Everglades.

Schedule of Events:

For all events, please park in the Malaquite Beach Parking Lot (across the bridge and about 20 miles south of Corpus Christi). A Sierra Club information and registration tent will be set up there. Please bring your own food, water, and supplies. Sorry, no pets allowed on the seashore. All activities are free and open to the public. Children are encouraged to participate.

Saturday March 29 Beach Clean Up

At 3:00, Sierra Club will lead a beach-clean-up on the north end of the national seashore. Trash bags will be provided. Please bring heavy gloves and good shoes.

Sunday, March 30 Sea Turtle Sand Castle Contest

The Sand Castle contest will open at 10:00 AM on Sunday, March 30. Each participant will be assigned a plot on the beach to build their own unique and creative sea turtle sand castle. You may register for a plot as an individual, family, or organization. Judging will begin at 1:00 and the awards ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM. Water and light snacks will be provided, so please bring your own picnic lunch.

Sunday, March 30 Camp-in

You are encouraged to pitch your tent and stay overnight on the beach. There is a good chance that the BNP Petroleum trucks will be running early in the morning on Monday, and we'd like to be there to greet them and witness the destruction of the turtle sand castles. (You are also welcome to camp on the beach on Saturday night, March 29.) The Sierra Club will offer instructions on no-impact camping, which means leaving no trace when we leave. Please be sure to bring enough food and water for yourself and your family.

Background: What's at Stake

The seashore is home to 17 endangered or threatened species, including five kinds of sea turtles, foremost among them the Kemp's ridley, the most critically endangered sea turtle in the world. It is one of the most visited recreation area in Texas, drawing 800,000 visitors a year on average. Padre Island is the longest unbroken barrier beach in the U.S., and the longest undeveloped barrier beach in the world.

BNP Petroleum drilled a well last spring that took four months to complete and resulted in thousands of trucks driving up and down the beach during turtle nesting season. The company has received another permit to drill two more wells. The permit

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PAGE 3

ALLERGENIC GM PAPAYA SCANDAL

How Prof. Joe Cummins uncovered the great scandal of how US regulatory agencies approved a GM papaya even though it carries a viral gene known to be a potential allergen.

Recently the United States regulatory bodies - Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS), the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - united in approving the commercial production of "Sunset" transgenic papaya that's resistant to papaya ringspot virus. It is modified with a gene for papaya ring spot virus coat protein, the expression of which prevents the virus from replication by silencing the virus' own gene [1].

The possibility that genetically modified (GM) crops may introduce novel allergens has been raised by many critics, and as part of the approval process, potential allergens have to be identified before the crops are released commercially. But the GM papaya was approved despite a recent report [2] showing that the papaya ringspot virus coat protein is a potential allergen because it contained a string of amino acids identical to a known allergen.

The US General Accounting Office (GAO) Report to Congress on Genetically Modified Foods [3] assured Congress and the public that the regimen of safety tests submitted to the FDA are adequate.

"Companies that may wish to submit new GM foods for FDA evaluation perform a regimen of tests to obtain safety data on these foods, the degree of similarity between the amino acid sequences in the newly introduced proteins of the GM food and the amino acid sequences in known allergens, toxins, and anti-nutrients." GAO believed that when the sequence of a transgenic protein is found to be similar to that of allergens, further studies would be carried out, at the very least, before the GM crop or product is commercially released.

I contacted Dr. James Maryanski of the FDA by e-mail on 22 January, to alert him of the allergenic potential of the papaya virus coat protein and the relevant publication. In his reply (27 January), he wrote,

"FDA and EPA are aware of this recently published paper, though we have not had an opportunity to fully assess the findings of the paper. FDA is conducting a review of available scientific literature and intends to use this information to prepare draft guidelines for industry. Please note that the traits used to confer resistance to viral disease in papaya

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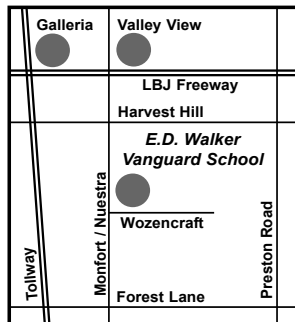
MARCH'S PROGRAM

ICO Highlights & Nature Photographers

The opening program will be the annual year in review for the Inner City Outing's Program. New ICO Chair David McCalib will highlight this great Sierra Club program and tell us what the new year will bring.

The main program will be by renowned nature photographer L.F. Van Landingham and his wife, Marbrey. L.F. has won many awards for his photos from such diverse locales as the Galapagos Islands and Bosque del Apache NWR, NM. He was also recently published in a book entitled "Best Amateur Photographers in America." L.F.'s partner for the March presentation, Marbrey Van Landingham, has spent a number of years taking her husband's photographs and using both technology and art to put the images to music. This is a dramatic and inspirational program you will not want to miss and is a perfect opportunity to bring a friend to their first Sierra Club meeting.

Also, please mark your calendar for April 9, 2003 when Howard Garrett, the Dirt Doctor, will get us all off to the right yard care and gardening start with his presentation: "Kicking the Chemical Habit."



The Dallas Sierra Club's general meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to all interested persons. The meetings begin at 7pm at the E.D. Walker School on the corner of Montfort and Wozencraft, MAPSCO 15S.

THE COMPASS

March 2003
Volume 100, Issue 0303

The Compass is the monthly publication of the Dallas Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Members of the Dallas Group support The Compass and receive the publication as part of their membership benefits.

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Address Changes: To change your address, send you name, old and new addresses and member number to:

Sierra Club Member Services
PO Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

or email the information to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions by the deadlines given in the General Calendar. Send submissions to the newsletter editor at the e-mail address and phone number listed on the back fold.

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LETTER FROM CHAIR

Dear Dallas Sierrans,

I am privileged to serve as your new ExCom chair, and I am looking forward to an exciting year working with the ExCom and all the dedicated volunteers at the Dallas Sierra Club.

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in our club and is manifest in many different ways. We have ICO volunteers who give of themselves to work with at-risk children, offering them opportunities for growth and teaching them an appreciation of the natural world and their place in it. We have Conservation advocates who work tirelessly to fight the good fight to protect the natural world that sustains us. We have Outings leaders who show us that being an environmentalist is as much about enjoying the outdoors as it is about working to protect it. And we have those unsung volunteers who work behind the scenes on fundraising and social events, budgets and paperwork - the kind of work without which our club could not function but which too often goes unacknowledged.

Like every other non-profit, we have to raise money to finance our activities. Every hour spent in fundraising is an hour that can't be spent working with ICO kids, doing conservation advocacy, or leading outings. But a new opportunity has arisen: a challenge grant that will match donations to the Dallas group, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$1,000. This is a terrific opportunity to make your money work twice as hard and maximize our volunteers' time doing the work that they are so passionate about. Details are in this issue of the Compass and on the website.

Thank you for all of the ways you support the Dallas Sierra Club!

Ann Drumm
Dallas Sierra Club Chair

dallas recycling

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GENERAL CALENDAR

3/5 • 4/2 First Wednesday. Executive Committee Meeting 6:30PM at REI 2nd floor meeting room (I-635 between Welch Road & Midway Road, MAPSCO 14Q), to discuss Club projects, policy and finances. All members are welcome to attend and participate. Call John Rath at 817-488-3489.

3/12 • 4/9 Second Wednesday. Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00-8:30pm in the auditorium at ED Walker School (Corner of Montfort & Wozencraft, MAPSCO 15S), come early to pick up activity materials and afterwards join the socializing at Juan's Cantina.

3/14 • 4/11 Second Friday. Deadline for electronic materials to be submitted to The Compass. E-mail matt@dallasierraclub.org or deliver diskettes to editors during the General Meeting.

3/19 • 4/16 Third Wednesday. Outings Committee Meeting 7:00PM REI (Mapsco 14Q), to discuss outings schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome. Call Mick Nolen at 972-991-9351 for more information.

3/24 • 4/21 Inner City Outings Meeting. Fourth Monday. 7PM at REI. Contact Liz Wheelan at (214) 739-2269.

3/26 • 4/23 Fourth Wednesday. Newsletter Party 7:00PM at the Churchhill Recreation Center at Hillcrest & Churchill Way (MAPSCO 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Socializing afterward. Contact Donna Evans at 972-222-6134.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Bill Beech



The Dallas Sierra Club's Volunteer of the Month is Bill Beech, a member who has evolved from a participant in Outings to one of our stellar Outings leaders. An avid outdoorsman, Bill has toured many parts of the world, including New Zealand. A mountain biker, skier, snowshoer, backpacker, canoeist, kayaker, and scuba diver, Bill passes on his knowledge and skills to others through his leadership in the Outings program. He is a model for other skilled and knowledgeable members who want to use the opportunities offered by our Outings program to grow personally and to help others grow as well. Bill has been actively involved in Outings for a couple of years, leading trips in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. He has a wonderful sense of humor and camaraderie which make his trips fun and enjoyable, and he leads with an easygoing confidence in his wilderness skills. If you haven't had a chance to go on one of his trips, sign up. If you have the experience and knowledge and are ready to take the step of becoming an Outings leader, sign up for some leadership training, as Bill did.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted – Compass Ad Sales

We're looking for a person to sell advertising in The Compass. We prefer a volunteer but are willing to consider paying a commission. For more information call Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

Garage Sale Coordinator Needed

One of our major fundraising events this year will be a garage sale, and we are looking for a volunteer with good organizational skills to lead the team. This is a great opportunity to meet other Sierrans and help the Dallas group with an essential fundraising event. Contact Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

SEA SHORE

From Page 1

allows up to 40 heavy truck trips a day for the new wells. Bulldozers will plow a clearing through the fragile dunes to provide access to the well site, and the site will be visible from miles away. The drilling will create an intense amount of noise and result in the destruction of wetlands.

The official "Sea Turtle Recovery Plan" for the Kemp's states that undue vibration of turtle eggs should be avoided because vibrations increase the likelihood of embryonic damage or mortality. BNPs 18-wheelers, which produce such vibrations, are a menace to the turtles. Despite intensifying efforts by turtle patrols to find every nesting event as it occurs, about half the ridleys nest and crawl back before the turtle patrols or the public come along, and an unknown number of nests are never detected at all. Three nests were not found in 2002 until hatching took place, and one of these was about a mile south of BNP's first gas well. Years of continual noise and vibrations from the trucks could make Padre Island inhospitable to sea turtles and undermine 25 years of work to establish a breeding population of Kemp's ridley at Padre Island.

Sierra Club Legal Efforts

After BNP began drilling its first well in February 2002, the Sierra Club went to court to stop it. We filed suit against Interior Secretary Gail Norton in April, and the case will be heard in federal court this spring.

The Solution

We want the Bush Administration to provide the same protection to Padre National

Seashore and the turtles as it is to Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida. In May the Bush Administration proposed a \$120 million buyout of privately held oil and gas rights below Big Cypress. Texans have every right to request that Padre Island receives that kind of protection as well.

Get Involved!

At times over the past two years it has been easy to get discouraged by the wholesale environmental destruction that the Bush Administration has gotten away with. But we have to remember that the vast majority of the American public strongly supports environmental protection, and doesn't support many of the Bush Administration's policies, environmental or otherwise.

It's up to us to raise our voices and be heard, and show the country that even here in Texas, President Bush is out of step with the public's values on the environment. We can protect this national treasure and majestic piece of Texas' natural heritage. So come on down to Padre Island and make your voice heard!

For more information about the camp-in, to sign up for volunteer activities (like distributing posters announcing the event or helping out at the event itself), obtain a power-point presentation to give to groups you are affiliated with, or to register for the camp-in and contest, contact the Lone Star Sierra Club at 512-477-1729, or e-mail fred.richardson@sierraclub.org.

Fred Richardson & Erin Rogers,
Lone Star Chapter

CHALLENGE GRANT

Make Your Money Work Twice As Hard!

A member of our group has issued a challenge to other members: this member will match donations to the Dallas group dollar for dollar up to a total of \$1,000. The Dallas Sierra Club, like every other volunteer organization, must conduct fundraising to finance its activities. Every volunteer hour spent on fundraising is an hour that can't be spent working with ICO kids, engaging in conservation activities, or leading outings. Help us be a more effective organization by supporting us financially, whether it's \$5, \$25 or more. There are two ways to contribute: (1) a tax-deductible contribution payable to the Sierra Club Foundation, which finances our educational work; or (2) a contribution payable to the Dallas Sierra Club Group to support our political activities, which are essential to our mission but which are not tax-deductible. Either way, 100% of your contribution will benefit the Dallas Sierra Club. Thanks for your support!

Please write "Challenge" on the memo line of your check and mail it to:

Dallas Sierra Club
P.O. Box 800365
Dallas TX 75380

THE DIRT DOCTOR



Mark your calendar for **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**, when Howard Garrett, "The Dirt Doctor" and North Texas' preeminent authority on organic gardening and landscaping, will get us all off to the right start with his presentation: "Kicking the Chemical Habit".

If you would like to learn more about Howard Garrett and organic gardening then drop by his website at:

www.dirtdoctor.com

IMPORTANT CHAPTER EVENTS

OK, fellow Sierrans, mark your calendars for these important dates where Sierrans from all over the state from our 18 groups can get together to meet and have fun on different events throughout the year. Details will be finalized as the dates approach. For info on these events, call the chapter office at 512-477-1729 or access the lone star chapter website.

MARCH 2-3 (SUNDAY-MONDAY) LOBBY DAYS in Austin with environmental groups and Sierrans on key issues and bills important to our causes. Lodging available.

JULY 19 -20 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AND AWARDS BANQUET Learn about chapter conservation priorities and join us that evening for a banquet which honors Sierrans, legislators, and media who have done great service for the club. Location to be announced.

OCTOBER 17-19 (FRIDAY - SUNDAY) SIERRA CELEBRATION at Lake Bastrop State Park near Austin at Bastrop. Outdoor fun with Sierrans at this neat location. More details forthcoming.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible, they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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SIERRA CLUB



Buy Groceries & Help the Sierra Club

If you shop at Tom Thumb - go to the service desk and get a reward card by giving them the Sierra Club #3941. They will explain how to use the card.

If you shop at Kroger - pick up a Kroger card at the next General Meeting, or call George Zimmerman at (H) 972-315-2049 or email george@dallassierraclub.org to get a card mailed to you.

Each time you use these cards to buy groceries, the club receives .05% of what you spend, PLUS the Sierra Club card gives you certain item specials.

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG



BACKPACKING



CANOEOING



CAR CAMPING



CYCLING



DAY HIKING



EDUCATION



SERVICE PROJECT

Notice: To receive this outings list monthly via e-mail, send message to:

outings.list@dallassierraclub.org

Type **SUBSCRIBE OUTINGS LIST** on the subject line.

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 each outing / trip are serving in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of trip organizer. If you have a medical problem, it is your responsibility to inform the leader before the outing / trip. Outing / Trip 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 unless specifically stated. All outings officially begin at the trail head or outing start point. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing for energy conservation 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. The recommended method of computing cost is to multiply round trip mileage by \$0.13 a mile for small cars, \$0.16 for large cars and \$0.19 for vans. Before leaving, be sure this or some other method is agreed upon.

Most outings require reservations. To participate in an outing contact the leader, who 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 allowed on a given outing / trip. Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted. 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 / her free time to allow you to go on the trip of your choice. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in becoming a leader, contact either the Outings Chair or the appropriate Outings Committee Coordinator on the newsletter back page.



MAR 1 (SAT) CROSS TIMBERS DAYHIKE

Hike the best trail North Dallas has to offer! Walk ledge around the lake and through the trees. Lots of ups and downs on rugged dirt trail to get you in shape! Drive option 1: Meet at 8:15 a.m. at REI. Leader will not beat this car pool location so be sure you know way to trailhead. Go directly to Juniper Point West (JPW) trailhead on Hwy 377, 15 miles north of Whitesboro. Option 2: Meet leader PROMPTLY at 8:25 a.m. at Braums, SE intersection of Hwy 380 and 75 in McKinney. Option 3: If not carpooling, meet at 9:45 a.m. at trailend at Paw Paw Resort, follow signs off Hwy 377 and FM 901. Park at the boat ramp on left, very near the hiking trail sign. Leader will shuttle you over to JPW trailhead. Hike officially begins at 10:05 a.m. at JPW trailhead. Hike estimated 10 miles. Shorter 7.5 mile option: Meet at 11:20 a.m. at Cedar Bayou MARina, follow signs off Hwy 377. Extra credit loop: Hike 2 mile Lost Loop trail at lunchtime! Bring lunch and lots of water. Please be prompt. Rain Date is March 15. Leader: Stephanie Smith
214-544-1503.



MAR 4-8 (TUE-SAT) BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK BACKPACK TRIP

Spend five days hiking Mesa de Angilla in the western tip of the park. We will have time to visit most of the spectacular areas of the Mesa, including several of the best tinajas, the Sinkhole, the Rio Grande River, and an amazing view of Santa Elena Canyon. This trip is rated moderately strenuous. Because the hike starts on Tuesday, you can come early and spend a few days sight-seeing before the hike.

Leaders: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260(H)
arthur@akuehne.com
Kathryn Littrell
214-321-4030(H)
mattsamkat@aol.com

MAR 7 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the March Outings List and April Newsletter.

Contact Mick Nolen
972-991-9351
mick@dallasSierraClub.org



MAR 8-9 (SAT-SUN) LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER BEGINNER BACKPACKING TRIP

We will do a leisurely backpack of approximately 6 miles over 2-days along one of the most scenic backpacking trails in Southwest Arkansas. Because the trail follows the upper reaches of the Little Missouri River there is minimal elevation change, but do be prepared for cold-water stream crossings. There will opportunities for optional exploratory day hikes also. Drive up Friday night and return Sunday. Preference will be given to graduates of the Beginner Backpacking Class.

Co-Leaders: Steve Longley
214-824-1128
steven.longley@att.net
Marcos Jorge



MAR 8-9 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK IN BLACK FORK WILDERNESS, AK

This hike will take us to one of the most unique areas in Arkansas. We'll camp near the ruins of an old pioneer community, visit strange rock glaciers, and hike through a dwarf forest with 200 year old trees less than 20 feet tall. Start all of this off with a decadent Friday night at Queen Wilhelmina Lodge if you sign up early enough to get a room! Other decadent options are available if you don't. Rated moderate.

Leader: Bill Greer
972-964-1781(H)
wbgreer@worldnet.att.net.



MAR 8 (SAT) BICYCLE WHITEROCK LAKE

Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot on Lawther 100 yards south of Mockingbird Ln. We will be riding about two hours. The out and back feature of this ride allows participants to ride their own pace. When you have been out about an hour, just turn around. Lunch at a nearby eatery.

Leader: Bill Beach
214-824-4584



MAR 8 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP

Help clean up the Dallas Sierra Club's Adopted Shoreline. Meet at the For the Love of the Lake office parking lot on level below Eckerd's in Casa Linda Plaza (on Buckner facing Doctors Hospital, just north of Garland Road, Mapsco 38-J) at 8:00 AM for registration and refreshments.

Leader: Carol Nash
214-824-0244 (H)
cnash@dallasisd.org



MAR 9 (SUN) MOSS PARK DAYHIKE

NORTH DALLAS We'll meet at 1:00pm at Moss Park in Dallas to walk North to trail end at Hillcrest / LBJ. Then return along same route. Hike approx. 7 miles. Moss Park is at Greenville and Royal, entrance off Greenville.

Leader: Stephanie Smith
geek@gwij.com
214-544-1503



MAR 15 (SAT) DART TO ART

We'll visit the new Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. But there is a catch. We'll do it entirely using Dallas and Fort Worth mass transit. If you live over a mile from the nearest bus or train stop, you can drive to that stop, but otherwise we will take DART, the Trinity Rail Express and the Fort Worth T to get to the museum. Meet at Reunion Station in downtown Dallas at 8:15 AM to catch the train to Fort Worth. Check the DART bus schedules at www.dart.org to find a bus or train that will get you to Reunion on time. We will leave Fort Worth in time to get back to Dallas before dark. When you get on the DART bus or train, purchase a Premium day pass for \$4. This is good for all of the buses and trains all day. The museum entrance fee is \$8 and you will also need money for lunch. No need to sign up in advance, just

show up at Reunion Station.

Leaders: Molly Rooke
214-369-6667
molly@larosa-ranch.com
Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260(H)
arthur@akuehne.com

MAR 19 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning summer outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome.

Contact: Mick Nolen
972-991-9351(H)
mick@dallassierraclub.org



MAR 21-23 (FRI-SUN) EXPLORE THE BOAT ROADS ON CADDO LAKE

Canoe or Kayak this fascinating natural lake on the Texas-Louisiana border. We will car camp Friday and Saturday nights at a secluded Texas Parks and Wildlife Management area site. Saturday, we will spend most of the day on the water watching the beavers and other wildlife, lurching on an island and just enjoying the beautiful area. Sunday, we will be out paddling until lunch. Plan to be heading back to Dallas by 2:00PM. Limited canoe rentals are available from an outfitter less than a mile from our campsite.

Leader: Bill Beach
214-824-4584 (H)



MAR 22-23 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACKING TRIP on the CROSS TIMBERS TRAIL

This is an easy hike along the surprisingly picturesque south shore of Lake Texoma. We'll drive up on Saturday morning (it's only about 90 miles from Dallas). We'll hike about 3-5 miles on Saturday and a bit less on Sunday. Preference given to participants in the Beginner Backpacking Class.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260 (H)
arthur@akuehne.com



MAR 22-23 (SAT-SUN) FOUR C'S BEGINNER BACKPACK

Flat landers beginner backpack on the southern half of the Four Cs National Recreation Trail in the Davy Crockett National Forest in east Texas. Five miles each day starting in the Big Slough Wilderness and hike south to Ratcliff Recreation Area. Priority to those attending Beginning Backpacking class.

Leader: Laura Kimberly
972-307-8364
lkimberly@comcast.net



MAR 28-31 (FRI-MON) RALLY FOR THE RIDLEY'S CAMPOUT / SANDCASTLE CONTEST

Join us for a long weekend in Padre near Corpus Christi. We are currently making arrangements to see the nesting ground of the most endangered sea turtles in the world, the Ridley. We hope to also visit the local aquarium and plan to camp on the beach on Mustang Island Friday and

Saturday. On Sunday and Monday, we will move the camp to an area where Sierrans will meet with other environmentalists for a campout in another location of Padre where we can visit and see where oil companies are attempting to drill in Padre endangering their nesting habitat. There will be a Sandcastle Contest on Sunday with another event planned for Monday. Plans will firm up as we are making arrangements. Must be an experienced camper with your own (or rental) tent / or gear. If people are game, we may extend the trip on either side.

Contact: Rita Beving
214-373-3808



MAR 29-30 (SAT-SUN) BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER TRAIL BACKPACK

Explore the beginnings of the Buffalo National River Trail in northern Arkansas. We'll hike fifteen miles of beautiful trail winding through the hollows and bluffs of this protected area. Hike begins Saturday morning at the Steel Creek Campground on the banks of the Buffalo River. Saturday's travel will be about 9 miles. We will camp Saturday night in one of the many valley hollows that mark this area. Sunday, we will complete the journey by about 2:00 PM. Moderate difficulty due to the ups and downs. Waterfalls, wildlife and great views.

Leader: Mick Nolen
972-991-9351
mick@dallasierraclub.org

APR 4 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the March Outings List and April Newsletter.

Contact : Mick Nolen
972-991-9351
mick@DallasSierraClub.org



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER APR 5-6: BEECH CREEK SERVICE OUTING

- Trail Maintenance -Beech Creek National Scenic Area near Big Cedar, OK. Rating: Moderate. Participants will camp at Cedar Lake (showers). Saturday mornig we'll eat a \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (pancakes & fruit), be briefed on the trail maintenance issues we'll be facing, trail maintenance techniques we'll be using and get our crew assignments. On Saturday night after showers we'll head in to Mena to eat at the Fish Net. Sunday morning is another \$2 all-you-can-eat group breakfast (biscuits & gravy, hash browns) followed by a special activity. Information and a map of the Beech Creek trails can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/oklahoma/hike/bctrail.html>.

Leader: Tom Libby
tomlibby@yahoo.com



APR 5-6 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK, CANEY CREEK WILDERNESS, AK

For years this has been our traditional beginner hike since it's the closest Wilderness Area to Dallas. Hike in about 4 miles for a camp near a nice waterfall. The rerouted trail now boasts a few small hills, but some nice scenery too! Moderate, suitable for most people in good health.

Leader: Bill Greer
972-964-1871(H)
wbgreer@worldnet.att.net



APR 11-13 (FRI-SUN) CAMPING AND MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING

Camp Friday and Saturday nights at the Bar H Breaks Mountain Bike Ranch in St. Joe, TX. This beautiful 1000-acre ranch currently has

over 21 miles of professionally developed mountain bike trails. These trails have been designed to accommodate riders of various abilities. Each trail is clearly marked. Fees are a modest \$5.00 per day to ride and \$5.00 per night to camp. Directions: Go north on I-35 to Gainsville, turn west on Hwy 82 to St. Jo, turn north on FM 2382, go 4.5 miles, turn left on Count Road 433 (gravel), go one mile to ranch.

Leader: Bill Beach
214-824-4584 (H)



APR 12-13 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK TRIP TO BUCKEYE MT / CANEY CREEK

Enjoy a spring backpack trip in western Arkansas. This is a favorite of the Sierra Club. We'll backpack a total of about 9 miles. The hike to camp is on a ridge and offers excellent views of the Caney Creek Wilderness. We'll set up camp near a waterfall.

Leaders: Marcos Jorge
Faith Mauk
972-394-2546 (H)
mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com



APR 12 (SAT) BICYCLE WHITEROCK LAKE TRAIL

Meet at 9:00Am in the parking lot on Lawther 100 yards south of Mockingbird Ln. We will be riding about two hours. The out and back feature of this ride allows participants to ride their own pace. When you have been out about an hour, just turn around. Lunch at a nearby eatery.

Leader: Bill Beach
214-824-4584



APR 12 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP

Help clean up the Dallas Sierra Club's Adopted Shoreline. Meet at the For the Love of the Lake office parking lot on level below Eckerd's in Casa Linda Plaza (on Buckner facing Doctors Hospital, just north of Garland Road, Mapsco 38-J) at 8:00 AM for registration and refreshments.

Leader: Carol Nash
214-824-0244 (H)
cnash@dallasisd.org



APR 13 (SUN) DAYHIKE AT ERWIN PARK IN MCKINNEY

Meet at 2:00 PM at Erwin Park for a great 8-mile hike. Short-cuts are available! Dirt trail with ups and downs. Directions: Take US-75 north to Hwy 380 in McKinney (exit 41). Go West 2.5 miles to TX1461. Go North 2.1 miles to County Road 162. Take a right at the sign for Erwin Park on CR 162. Turn right onto CR 164. Turn left at the park sign onto CR 1006. The entrance to Erwin Park is on the right .4 miles. Enter, go left and park at the first parking area.

Leader: Stephanie Smith
214-544-1503



APR 13 (SUN) ANNUAL AZALEA DAYHIKE ALONG TURTLE CREEK

Leisurely 1.5- or 2-hour walk. Suitable for children in strollers. Meet 2 PM in shopping strip on Oak Lawn (4200 block) just north of Wycliff, but park on side streets. Take Oak Lawn Exit off I35 or Fitzhugh exit off Central Expressway. No reservations needed.

Leader: Austin Browns
214-528-3812 (H)

APR 16 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between

Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning summer outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome.

Contact: Mick Nolen
972-991-9351 (H)
mick@dallasierraclub.org



APR 18-20 (FRI-SUN) BACKPACK THE EAGLE CREEK LOOP IN AK

We'll take three days to hike one of the best trails in Arkansas. We will hike 8 to 12 miles per day for a total of about 27 miles. You will see the famous falls on the Little Missouri River and cross 9 spectacular mountains. This is the longest loop trail in Arkansas. It was developed along a 100-year-old postal route and old wagon roads. Because of all the mountains, 9 river crossings and numerous creek crossing, this trip is rated as moderately strenuous.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260 (H)
arthur@akuehne.com



APR 26 (SAT) FOURTH ANNUAL WORLD'S LONGEST DAYHIKE

If you're tough enough, or crazy enough, come and join your fellow Sierrans for a 22-mile day-hike on the White Rock Creek and White Rock Lake trails. Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of the White Rock Creek trail in Anderson-Bonner Park, on Park Central Drive, just south of I-635 and east of Hillcrest (Mapsco 16-S). Park in the first parking lot south of the I-635 frontage road. We'll hike down to White Rock Lake, around it, and back. Bring your most comfortable walking shoes, Mole Skin, extra socks, water (water and bathrooms are available along the trail), lunch, and rain gear (if rain is in the forecast). We'll make a snack stop at the 7-11 near the White Rock Lake spillway. Optional dinner / funeral / foot replacement after the hike.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260 (H)
arthur@akuehne.com



APRIL 26 (SAT) POST OAK PRESERVE CLEANUP

Improve your Karma for Earth Day. Help clean up trash at the Dallas County Post Oak Preserve. We will clean up along a trashed-out country road then hike back through the Preserve enjoying the wildflowers and beautiful forest. Bring sturdy gloves as well as water, etc. We will supply the trash and recycling bags. Approx. 4 miles. Meet 9am at the Post Oak Preserve parking lot across from the DISD Environmental Education Center. Optional picnic, tour of EEC and reptile show afterwards. 1600 Bowers Rd. Seagoville 75159.

Contact: Carol Nash
214-824-0244
cnash@dallasierraclub.org



MAY 3-4 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACKING TRIP IN THE CANEY CREEK WILDERNESS

We'll hike about 9 miles total in one of the most beautiful areas of central Arkansas. We will hike along a ridge on the Buckeye Mountain Trail on Saturday, camp near a small waterfall Saturday night and hike out Sunday on the Caney Creek Trail.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne
214-902-9260 (H)
arthur@akuehne.com

SIERRA SINGLES OUTINGS

On Saturday, MARCH 15 join other Sierrans in a docent led tour of the new Eliot Porter photography exhibit, the Color of Wildness at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. Porter, a world renowned nature photographer, was a prominent leader in the Sierra Club during the 1960's and published several books in conjunction with the club to publicize preservation of our natural areas. Meet at 11:00 AM at the entrance to the gift shop inside the museum. The Carter Museum is located at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth 76107. Contact Person: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 or 817-551-8044 (w). For more information, see Carter's website at www.carter-museum.org

On Sunday, MARCH 16 learn about wines at a wine tasting just for single Sierrans at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn (214-520-9463) 2:45 - 4:30 PM. This is a fund raiser for the Sierra Club. You will taste approximately 15 different wines and champagne and learn about their characteristics. Optional dinner may be planned afterwards if there is enough interest. You must sign-up and pay in advance for the winetasting by March 10. Please make checks for \$20 per person payable to the FORT WORTH SIERRA CLUB and mail to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76109 (phone 817-924-6242 or claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com).

On Monday, MARCH 17 at 7:00 p.m. join us for dinner at I Fratelli restaurant, located at 7750 N. Macarthur Blvd. in Irving. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or avid-hiker@killerfrogs.com



MAY 3 (SAT) DAYHIKE AT THE DALLAS NATURE CENTER

We'll hike 5-miles on dirt trails over hilly terrain. Meet at the DNC visitor center at 10:00AM or meet for car pooling at NorthPark Shopping Center behind Foly's at 9:15AM. This is the N.E. corner of the property near US-75 & Park Ln under the trees. The Nature Center is located 2.5 miles south of I-20 at 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway. Take the Mountain Creek Parkway exit off I-20 (between exits for Spur 408 and FM 1382, in Southwest Dallas County) and continue south. The entrance is on the right just south of where Wheatland Road intersects Mountain Creek Parkway. Bring hiking boots, water, and a change of shoes, if weather warrants. Optional TexMex restaurant lunch afterwards. No reservations necessary, just show up.

Leader: Steve Longley
214-824-1128

SEE "OUTINGS LIST" PAGE 7

CONSERVATION NEWS

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG



DALLAS RECYCLING • UPDATE •

Last August, Dallas Sierra Club members sprang into action when they heard that a budget had been proposed which cut the residential recycling program as part of the many cuts proposed to balance their cash strapped budget. Sierrans were interviewed for TV news, put information on their web site, sent e-mails and letters, made phone calls to the mayor and council members, spoke at city hall and town hall meetings, and quickly put together information and an alternate proposal to save and improve recycling and waste management while saving money. This proposal was presented to the Dallas City Council and Mayor Laura Miller at her request.

Thanks to this and to the huge public outcry, including LOTS of calls and e-mails from YOU, the City of Dallas scrapped its proposal to replace the citywide curbside recycling program with a subscription program where those who recycled would pay more than those who didn't. They kept the recycling program in place for the 2002-03 fiscal year, which began October 1.

Mayor Miller asked that a volunteer task force further study the issue and submit recommendations to her and the Dallas City Council for consideration. The Mayor's Recycling Task Force, including Sierrans and other recycling advocates, has been meeting for several months and will present

its recommendations the first week of April 2003.

Massive outreach and education will be needed to convince some council members and citizens to make the needed changes for more effective, efficient and eco-friendly recycling and waste management in Dallas. We will need volunteers all over Dallas to help make this happen. WE NEED YOU! You don't need to know anything about recycling or garbage or to take much time, you just need an interest in helping make a positive difference. To volunteer, e-mail Molly Rooke at Molly@LaRosa-Ranch.com or call at 214-369-6667.

And if you're not already doing so, recycle and encourage your friends and neighbors to recycle! If you need to know more about your recycling day and materials in Dallas see www.timetorecycle.com/dallas.html or call 311. Recycling information for other DFW area cities can also be found at www.timetorecycle.com.

If you missed Ann Drumm's excellent article in the October 2002 Compass, with more background on the 2002 Dallas recycling crisis and efforts, you can read it online in our archives at www.dallassierraclub.org.

Molly Rooke
Responsible Trade Chair

DIRTY AIR CHOKES OFF TOYOTA FACILITY MOVE TO DFW

(Partially reprinted from the Ft. Worth Star Telegram)

Did anyone hear that Governor Perry hailing Toyota coming to Texas to open an SUV manufacturing plant in San Antonio? Well, I bet you didn't hear this part. Toyota said they were inspired to come after they went to a Dallas Cowboys game and saw all the SUVs in the parking lot. Hmmm... wonder why they didn't come to Dallas / Ft. Worth?

Well, according to the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, it was because of "Too much air pollution." That's right, bad air isn't just bad for your health and federal roadfunds. It's bad for business, too, and poses a threat to North Texas' economic engine."

Toyota scratched the Metroplex off its shopping list early, the first time we've lost a high-profile project strictly because of air quality, according to several economic development officials.

Now who says economics aren't tied to the environment. Manufacturers have to consider the air pollution issue, too, because it could limit operations here. Some will surely conclude, as Toyota has, that the Metroplex is too risky for their new projects or even plant expansions.

Here's a comment from one official concerning our air situation. "If we don't get our act together," said Dan Petty, president of the North Texas Commission, "it could have a catastrophic effect on our economy."

Petty said that local officials were gearing up to make a hard sell when they learned that Toyota had rejected the area. Toyota wasn't prohibited from building here. But it may have been forced to buy or trade for emission offsets, a process aimed at preventing the company from making the pollution problem worse. And it may have faced a political backlash from drivers, if the area had to impose tougher emission standards on cars.

"It's just not worth the hassle for us," said Dennis Cuneo, a senior vice president who oversees site selection for Toyota in North America. Toyota had a list of pre-screening requirements, and North Texas met most of them easily. For its truck-making plant, it wanted up to 2,000 acres of vacant land; a solid infrastructure of roads and utilities; a

good-sized airport; access to two rail lines; and the political will and economic strength to put together a financial packageExcept for that little matter of air pollution; that was on the pre-screen list, too, and it was a deal-breaker.

Toyota eliminated any area that violated federal health standards for ozone, which includes Fort Worth-Dallas, Houston and El Paso. That's probably because the painting facilities at most vehicle plants produce emissions that aggravate ozone pollution.

Missing out on the Toyota plant was a reminder of the Metroplex's near-miss on Boeing almost two years ago. Boeing's relocation search played out in the news media for months and promised the winner great prestige. But it included only about 300 jobs, with limited spinoff potential -- far less valuable than the Toyota plant.

Toyota plans to invest \$800 million initially -- more than the new RadioShack and Pier 1 headquarters and the American Airlines Center combined -- and use 2,100 construction workers to build the plant. Then it will hire 2,000 plant employees and pay them roughly double the average manufacturing wage. Many of Toyota's workers will be high school graduates earning more than \$50,000 a year, before benefits. At least another 5,300 spinoff jobs are expected to be created, and an independent study concluded that new payrolls tied to the plant will reach \$8 billion over the next 25 years.

DFW could have been a contender. But until we clean up our air, we might have to rethink our assumptions about our "great business climate." By the way, in the meantime, are you all aware of the Bush Administration bulldozing roll backs on air standards for industry, power plants, etc? Their answer is "If there aren't rules, there isn't a problem anymore." Never mind your health or quality of life. If you think this points out how politicians just don't get it locally or nationally about clean air, write them a letter and refer them to this story.

Rita Beving
Conservation Co-Chair

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

MARCH 2-3 (SUNDAY - MONDAY) LOBBY DAY IN AUSTIN

Join in on a workshop on how to lobby your local legislator including learning about conservation issues and bills near and dear to Sierra Club and the environmental community. We will then lobby on Monday. To learn more about lodging and the agenda, check our website, call Erin Rogers at the Austin office at 512-477-1725 or Rita Beving at 214-373-3808.

MARCH 23 (SUNDAY) NEW!!!! CHINESE FOOD AND CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Join conservation member Zachary Hilbun in an informal chit chat over Chinese food about conservation issues. No set agendas- bring a topic you are concerned about or a recent news clipping to discuss. It's starts at 6 pm at China King Super Buffet on 12909 Midway — that's off Midway and LBJ (ph. 214-575-6017), on the southwest corner by the Interstate We are planning on turning this fun event into a regular monthly event if folks are interested. For more information, call Zach at 214-350-4207.

MARCH 28-31 (FRIDAY- MONDAY)

RALLY FOR THE RIDLEY'S CAMPOUT / SANDCASTLE CONTEST

Join us for a long weekend in Padre near Corpus Christi. We are currently making arrangements to see the nesting ground of the most endangered sea turtles in the world, the Ridley. We hope to also visit the local aquarium and plan to camp on the beach on Mustang Island Friday and Saturday. On Sunday and Monday, we will move the camp to an area where Sierrans will meet with other environmentalists for a campout in another location of Padre where we can visit and see where oil companies are attempting to drill in Padre endangering their nesting habitat. There will be a Sandcastle Contest on Sunday with another event planned for Monday. Plans will firm up as we are making arrangements. Must be an experienced camper with your own (or rental) tent/or gear. If people are game, we may extend the trip on either side. To join us for all or part of the weekend, call Rita Beving at 214-373-3808.

Advertise in the Compass today!

Reach 4,000 of the most environmentally conscious people in the Metroplex.

Call Matt @ 214-575-6017



CLEAN AIR WEDNESDAYS

According to a North Central Texas Council of Governments display at last year's State Fair of Texas, a typical automobile emits its weight in pollution every 10,000 miles! Clean Air Wednesdays highlights healthy alternatives related to how we get to work, that can significantly impact the quality of our environment, our personal health, and our financial well-being. Ask anyone who's tried it!

Last year, recipients of a free month-long DART pass included former club chair John Rath, the manager of a major employees association; Doug Davis, a data operations executive and bike club president; Dr. George Wharton, medical director of a health rehabilitation center; Dianna Clark, an emergency family assistance senior case-worker; Maureen Moore, a preservation society boardmember; and David Gray, a

senior software engineer. These were all great examples of individual actions at work!

How can you help? Pledge your own personal Clean Air Wednesdays actions at least once each week during the ozone-season, then provide Dallas Sierra Club with a short article and photo depicting your saving air and money. Each month, one of these submissions will be published here in The Compass, and the lucky low-polluter will receive a free one-month DART pass, compliments of Dallas Area Rapid Transit!

It's our individual decisions to choose lifestyle-alternatives to driving alone that can have the most significant impact on the quality the air we breathe. E-mail submissions to: melbow@swbell.net or mail to: Bud Melton, POB 141318, Dallas, TX 75214. Your decision could benefit you more than you imagine!

GRAND THEFT BICYCLE

From the Cover

minutes, which he said is less time than it takes to negotiate rush hour traffic along the same route. It was a lot easier before he moved to Grapevine seven years ago.

"We used to live in Lewisville, and that was an easy 40 minutes," Mr. Rath said. "When we moved here, I thought, 'I can still do this'. It's only 10 more miles." Mr. Rath's addiction to cycling didn't begin until he was an adult. He's from a large family, which meant a lot of sharing and making do. I grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., one of seven kids," he said. "I never had a real bike when I was a kid, just some semblance of a real bike. So when I was grown and working, I decided to buy one."

Mr. Rath earned a bachelor of arts degree in physical education and recreation from State University of New York, College at Brockport in 1979. He began riding to work about 1988, he said, in part because he hates traffic but also to help the environment.

When there's a high ozone alert day, I always try to ride my bike," said Mr. Rath, who is president of the Dallas Sierra club, "I can be part of the problem or not, and I choose not to contribute to the problem." It not only saves on gas. But he gets a break on his car insurance-about \$120 annually.

His wife, Debbie Rath, used to think her husband was a little crazy but now accepts his cycling endeavors as part of who he is. She and their children, 6-year old Sarah and 2-year old Charlie, sometimes join him on weekend rides using a card for the little ones.

Mrs. Rath, a special education teacher at Southlake High School, said she doesn't really worry about Mr. Rath commuting by bicycle- at least not anymore.

"He used to wear a sign that said, 'Ozone Alert Day', And I was afraid some road rage guy would be up ahead waiting for him." She said. "But he doesn't wear it anymore. I think I hid the sign somewhere so he can't find it"

Shane Lewis, manager of the Grapevine Bike Center, said Mr. Rath is one of about four customers who ride to work. But none have as long a commute as Mr. Rath, who pedals past the shop on his way to and from the job.

"Most commuters who use their bikes are within five to ten miles of their office, so he commutes longer than most," Mr. Lewis said. I see him go by almost every day. You

have to admire somebody like that."

Mr. Rath used a standard bike up until about a year ago, when he bought a Pocket Tour bike, which folds up and comes with its own case. The case has wheels and attaches to the back of the bike. So he can pack it with things he needs for the office.

Once at work, he showers in the employee fitness center where he keeps several changes of clothes. His boss, Sam Frenkil, said Mr. Rath's dedication to cycling fits with his job.

John manages our employees' association, which includes the fitness center, so this throws out a challenge to everybody to think about fitness and ways to attain it," said Mr. Frenkil, director of facilities and corporate services, "Yeah, there are some people who think John is crazy-until he passes them on the road and gets home before they do."

Mr. Rath used to routinely pass Mr. Frenkil when the two lived about a mile apart in Lewisville. In fact, Mr. Rath said he could beat almost any car during rush hour, which he avoids even when he can't ride his bike. He'll Leave work before dawn and stay late at work rather than sit in traffic in his 1984 Nissan Sentra station wagon, which has logged about 160,000 miles.

To get started, he estimated it would take about \$500 for a standard bike, a patchwork kit should a tire blow out, a helmet, a water bottle and other needs.

His bike is considered a vehicle, which gives him title to the road, he said, but he uses the wide shoulder on Highway 121 as much as possible. The worst problem he ever encountered was one of his own making.

"I was tired and had my head down, and I hit a parked truck that had broken down," Mr., Rath said. "I hit my shoulder and landed on my knee. But I was OK.

He once tried using a headset to listen to the radio on his bike, but found it too distraction. It kept him from enjoying the birds and the green grass, he said.

And yes, there are days when Mr. Rath has to force himself to get up and climb on his bike.

"I think, Do I really want to do this?" But I know if I can do it, the rest of the day is going to be a piece of cake," he said. "And when I get to work, I've got the best parking space right outside the front door."

PAPAYA

From Page 1

are pesticidal traits (plant incorporated protectants) regulated by EPA, not by FDA."

So, I was sent off to EPA, and guess what I found. The EPA's public information stated that coat protein of papaya ringspot virus and the genetic material necessary for its production had been granted "an exemption from the requirement of tolerance" [4] in 1997, which essentially means it is exempt from safety assessment, based on the belief that the material was safe for consumption by humans and animals. No mention was made of recent study on the amino acid sequence of the virus protein. For its part, the USDA APHIS also awarded Sunset Papaya a non-regulated status [5] in 1996, because the reviewers believed that the GM crop was not harmful.

GAO seems to be woefully misinformed about the safety assessment of GM crops, and may have modeled itself after giant accounting corporations such as RD Anderson.

This is a wakeup call for Congress and the public everywhere, who may have been misled into believing that GM food is the most strictly regulated of all foods, and that the US regulatory system is the best in the world.

1. Tennant P, Fermin G, Fitch M, Manshardt R, Slighton J and Gonsalves D. Papaya ringspot resistance of transgenic Rainbow and SunUp is affected by gene dosage, plant development, and coat protein homology. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* 2001, 107, 645-53.

2. Kleter G and Peijnenburg A. Screening of transgenic proteins expressed in transgenic food crops for the presence of short amino acid sequences identical to potential, IgE-binding linear epitopes of allergens. *BMC Structural Biology* 2002, 2, 8-19.

3. United States General Accounting Office Report to Congressional Requesters "Genetically Modified Foods" GAO-02-566 May 2002.

4. Rules and Regulations. Coat protein of Papaya Ringspot Virus and the Genetic Material Necessary for its Production; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance. *Federal Register* August 22, 1997 62, 44572-75.

5. USDA-APHIS Petition 96-051-01P for the determination of nonregulated status for transgenic sunset papaya Lines 55-1 and 63-1 Finding of No Significant Impact September 1996.



MAY 23-27 (FRI-TUE) MEMORIAL DAY BUS TRIP to the GILA WILDERNESS Join bus trip to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument in southwest New Mexico. If you want a leisurely Memorial Day, you can camp right where the bus drops you and enjoy short hikes to cliff dwellings and hot springs, or you might choose easy to moderate backpack trips to camp in meadows or mesas. Serious hikers will be able to traverse rivers, forests, and mesas, seeing glorious scenery and back country hot springs. Our chartered sleeper bus will leave Dallas at 4:30 PM on Friday, May 23 and return at about 5:00 AM on Tuesday, May 27. More details to come.

Contact: Mick Nolen
mick@DallasSierraClub.org



SEP 7-12 (SUN-FRI) HIGH SIERRA FLY-FISHING The search of the elusive California golden trout requires a strenuous backpack trip of about 35 miles in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Brookies, rainbows and browns will also be sought. This fly-fishing trip is from Devil Post Pile to Tuolumne Meadows on the JMT. The trip is rated as strenuous and is only for those who have had extended backpack trips in bear country. Bear resistant canisters are required for food storage. A California non-resident fishing license and trout stamp is required for angling. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$5.00 for the wilderness permit. The check must be received by FEB 21, 2003 to meet the permit deadline. The trip is limited to 6 experienced backpackers. Contact the leaders who will determine if you qualify for the trip.

Leaders: Marcos Jorge
Steve Longley
972-394-2546 (H)
mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com



OCT 10-19 (FRI-SUN) KAYAK THE LOWER CANYON OF THE RIO GRANDE Spend eight days exploring this remote stretch of the Rio Grande, put in at La Linda and take out at Dryden. We will hike side canyons, explore caves, view petroglyphs, soak in hot springs and maybe run some rapids (class II-III). This is an isolated area. The only way out is down the river. The trip distance is approximately 84 beautiful miles. Multi-day kayak experience is required. The group size will be small. Sign up early.

Leader: Bill Beach
214-824-4584 (H)

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