

# TAOS Annual Bus Trip



**Sign up today!**

See what's happening this March for the Annual Taos Bus Trip. Do some sight seeing, day hiking, or snowshoeing. Details on page 7.

**Marvin Nichols:**

Winning the Battle over Water War. See page 1.

**Michael Robinson Interview:**

February's look at the Endangered Mexican Gray Wolves: Reintroduction to Arizona and New Mexico. Look on page 3 for the interview.

**Back Packing Leadership:**

Arthur Kuehne's guide to doing it the right way on page 3.

**Dallas Executive Committee**

Ann Drumm - Chair H: 214-350-6108  
 John Rath - Vice-Chair H: 817-488-3489  
 Carol Nash - Secretary H: 214-824-0244  
 Calvin Nichols - Treasurer H: 972-240-4141  
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**Dallas Sierra Club**

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 Dallas, Texas 75380

(214) 369-5543

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**Adopt a Shoreline**

Carol Nash H: 214-824-0244 carol@dallassierraclub.org

**Conservation Committee**

Rita Beving Griggs W: 214-373-3808 rita@dallassierraclub.org

**Conservation Issues**

**Leaders**

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Forests	Cliff Rushing	W: 469-201-6484	cactus.cliff@verizon.net
Population	Gayle Loeffler	H: 817-430-3035	gloffler@twu.edu
Sustainability	Margie Haley	H: 214-823-1537	margie13@swbell.net
Recycling	Volunteer needed		
Rivers / Wetlands Protection	David Gray	H: 214-342-2019	dgray@dallassierraclub.org
Solid Waste	Shirley Holland	H: 972-294-8078	
Trinity River	Joe Wells	H: 214-948-3406	Jwells@non-profits.org
Sprawl	Bud Melton	H: 214-828-2144	melbow@swbell.net
Water	Coordinator Needed		
Energy	Lisa Silguero	C: 214-893-7990	lisa@dallassierraclub.org
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**Media**

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**Membership Chair**

George Zimmerman H: 972-315-2049 george@dallassierraclub.org

**Sierra Singles**

Volunteer needed

**Outings Committee Chair**

Backpacking	Mick Nolen	H: 972-991-9351	mick@dallassierraclub.org
Bicycling	Volunteer needed		
Bicycling	Volunteer needed		
Canoeing / Kayaking	Terry Sullivan	H: 972-492-3038	terry@dallassierraclub.org
Car Camping	Jay Davison	H: 972-418-8519	jay@dallassierraclub.org
Dayhikes	Steve Longley	H: 214-826-3993	steven.longley@worldnet.att.net
Family Outings	Jay Davison	H: 972-418-8519	jaydavison@aol.com

**Program Chair**

Bryan Carpenter H: 817-745-9988 Bryan\_Carpenter@tigspecialty.com

**Program Sales Coordinator**

Patsy Huston H: 972-732-6566

**Special Events Coordinator**

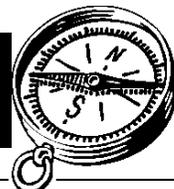
Volunteer needed

**Video Coordinator**

Devon Cloud H: 214-349-6939 devoncloud@sbcglobal.net

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Kris Sands H: 972-442-0491 kris@dallassierraclub.org



## Protect Utah's Redrock Wilderness

For more than twenty years Utah conservationists have been working to add the last great blocks of undeveloped BLM administered public land in Utah to the National Wilderness Preservation System. These lands harbor some of the largest and finest desert roadless areas to be found anywhere in the world. They include the huge canyon systems of the Colorado, Green, San Juan, and Dolores rivers; the intimate slickrock narrows of the Escalante, Dirty Devil, Paria, and Virgin rivers; the vast tablelands and massive cliff-walls of the Kaiparowits Plateau, the Book Cliffs, and the Grand Staircase; and the isolated mountain ranges and desert riparian areas of Utah's Great Basin country.

Throughout Utah, proposed BLM wilderness areas surround and connect eight of Utah's nine national park, monument, and recreation areas. These BLM lands easily equal their neighboring national parklands in scenic beauty, in opportunities for primitive recreation, and in ecological importance. But unlike the parks, most Utah BLM wildlands lack any form of long-term protection. By designating these unprotected lands as wilderness, they will be guarded against threats of development and destruction, and will be preserved for the future in their pristine state.

A wilderness area is designated land set aside by Congress to preserve its wild state and all of the values associated with that wilderness – scenic beauty, solitude, wildlife, geological features, archaeological sites, and other features of scientific, educational, or historical value. The Wilderness Act of 1964 states that "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

In Utah, land that is not designated as "wilderness" faces continual threats. The passing of this proposal by Congress is essential to the preservation of these wild lands. Irresponsible off-road vehicle (ORV) use damages fragile desert soils and leaves unsightly scars across otherwise pristine land. New oil and gas exploration and development is on a record pace in remote southern Utah. This exploration is not only damaging to the fragile desert ecosystem, but it is also ineffective as a viable solution to the energy crisis, as the amount of fossil fuels found in these areas is very small.

Unfortunately, Utah's BLM lands also suffer a continual threat from Utah's anti-wilderness congressional delegation. In 1995, the Utah delegation proposed the Utah Public Lands Management Act to

protect only two million acres of Utah BLM lands as wilderness. Fortunately, the bill was defeated, in large part due to citizen outrage. In 1998, the Utah delegation again moved to enact a bill for just one of the eleven regions of wilderness in the state, the San Rafael Swell. This bill would have eliminated many currently protected Wilderness Study Areas and would not have solved the long contentious debate statewide. In 2002, Title XIV of the Defense Authorization Act attempted to weaken the Wilderness Act of 1964, expand Department of Defense (DOD) control over BLM lands, and dramatically shortchange the amount of wilderness to be designated in Utah. Fortunately, each time they proposed legislation containing anti-wilderness language, it was defeated for lack of congressional support.

The over 240 citizens' groups, which form the Utah Wilderness Coalition, have identified more than nine million acres of BLM lands that meet the criteria for wilderness. They have proposed these lands in a bill before the U.S. Congress known as America's Redrock Wilderness Act. These proposed wilderness lands account for roughly 17.3% of Utah's land base, and are the result of a massive volunteer effort, involving many thousands of hours of fieldwork. The BLM's own criteria for what does and does not possess wilderness characteristics were strictly adhered to. We've had some success in this arena. You may have heard of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a new monument created in September of 1996. This monument, encompassing 1.9 million acres, includes the Kaiparowits Plateau as well as scenic slot canyons in the Escalante area. But monument status alone does not guarantee the same kind of protection that wilderness designation does. Therefore, while an important step in preservation of public lands, this monument still needs the protection that America's Redrock Wilderness Act will afford.

These successes are largely due to the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) and its collective membership of over 2 million concerned citizens. The coalition seeks to protect wilderness values on public lands in Utah, concentrating efforts on the protection of wilderness quality BLM lands. Leadership in the coalition is provided by executive committee organizations including Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Wasatch Mountain Club, and the Wilderness Society. The coalition also serves as a grassroots-organizing role when activities transcend the work of an individual member organization.

The road to wilderness is a long one, but it is critical (and possible with the help of these great individuals and groups) if

## Sierra Club and Others Win Battle in Marvin Nichols Water War

Sierra Club and Others  
Win Battle in Marvin Nichols Water War

opposition to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is involved in the permitting process.

On January 7th, Sierra Club and our coalition partners Texas Committee on Natural Resources and the National Wildlife Federation, and our East Texas friends packed an overflowing room with citizens and members of the media to give a rarely-allowed citizens' briefing to the Dallas City Council. The coalition groups presented lower cost, lower impact alternatives to the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir project asking that a vote for a feasibility study not move forward.

City staff had requested the Dallas City Council vote on a \$600,000 feasibility study regarding engineering studies, permit evaluation, etc. on the proposed reservoir. The city manager had scheduled a vote on the study for January 14th.

The expensive \$1.7 billion project would destroy more than 62,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and rangeland in East Texas and span over five counties. The water would be pumped more than 150 miles to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. It is a waste of money when there are more cost-effective, lower-impact alternatives - including conservation-available to meet water needs.

Both the coalition groups and the City Staff made 15-minute presentations to the Council. Congressman Max Sandlin of East Texas joined coalition consultant Beth Johnson and Janice Bezanson of TCONR in presenting at the briefing. We suggested alternatives to Marvin Nichols such as Lake Texoma and other underutilized existing reservoirs. We urged Dallas to pursue strong conservation initiatives such as those of San Antonio.

Congressman Sandlin emphasized, "If you want to throw your money away on a \$600,000 study, that's your choice, but I'm here to tell you, this reservoir is not going to be built." The Congressman discussed the fierce East Texas opposition to the project and said he had already made known his

For three hours, Dallas City Council members commented and asked questions about the reservoir project. Only Councilman Ed Oakley of District 3 said he wanted to vote for the study. Councilman Salazar made no comment during the briefing. Councilwoman Maxine Thornton Reese expressed mixed views. The rest of City Council members expressed their willingness to view lower cost, lower impact alternatives before voting -- and the vote was taken off the docket.

Though the Marvin Nichols and other water wars are far from over, it was a great day in winning this battle for all who came to show their support and those who have long worked on this initiative. We will still have to be vigilant about future votes and movement on this proposed pork barrel project. We will still need to show our opposition to this harmful and unneeded reservoir in other ways and in future dates to come. Dallas is only one possible funder of the reservoir and the council decision was merely on a study vote and only at this time.

Our sincere thanks to all the Sierrans who called, emailed, wrote, or took time out of their schedules to show up for the briefing. A very special thanks to Sierran Linda Sharp. If Linda wouldn't have incidentally been sitting at an earlier Health, Environment and Human Services meeting to hear that this study was up for a vote, it would've completely slipped by us all and probably been passed. Way to go Linda and thanks so much!

If you would like to work on one of the hottest environmental issues in Texas and help us defeat this harmful and unnecessary reservoir project, please call Rita Beving at 214-373-3808 (rita@dallassierraclub.org) or Beth Johnson at 214-902-9260 (beth@bethjohnson.com).

Rita Beving, Conservation Chair

Utah's wild lands are to remain loved for what they are...wild, forever.

dave@suwa.org

To get involved in the campaign for America's Redrock Wilderness, contact any of the following organizations:

Utah Wilderness Coalition The Wilderness Society

Sierra Club Utah Chapter Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

801-486-2872 303-650-5818

801-467-9294 801-486-3161 www.sierraclub.org/utah www.suwa.org

www.uwcoalition.org www.wilderness.org/standbylands/utah

lawson.legate@sierraclub.org

wildutah@xmission.com pam\_eaton@tw.org

# The Compass

February 2004  
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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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Sierra Club Member Services  
PO Box 52968  
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

or email the information to:

[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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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**Gift Wrap  
Fundraiser  
A Success**

Thanks to all of the volunteers who gave their time during the holidays to wrap gifts at REI, we exceeded our fundraising goal for this event.

We appreciate the leadership of Co-Chairs Beth Harty and Becky Fisher and thank all of the volunteers who took time out of their holiday schedules to support the Dallas Sierra Club:

Kathy Burnett	Allan Logan
Don Callaway	Angie McCutcheon
Mary Colston	Carol Nash
Jay Davison	Calvin Nichols
Karen Davison	Judy Nichols
Lee Dixon	Pam Ragon
Ann Drumm	Dana See
Grayson Garner	Lisa Silguero
Joanne Ignasiak	Marilyn Sullivan
Emily Janke	Terry Sullivan
Art Johnson	Liz Wheelan
Laura Kimberly	Whitney Williams
Arthur Kuehne	



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### California Water Conservation Study: A Road Map for Texas

"The largest, least expensive, and most environmentally sound source of water to meet California's future needs is the water currently being wasted in every sector of our economy." So begins a new study called *Waste Not, Want Not: The Potential for Urban Water Conservation in California*, by Dr. Peter Gleick. The study contends that water conservation and efficiency improvements can eliminate the need for new water projects in California.

Texas water planners should look carefully at this report before committing to new projects such as the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

Dr. Gleick's study focuses on residential indoor and outdoor use as well as commercial/industrial/institutional use. This report estimates that "one-third of California's current urban water use...can be saved with existing technology. At least 85% of this...can be saved at costs below what it would cost to tap into new sources of supply and without the many social, environmental, and economic consequences that any major water project will bring." His main points can be summarized:

**\* Indoor water use can be reduced with existing technologies.** Although Californians have already made significant progress in reducing indoor water use, particularly by replacing millions of toilets through retrofit programs, there remains potential for substantial additional savings. The study estimates that "indoor water use could be further reduced by 40% by replacing inefficient toilets, washing machines, showerheads, and dishwashers, and reducing the level of leaks, even without improvements in technology."

**\* Outdoor water use can be reduced without landscaping changes but even more with them.** Californians have also made strides in reducing outdoor residential use, yet the study estimates that "further improvements of 25 to 40 percent could be made with improved management practices and better application of available technology, economically and relatively quickly." The authors decline to incorporate savings from changes in landscape design into their estimates, perhaps understanding the emotional response that can be evoked by suggesting alternatives to large expanses of grass. Instead, they focus on the savings possible from hardware improvements, efficient irrigation and soil management practices and conservation rate structures. Yet they do point out the potential for additional savings through climate-appropriate landscaping and suggest that, "xeriscaping and reduction in turf area produces perfectly acceptable, and sometimes even improved, garden aesthetics."

**\* Saving water saves energy and has other important benefits.** Saving water has other benefits as well. The energy

savings from using less heated water for showers, dishwashers and washing machines has been quantified and incorporated by the authors into their cost-benefit analysis of replacing old devices with efficient ones. They point out other benefits that are not quantified, including "ecosystem benefits of taking less water from rivers and lakes, lower wastewater treatment costs that result from using and polluting less water, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that result from using less energy, among others."

**\* Saving water saves money.** Increasing conservation and improving efficiency is the fiscally conservative approach to meeting our future water needs. "Saving water saves money...We conclude that in California, it is much cheaper to conserve water and encourage efficiency than to build new water supplies or even, in some cases, expand existing ones."

The same technologies that have proven effective in the home environment can also be employed to conserve water in the commercial/industrial/institutional sector. The study estimates that substantial savings could come from conservation in landscaping, bathroom and kitchen uses as well as efficiencies in uses unique to industrial processes. The report focuses solely on the urban sector and saves evaluation of the enormous conservation potential in the agricultural sector for another study.

The report offers specific "lessons and recommendations" that are as applicable to Texas as they are to California. "California is using water unsustainably", the authors report, and it is clear to those of us working on water issues that Texas' use of water is equally unsustainable. There is tremendous untapped potential if we are willing to face the educational, political and social barriers to capturing the wasted water. "Overcoming those barriers will require commitments on the part of government agencies, public interest groups, and many others with vested, often conflicting interests in California's [read: Texas'] water policy. But we also believe that this approach has fewer barriers and more economic, environmental, and social advantages than any other path before us."

*Waste Not, Want Not* is published by the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security. The lead author, Dr. Peter H. Gleick, spoke to Sierrans and water planners in Dallas and Austin last October. Dr. Gleick is widely respected as one of the world's experts on freshwater resources and was recently awarded a "genius grant" by the MacArthur Foundation for his work on water issues.

The Executive Summary and the entire report are available for download at [www.pacinst.org](http://www.pacinst.org).

## Stay Informed and Support the Dallas Group Through Our Website

**D**id you know you can join or renew your membership online? Buy Sierra Club calendars, notecards and gear? Have you signed up for one of our four email lists? Our website is a great resource for information about outings, conservation work, social events and other activities sponsored by the Dallas Group. Subscribe to our "news" email list for general information or to one of the special lists - Outings, Singes and ICO - depending on your interests. When you buy merchandise, join or renew your membership from our website, a portion of your purchase comes back to fund the Dallas group's activities. Go to [www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org) and check the "Email Lists" link in the navigation bar and the Sierra Store links to the right of the yellow current events box.



# Announcements

## NEWSLETTER PARTY COORDINATOR

Picks up printed newsletters at the printer in Addison (at your convenience during business hours) Call or email volunteers to remind them of the newsletter party (time 20 minutes one evening) Responsibility can be divided. Supervises the Newsletter party: Coordinates efforts of volunteers (approx. 5-12 people) who apply preprinted labels to the newsletters. Bundle then sort the newsletters according to Post Office requirements and place in bulk mail bags. (Time required up to 2 hours) Drop off newsletters at the Richardson Post office Bulk mail center (Arapaho and Central) (Time required up to 15 minutes) (total time required 4 hours / month) Contact Arthur Kuehne at 214-902-9260.

## BE ON OUR COMEDY NIGHT TEAM

We're planning a Sierra Comedy Night and need your help! This will be our biggest and most FUN fundraiser ever. Our core team is in place, and we're looking for helpers. Call Mary Colston at 214-350-6108. (Event date TBA - probably summer.)

## NEWSLETTER PARTY

Help prepare The Compass for mailing and meet other Sierrans. Held on the 4th Wednesday each month. Contact Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260 or just show up! 7 p.m., Churchill Rec. Center. Time: 2 hours / month.

## COMPASS AD SALES

Volunteer needed to sell advertising in The Compass. Contact Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

## SINGLES COORDINATOR

Organize singles dinners & social events and maintain the Singles email list. Call Ann Drumm, 214-350-6108.

## ARCHIVIST WANTED

Help us preserve the Dallas group's history by consolidating our historical records into one location. Call Ann Drumm, 214-350-6108.

## NEW MEMBER DINNER

New members and those wanting to learn more about the Dallas Sierra Club are invited to dinner on Sunday, February 22 at 6:00 at the home of Ann Drumm, 4340 Valley Ridge in Dallas. Come meet club leaders and learn about our outings, conservation activities, and ways to get involved. Please RSVP to our membership co-chair Kelly Carlson at 972-624-8534. For directions call Ann at 214-350-6108 or email [ann@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:ann@dallassierraclub.org).

# Volunteer of the Month

## LINDA SHARP

Linda has been a key player in our efforts to promote sound water policies in North Texas. She earned the nickname "Bird-Dog" when, as the lone member of the public attending what turned out to be a key committee meeting of the Dallas City Council, she learned of and notified the statewide anti-Marvin-Nichols coalition about the city staff's efforts to obtain council approval for a study that would further Dallas' participation in the environmentally harmful, unneeded reservoir project. After listening to the presentations by city staff and our coalition, the Council declined the request and decided to investigate lower cost, lower impact alternatives.



During several small-group visits, Linda has helped inform members of the North Texas (Region C) Water Planning Group (set up by state legislation to conduct water planning) and the Dallas City Council about our opposition to the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir and about less environmentally harmful alternatives. She has also attended several Region C WPG public meetings, written for the "Compass" about the Marvin Nichols project, and helped mobilize activists to make their voices heard in various public arenas.

Linda provided valuable help preparing for the visit of water expert Dr. Peter Gleick by identifying many public and private sector representatives to be added to the invitation list and helping to address the invitations. Linda's expertise as a Master Naturalist (she has just begun her term as President of North Texas Master Naturalists) and her understanding of water conservation makes her an invaluable member of our team working on water issues. Thank you, Linda!

# Outing Leader Training

They are the latest graduates of our outings leader training trip. This trip is one of several steps required to become a backpacking leader for the Dallas Sierra Club.

kinds of problems for the trainees. After the trainees deal with the various problems, the experienced leaders provide feedback and real world examples of how they have dealt with similar problems.

The training trip is a weekend backpacking trip on which several experienced Club leaders join the new leaders for a weekend of fun and education. On this trip on the Turkey Creek Trail in the Big Thicket National Preserve, the experienced leaders were Mick Nolen, Kent Trulsson, Wes Boren, and Arthur Kuehne. The experienced leaders are along to share their trip leading expertise with the trainees. They are also along to cause trouble. They show up late and unprepared. They get lost. They get injured. They are uncooperative. In short, they create all

If you think you might be interested in becoming a trip leader for the Dallas Sierra Club, please call the Outings Committee Training Coordinator, Arthur Kuehne, at 214-902-9260.



Please congratulate Greg Holman, John Shannon, David Van Winkle, Cari Henkin, Aseem Maheshwar, and Grayson Garner (left to right in the picture).



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# Sierra Club Outings

www.dallassierraclub.org



The Compass

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February 2004

## 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.

**JAN 21 (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 outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome.

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

**FEB 6 (FRI) DEADLINE** for submission of outings to be listed in the February Outings List and March Newsletter.

Contact Mick Nolen,  
972-991-9351(H)  
mick@DallasSierraClub.org

**FEB 8 (SUN) DOG WALK on the EAST SIDE of WHITE ROCK LAKE.** Bring your dog for a 2-mile (+ -) walk along the shore of White Rock Lake. Meet at 12:00PM at the Stone Tables on Lake Highlands Drive and Buckner Blvd. Bring water, lunch, biscuits and a pooper-scooper/bags. We will have a picnic at the halfway point. (You don't have to have a dog to participate). The pace and length of the walk will be determined by the co-leader. All dogs must be leashed and current on shots.

Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738  
Co-Leader Taffy.

**FEB 14 (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  
or cnash@dallasisd.org

**FEB 18 (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 outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome.

Contact Mick Nolen 972-991-9351  
mick@dallassierraclub.org for details.

**FEB 21 (SAT) BEGINNER BACKPACKING and CAMPING CLASS.** Aimed at beginners, this class is an ideal way to learn about backpacking. Topics include: wilderness ethics, outdoor clothing, boots, backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, and preparing for a trip. Instructors are experienced Dallas Sierra Club leaders. There will be time for questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear. Lunch of backpacking food is included. You will also have the opportunity to learn about, and sign up for, several beginner backpacking trips. The class will be held at REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) in the second floor program room. REI is at 4515 LBJ Freeway, north side, between Midway and Welch. The class will start promptly at 10:30 AM and will end at about 6:00 PM.

The fee is \$20 for Sierra Club members and \$30 for non-members (you can sign up to be a Sierra Club member at the class). No reservations are necessary, just show up.

Contact: Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260  
or arthur@akuehne.com

**FEB 21 (SAT) TROUT LILY AND SNAKE WALK AND TALK.** Have fun and learn about native plants and animals on this easy 2 mile hike suitable for all ages. Discover the beautiful trout lily and other spring ephemerals blooming along the forest trails of the Dallas County Post Oak Preserve. After hiking meet the snakes and other critters from the DISD Environmental Education Center collection. Car pool from REI parking lot at 9 a.m. The Post Oak Preserve is on Bowers Road in Seagoville. Mapsco 80G. (Take 175 east, exit Simonds Rd (also prison exit) go right on Simonds 2 miles to Bowers Rd. Go left 2 miles to parking lot on your right.) Meet in the Preserve parking lot at 10 AM. Bring your Lunch.

Leaders: Carol Nash,  
carol@dallassierraclub.org,  
214-824-0244 and Gray Garner,  
graygarner@juno.com,  
214-596-9827.

**MAR 5 (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 13-14 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK TRIP ON THE BUCKEYEE MOUNTAIN-CANEY CREEK TRAIL.** Enjoy one of the club's favorite backpack trip in a beautiful area. After a car shuttle on Saturday, we'll hike about 5 miles and camp near a waterfall. The hike out will be about 4 miles and will involve several stream crossings.

Leaders: Marcos Jorge and Steve Longley; contact Marcos at (972) 394-2546 or mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com.

**MAR 19-23 (FRI-TUE) SIXTH ANNUAL TAOS BUS TRIP.** Don't miss out! The Taos Bus trip accommodates people with a wide range of interests and physical abilities. All trips are in the area of Taos, New Mexico. Trip 1 tours historic and environmental sites to better understand local concerns, history and Native American culture including a special tour of Santa Clara Pueblo with a Black Pottery Demonstration. Trip 2 white water rafts the Rio Grande River one day (depending upon weather) and downhill skis the Taos Ski Basin on the other day. Trip 3 day hikes the Wild Rivers Scenic Area and snowshoes to the high altitude Williams Lake. All three trips stay at El Pueblo Lodge enjoying the hot tub, heated pool, and dinner at any of several places in Taos. Trip 4 backpacks to a heated yurt to stay two nights above the snow and snowshoe during the day. You can enjoy a weekend enjoying the snow without having to backpack a lot of winter equipment. Trip 5 backpacks the strenuous, traditional snow route to summit New

Mexico's second highest point, Wheeler Peak. On the last day, you have a choice to soak in a remote hot springs (clothing optional by local tradition) or wander the historic and commercial areas of downtown Taos. Our chartered sleeper bus will leave Dallas at 6:00pm Friday evening and return Tuesday morning between 5:00am and 6:00am. The trip cost for Sierra Club members is \$370 for Trip 1 historic tour, \$425 for Trip 2 rafting, \$370 for day snowshoeing, \$200 for Trip 4 yurt camping, and \$170.00 for Trip 5 backpack summit. Non-members add \$20. Trip 0 provides a soak in remote hot springs for Trip 1, 2 and 3 participants at no additional charge. To sign up, contact

Co-Leaders: Jay Davison,  
TaosBusTripJay@aol.com,  
(501-944-9738) and  
Karen Davison (972-418-8519).

**MAR 21 (SUN) DAYHIKE on the WEST END TRAIL at LAKE GRAPEVINE** (near Roanoke). We'll hike about 7 \_ miles on dirt trails. Meet for car-pooling at the REI parking lot (west side of building) at 9:30 AM. This is a one-way hike so there will be a car shuttle involved. Allow about 5-1/2 hours for the drive, hike, and lunch. Bring water, a trail snack, hiking boots, warm clothing, and rain gear (if needed). This time of year there is a possibility of mud so a change of shoes for after the hike would be wise. Optional restaurant meal on the trip home. No reservations are necessary -- just show up.

Leader: Steve Longley 214-824-1128

**MAR 27-28 (SAT - SUN) BACKPACK IN CANEY CREEK WILDERNESS, ARKANSAS.** Hike the entire 9 mile length of the Caney Creek Trail. Some people think the west part of the Caney Creek trail near the Cossatot River is nicer than the popular east end, but we seldom hike it due to the loooong car shuttle required. We'll get around that on this trip with a key exchange. Half of the group (lead by Bill Greer) will hike in from the east, the other half (lead by Arthur Kuehne) will hike in from the west. We'll camp together Saturday night and trade car keys. Sunday each group will hike out to the other cars. We'll meet halfway again Sunday afternoon.

Leaders: Bill Greer 972-964-1781,  
wbgreer@worldnet.att.net.  
Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260  
arthur@akuehne.com.  
Contact Bill Greer to sign up.

**MAR 28 (SUN) ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB AZALEA DAYHIKE** along turtle creek in Dallas. Leisurely 1.5- or 2 hour walk with rest stops. Suitable for children in strollers. Meet 2:00 PM at shopping strip on Oak Lawn (4200 block) just north of Wycliff. Take Oak Lawn Exit off I-35 or Fitzhugh exit off Central Expressway. No reservations needed.

Leader: Austin Brouns (214)-528-3812.

**APR 3 (SAT) RICHLAND CHAMBERS WETLANDS PROJECT CONSERVATION DAYHIKE.** Take a guided tour of this wetlands project which treats wastewater from

## Outings 2003

"Outings 2003 - Come to our February general meeting and enjoy the best of the Dallas Sierra Clubs 2003 Outings. You'll see where we went, the things we saw, the rivers we paddled, and the hills we climbed. Additionally, we'll talk about some of our upcoming outings for 2004!"

## Don't Miss It!

Tarrant County cities; then returns treated water into the drinking water supply. Tour the entire project, from Trinity River water source, through discharge to Richland Chambers Lake. Meet at REI no later than 9:00 A.M. to car-pool to the site near Streetman, TX (105+ miles one way). Bring a lunch and drink, or plan on eating late. Very limited parking is available at the site. This outing will be cancelled in the event of flooding at the site.

Leaders: Rita Beving Griggs  
214-373-3808,  
rita@dallassierraclub.org,  
Grayson Garner 214-596-9827;  
graygarner@juno.com.

APR 3 (SAT) SIXTH ANNUAL WORLD'S LONGEST DAYHIKE. If you're tough enough, or crazy enough, come and join your fellow Sierrans for a 23-mile day-hike on the White Rock Creek and White Rock Lake trails. This is our sixth year.

Don't you think it's time you joined us? Meet at 8:00 AM at the north end of the White Rock Creek trail in Valley View Park, on Valley View, just east of the intersection of Hillcrest and Valley View (just north of 635, Mapsco 15-R). 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/lunch stop at the 7-11 near the White Rock Lake spillway. Optional dinner and foot replacement after the hike.

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

APR 9-11 (FRI-SUN) BACKPACK on the OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL. The Ozark Highlands Trail in northern Arkansas was

voted one of the 10 best trails in the United States by Backpacker Magazine and is widely recognized as one of the country most scenic trails. We will backpack about 25 miles near the western end of this 165-mile trail. Participants in this moderately strenuous trip will experience beautiful early spring color, scenic vistas, and numerous waterfalls.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne  
214-902-9260 or  
arthur@akuehne.com

#### NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

The following is/are privately sponsored and administered trip(s). Sierra Club takes no responsibility and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these trips. They are published as a reader service because they may be of interest to recipients of

this publication.

SEPT 12-18 (SUN- SAT) BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA, MINNESOTA. Come smallmouth bass fishing in September! Far fewer people. Splashes of red and yellow start to dab the forest as the maples and birches turn color against the dark green of the pines, the bugs are gone, and the occasional northern lights sightings start to improve again. The fishing significantly improves as the lakes start cooling for the November freeze-up. Called the Looniest Place in America by Backpacker Magazine. Possible side trip to the International Wolf Center in Ely. Fishing is catch & release. Deposit req. Permit has a limit of four canoes and nine people.

Leader: Paul Huston at  
972-732-6566,  
angler4055@yahoo.com

## GENERAL CALENDAR

### 2/4 • 3/3 First Wednesday.

Executive Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. at REI 2nd floor meeting room (1-635 between Welch Road & Midway Road, MAPSCO 14Q), to discuss Club projects, policy and finances. All members are welcome to attend and participate. Call Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

### 2/11 • 3/10 Second Wednesday.

Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 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 El Fenix on Belt Line at Montfort.

### 2/13 • 3/12 Second Friday.

Deadline for electronic materials to be submitted to the Compass. Email DJ@dallassierraclub.org or deliver diskettes to editors during the General Meeting.

### 2/18 • 3/17 Third Wednesday.

Outings Committee Meeting 7:00 pm 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.

### 2/23 • 3/22 Fourth Monday.

Inner City Outings meeting, Monday 7:00 pm at REI.

### 2/25 • 3/24 Fourth Wednesday.

Newsletter Party 7:00 pm at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest & Churchill Way (MAPSCO 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Socializing afterward. Contact Arthur Kuehne at 214-902-9260.

## Conference Promotes Subdivisions Designed with Nature in Mind

By Linda Sharp

Perhaps you've seen some of the subdivisions that are being built with large open space and clustered lots? If so, you may have also noticed the very high price tags on the homes. Some developers are working hard to create conservation-friendly developments at more affordable prices. This was the subject of the "Conservation Design Conference, Targeting Designers/Developers of \$150K or Less Homes" held on December 12 at the Intermodal Transportation Center in Fort Worth.

"Conservation subdivisions" are designed to protect natural resources (including farmland) while allowing the same maximum number of homes that could be built in more conventional subdivisions. They are characterized by common open space (ideally, 50% or more) and clustered compact lots. Conservation subdivisions and conventional subdivisions are primarily differentiated by the location of the homes on one part of the parcel, i.e. clustered homes. The undeveloped portion is permanently dedicated as open space. This open space may be for trees, sports facilities, or agriculture, such as a vegetable farm. Because of the open space that is preserved, developers are quickly recognizing the salability advantages that conservation subdivisions have for potential homeowners.

One of the speakers was Mike Ridley, the owner of Ridley Management Development Inc., which developed the Trails of Lake LBJ in Llano, Texas. The Trails started out with 550 acres and now consists of 200 residential homes and 380 acres perpetually saved as a Nature Preserve. Each lot not only has access to the Nature Preserve but also access to eight miles of hiking trails. The tallest light in the development is restricted to three feet, thus helping to preserve the night sky. To help protect some of the wildlife that may be attracted to the Nature Preserve, buyers are required to agree in writing that they will not have any outside cats.

Mr. Ridley explained how the conservation development process can be made applicable to any project, regardless of price. His Trails of Lake LBJ subdivision has been recognized by the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Texas Forest Service, and others as a standard for environmentally responsible conservation development in Texas.

All of the speakers at the conference were excellent and many topics were covered, such as landscaping, site planning, and national trends on "affordable" housing. Randle Harwood, Acting Director of Ft. Worth Parks & Community Services, suggested replacing the term "affordable housing" with "work-force housing," since a home that may be affordable to one person isn't affordable to another. This suggestion was enthusiastically accepted by everyone.

Gary Olp, President of GGO Architect Corporation, discussed some energy-friendly concepts for home building. Some of these concepts seem almost elementary, such as designing lots so that the homes, when built, would all face south. Energy demand could be cut by up to 40% simply by using overhangs and window awnings to prevent direct sun from coming into the rooms during the summer. Icynene insulation, which is sprayed into floors, ceilings, and walls, will quickly form an air barrier that minimizes leakages which can frequently lead to mold and mildew. And Gary also explained whole-house hot water, where water is heated immediately on demand, rather than being constantly kept hot in the water heater until needed.

Sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension Environmental Committee, the conference was the second in a series being planned. John Davis, Chairman of the Committee and an Urban Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, states, "Conservation development simply makes sense. Examples from across the nation are demonstrating that this type of development is economically profitable as well as ecologically compatible. We don't have to continue to sacrifice our region's ecological health to poorly designed development."

In order for more nature and resource-friendly development to occur, buyers need to have information on the alternatives they have in new home construction. Conferences like these are a good way to let people know about their options. With this ever-increasing knowledge will come demand that more change take place.



## CONSERVATION CALENDAR

February 21st - REGION C WATER MEETING, Trinity River Authority, 1:30 pm., 6500 Singleton in Irving, 75006 Members of this regional water committee will vote on the base criteria for evaluating future water resources for our 16 county area. This criteria will affect decisions made on the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir as a possible water supply choice for the area. This is a great place to learn and get more of the overall political picture on this issue.

For more information, call Rita Beving at 214-373-3808 or email [rita@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:rita@dallassierraclub.org). You can also call Beth Johnson at 214-902-9260 or email her at ([beth@bethjohnson.com](mailto:beth@bethjohnson.com)).

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### Help Wanted: "Birds in Forested Landscapes" Study

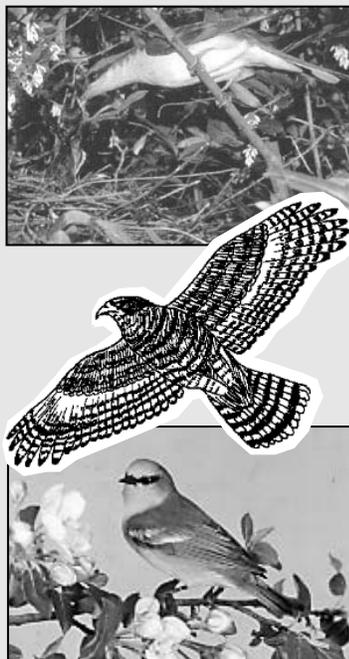
Over the past decade, there has been mounting concern about declining bird populations in North America. Several factors could be to blame for this trend, but most evidence points to a loss in habitat. Surveys by the US Geological Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service indicate that most of the declining bird species are forest specialists, so there is a need to understand each species' habitat requirements and determine what conditions are needed for successful breeding populations. The concern is that forest fragmentation has reached a critical point in many areas so that certain bird populations are no longer stable.

The "Birds in Forested Landscapes" (BFL) is a joint project organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the USDA Forest Service. The project seeks volunteers to monitor forest areas for bird activity. The data obtained from the BFL study will be used develop management

recommendations for forested areas to ensure the quality of habitat is suitable for the priority species. Learn more about the BFL study at: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/bfl/>.

Volunteers are needed to help with this study in Texas parks. Preparatory work includes identifying the parks to be studied, mapping the survey areas and identifying the foliage. There will be two morning observation periods for monitoring bird activity in mid-June and late August. Three volunteers are needed at each observation point to watch and listen for birds and record data. This work is not physically demanding, nor does it require a lot of time.

If you're interested in birding, ecology, or helping out with a study that might keep your favorite forest from becoming a parking lot, please contact Endangered Species issue chair Tom Green at [katzen5@aaahawk.com](mailto:katzen5@aaahawk.com) or 972-578-1929.



### TATTLE ON TRASHERS

Tired of seeing other people throwing trash out of their cars only to make Texas roadways unsightly? As a caring motorist, you can now report litterbug incidents to a toll free number or website to help a Texas trasher mend their ways. Call 1-888-839-8683 (toll-free) or access [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org) to report these trash-throwing culprits. The offender will get a "Don't Mess With Texas"

trash bag and information about Texas' litter laws.

When accessing the [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org) website, click on the "Report a Litterer" Link to make your report. Whether you are filing online or making the toll-free call, make sure you include the license plate number (Texas plates only), make of

the vehicle, date and time of day, location, type of litter and who tossed the trash (driver or passenger).

Cleaning Texas highways cost the state \$32 million last year. In 16 North Texas counties, the cost ran \$6.5 million. In Dallas County alone, trash pickup costs ran \$2.4 million, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Police can issue a ticket if they catch a litterbug culprit in the act. The offenders can face a maximum \$500 fine. Texas law also requires motorist to cover loads while transporting trash, but often debris can be blown out of trucks and other vehicles. Due to numerous loopholes in the state tarp law, it is rarely enforced.



The Dallas Sierra Club organizes an annual bus trip to Taos, New Mexico each February over the Valentines Day weekend. The 2003 trip was one of the best so far, except for uncooperative weather high in the mountains. Our chartered sleeper bus arrived in Taos on Saturday, February 15. The participants broke up into 5 pre-arranged groups. The easiest group stayed in a lodge and did sightseeing and day hiking in and around the Taos area. The next two groups stayed in the lodge and did some combination of day hiking, sightseeing, and snowshoeing. Groups 4 and 5 backpacked (on snowshoes) into the mountains and camped in the snow. Group 5's objective was to climb Wheeler Peak, the tallest mountain in New Mexico at 13,161 feet. Unfortunately, a foot of new snow and windy conditions thwarted the attempt.






## 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@dallasierra-club.org](mailto:george@dallasierra-club.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.

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