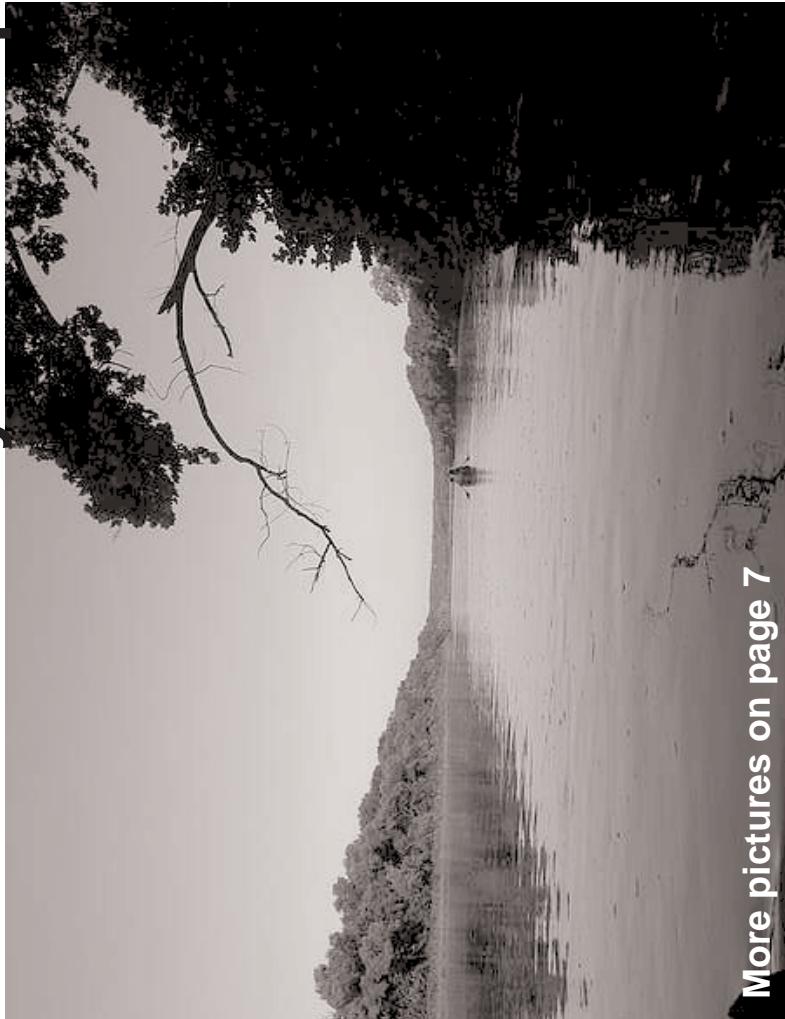


2004 Bastille Day Canoe Trip



More pictures on page 7

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**Kerry for President
Experience on EXCOM
North Texas Politics
TXI Sues EPA**

Dallas Executive Committee

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John Rath - Vice-Chair
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Bryan Carpenter
Liz Wheelan

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Adopt a Shoreline

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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
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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
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Sierra Singles

Volunteer needed

Outings Committee Chair

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Canoeing / Kayaking	Volunteer needed		
Car Camping	Terry Sullivan	H: 972-492-3038	terry@dallassierraclub.org
Dayhikes	Volunteer needed		
Family Outings	Steve Longley	H: 214-826-3993	slongley@presidioinvestments.com
	Volunteer needed		

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Program Sales Coordinator

Patsy Huston H: 972-732-6566

Special Events Coordinator

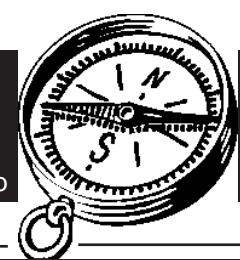
Volunteer needed

Video Coordinator

Lisa Silguero C: 214-893-7990 lisa@dallassierraclub.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer needed



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - "Young People's Traveling Reptile Show"

"Lions, and Tigers, and Bears - Oh My!"

As long as humans have been around on planet Earth, we have always had an instinctive fear of predators. It has helped us to survive over the millenia. Today however, now that we have largely subjugated nature and its predators, most of our instinctive fears of predators are



Corn snake

unfounded (we aren't being chased by tigers on the way to the grocery store). Even so, we collectively continue to kill predators by the thousands. Perhaps no

predator on Earth is more universally feared than snakes. Yet snakes serve a vital role in our ecosystems, helping to rid the world of disease carrying rodents and vermin whose populations would explode without nature's system of checks and balances to keep their numbers in check. Our main program this month features the "Young People's Travelling Reptile Show." Walter and Jeff Clark will bring an assortment of fascinating reptiles such as a 15' albino Bermese python, a king snake, an alligator, a yellow-footed tortoise, and a corn snake. They will enlighten us as to the habitats in which these creatures live, and explain their vital role in the ecosystem and why we need to preserve both them and their habitats.

And speaking of preserving our wildlife, our short program this month features some fascinating students from Denton County. A new program emerged from the interest of a few Denton County 4-H students last fall. Michael Schwind, Elliot

Holtzman, Ted Hatch and Travis Kuehler began a five month study program that earned them the title of the State WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program) team and the opportunity to represent the state of Texas at the National WHEP Invitational in Blacksburg, VA. These boys learned several different aspects of wildlife management and have become leaders of their generation in conserving our natural resources and thereby conserving our natural wildlife.



Alligator

DALLAS SIERRA CLUB

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES KERRY FOR PRESIDENT

Says Kerry Will Protect America's Health and Heritage

The Sierra Club recently endorsed Senator John Kerry for President of the United States, citing his outstanding leadership in safe-guarding America's air, water and public lands.

"John Kerry will provide the environmental leadership that has been sorely missing in the Bush White House," said Sierra Club President Larry Fahn. "His commitment to environmental progress stands in stark contrast to the Bush administration's all-out assault on the environment and its record of putting polluting corporations before the American public's health and safety.

"John Kerry has spent his entire career promoting real solutions aimed at ensuring that America's air, water, and natural resources are protected for future generations."

Kerry has demonstrated environmental leadership throughout his career in public service, from helping organize Massachusetts' first Earth Day in 1970 to opposing the Bush administration's efforts to dismantle environmental gains made over the last century. Highlights of Kerry's environmental record include:

- He advocated strict enforcement of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and opposed Bush administration efforts to weaken the laws in order to let polluters put more dangerous toxics into our air and water;
- He advocated restoration of Superfund's "polluter pays" trust fund to ensure that polluters, not ordinary taxpayers, pay to clean up abandoned toxic waste sites;
- He led the charge against the Bush administration's attempts to allow oil drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
- He championed an energy plan that increases fuel economy to reduce the nation's dependence on oil and supports the development of clean, energy-

saving technologies and renewable energy to reduce our dependence on other polluting sources of energy;

· And, he advocated for the United States to take the lead in international efforts to cut global warming pollution, reverse ozone depletion, protect tropical rain forests, preserve biological diversity and press for sustainable development.

"John Kerry's record on the environment is impressive by any measure and reveals a sincere personal passion for the issue," Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope said. "He understands that there is a better way than the Bush administration's alliance with corporate polluters. With Kerry as President, we could be sure that America's health and heritage are protected."

The endorsement was decided by volunteer members who serve on the Club's political committee and Board of Directors. Following the announcement, the Sierra Club will mobilize more than 700,000 members to talk to their friends and neighbors about supporting Kerry in November.

"One of our biggest challenges is to educate the American public about the Bush administration's dismal environmental record," Fahn said. "Now, thousands of Sierra Club members in every state will be volunteering their efforts to tell voters about the clear choice in this election. They will be encouraging all Americans who care about the environment to vote for John Kerry in November."

To learn more about why the Sierra Club endorsed John Kerry, please visit our website at:

http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/presidential_endorsement/

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The Compass

September 2004
Volume 100, Issue 0904

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

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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For the Birds: Trio of "Citizen Scientists" Complete Bird Study

Dallas Sierra club members Tom Heath, Arthur Wilson, and Tom Green worked together as a team to obtain research data for the "Birds In Forested Landscape" (BFL) project. The BFL project is sponsored by Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology to gather information about how forest fragmentation impacts bird populations. This information is then used to provide conservation guidelines to protect these habitats. Our team selected eight species of birds to include in our study, and then selected four survey points in suburban woodlands to observe. We defined the characteristics of each study site, such as forest patch size, canopy height & cover, distance to water, and other important features. Then we

General Calendar

9/1 • 10/6 First Wednesday.

Executive Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. 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 Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

9/8 • 10/13 Second Wednesday.

Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Come to the General Meeting at the Greenhills School located at the corner of Midway and Spring Valley. Check our website at www.dallassierraclub.org for directions. Come early to pick up outings and conservation materials. Everyone is invited to join us for food, drink and socializing after the meeting.

9/13 • 10/11 Second Monday.

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

9/15 • 10/20 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.

9/22 • 10/27 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.

visited each site twice, once in May and again in June, looking for signs of nesting behavior for each of our target species. Finally, we recorded our observations and submitted them to Cornell.

We were fortunate to see several Yellow-billed Cuckoos, which were a species of concern for our study. Near one site was a large nest crowded with five scruffy Cooper's Hawk chicks, waiting impatiently for lunch. We also saw an Indigo Bunting, several Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and lots of Carolina Chickadees (sometimes scolding us for disturbing their home). It was great to learn something about our local Dallas area forests and birds, and also hope our efforts will protect important habitats in the future.



SIERRA
CLUB

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

JAZZing up Global Environmental Governance

There's a fundamental difference between the challenges that sparked the modern environmental movement and those that we face today. The issues that gave rise to the first Earth Day in 1970 were primarily domestic and required responses on a local and national scale. By contrast, today's challenges are primarily global in scale and require an international response. So far, our response has been a legal one involving international conventions and protocols like the embattled Kyoto Protocol.

James Gustave Speth has evaluated the first twenty years of efforts at international environmental governance and concluded that we need a very different approach if we are to reverse the trends of deterioration in areas such as climate change, deforestation, desertification, and habitat loss.

Speth is Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and his new book is *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*. He offers an analysis of the reasons so many of our environmental treaties have failed to bring about their desired results. One major weakness is that they don't address the underlying problems that drive environmental degradation. He identifies several root problems and suggests actions that must be taken by the world community if we are to achieve sustainability. They include:

- Population: Hopeful trends in population growth must be encouraged by governments offering full funding to family planning programs.
- Poverty: Speth advocates a multi-step approach to addressing the type of global poverty that creates a vicious cycle of environmental degradation that further impoverishes people. We must create institutions that promote social order and economic growth; add social safety nets; invest in small-scale infrastructure and basic social services for the world's poor; empower the poor to create sustainable livelihoods by providing access to microcredit programs, land, training and skills, technology and energy services; restore natural systems on which the poor depend for their livelihoods; and promote the social and political empowerment of the poor, particularly women.
- Technology: We need "a rapid ecological modernization of industry and agriculture," he says. "Because energy is at the root of so many of our environmental ills, transformation of the energy sector must rank as the highest priority."
- Prices: The prices we pay often do not reflect the total cost of using certain types of energy and consuming and

disposing of goods. Governments need to eliminate subsidies that encourage environmental degradation and ensure that external environmental costs – including damages to public health, natural resources, and ecosystem services – are captured in market prices.

The most basic change needed for stronger global environmental governance is more capable, accountable, and democratic governments. But a complimentary movement is emerging, a phenomenon he calls "JAZZ": unscripted, voluntary initiatives that are decentralized, improvisational, and driven by informed consumers and progressive leaders in business, investing and government.

JAZZ involves "a wide array of civic, scientific, environmental, religious, students, and other organizations with enlightened business leaders, concerned families, and engaged communities, networked together, protesting, demanding action and accountability from governments and corporations, and taking steps as consumers and communities to realize sustainability in everyday life."

We also need a spark to make global-scale concerns come alive with an immediacy and reality that characterized domestic environmental challenges in the 1970s. "Sweeping policy change happens when a major wave of new and previously apathetic citizens are attracted to an issue," he says. Some crisis that has its roots in global climate change is likely to be the spark that explodes this movement to a massive scale.

The key to the success of JAZZ is an information-rich environment which promotes consumer and shareholder pressure. Environmental groups like the Sierra Club can capitalize on this emerging consumer awareness by educating consumers to use the power of their pocketbooks to bring about change. He cites as examples the growing use of eco-labeling and the more than \$2 trillion that are invested in socially and environmentally screened funds.

The book concludes with a well-researched appendix, "Resources for Citizens", that has links to hundreds of organizations working for solutions to problems that drive environmental degradation. The resource list is also available on the book's companion website: www.redskyatmorning.com.

Announcements

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO)

Sierra Club outreach program provides hikes and camping to disadvantaged youth. Special fall volunteer orientation meeting/dinner being planned. For details, watch website (www.dallassierraclub.org) or contact Liz Wheelan at Lizwico@aol.com or 214.739.2269.

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.

ARCHIVIST WANTED

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

CONSERVATION HELP

Help our Conservation Chair with administrative work at home – phone calls, emails, logistical details to support conservation activities. Call Rita Beving, 214-373-3808.

Check out our website:

<http://www.DallasSierraClub.org>

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Executive Committee Elections Coming Soon

In just a few short months, we will be electing more than just the President. We will also be electing several individuals to serve on the Dallas Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Every well-run organization always has a number of talented, passionate, and committed individuals helping to create the vision for the group, and steering it in the direction of its goals. The Sierra Club's motto also serves as our mission statement: Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

The Executive Committee of the Dallas Sierra Club works with its outstanding group of outings leaders to bring you a number of enjoyable walking, hiking, backpacking, and other nature centered activities throughout the year. We coordinate other fellowship activities such as the new member dinners, entertaining programs, and holiday parties. We also help protect this beautiful planet by coordinating with our numerous and talented conservation leaders to help educate both our members and the public about important issues affecting our local, state, national, and global envi-

ronment.

You don't have to be a long time member to run for Excom - I had only been affiliated with the Dallas Group for a few months when I was elected to Excom last year. All you really need is a passion to help promote the ideals and interests of our club, and the willingness to make a commitment to serve for a short while. I have found my experience on Excom to be highly rewarding. It doesn't take a lot of my time, I get together with like-minded folks to help guide the direction of our group, and I feel really good about the contribution I am making to our club and our world.

If you are passionate about exploring, enjoying and protecting this planet and you would like to learn more about how you too might be able to express your talents by serving on the Executive Committee, please contact Bryan Carpenter at: bryan@dallassierraclub.org or (817) 745-9988, or Mary Colston at: mary@dallassierraclub.org or (214) 618-1424.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE PROPOSES POLICY THAT WOULD END PROTECTION OF ROADLESS AREAS

Comments on a proposed Forest Service policy that would be a virtual shut-down on protecting the more than 58 million acres of roadless areas in the nation's national forests were submitted by Sierrans and other forest advocates this past month. Despite the end of this particular comment period, it is still worth noting, that comments are still pending on Alaska's forestland. We need to persevere as important environmental policies are being attacked or rolled back within the current Administration.

In 2001, the Clinton Administration adopted the Roadless Rule, to prohibit road building in the country's inventoried roadless areas that had not previously been designated as wilderness areas. More than two million people submitted comments on the Roadless Rule, the most comments ever received on such a regulation. A dramatic 95% of them spoke in favor of protecting these remote areas!

After four years of steadily eroding roadless area protection, the Bush Administration is now proposing to eliminate the prohibition against road-building on any area unless the governor of the relevant state formally petitions to protect that area and commits his state to an expensive rule-making process. These situations are unlikely as many Western governors receive heavy contributions from the timber industry. Therefore, it is expected that very few areas will be the subjects of such a petition. The Forest Service is also offering no guarantee that it will grant any petitions that are submitted.

Overturning the 2001 Roadless Rule would allow timbering and road building to begin anew in some of our wildest public forestlands.

In Texas, 4,000 acres are at risk in Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF), including the Big Creek and Winters Bayou Scenic Areas and the Big Woods and Little Lake Creek Roadless Areas.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates to help try and protect Alaska's threatened forests. Tell them "this land is OUR land" and that the public has already supported the Roadless Rule overwhelmingly.

FUTURE DATES TO BE AWARE OF PERTAINING TO ALASKA
(This would relate to the Tongass and other areas)

Reference: 36 C.F.R. 294 - Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; Applicability to National Forest System Lands in Alaska

November 2004 - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

January 2005 – Comment Period End

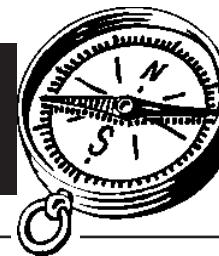
Agency Contact: Andria D. Weeks, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, (703) 605-4610, aweeks@fs.fed.us
Fax 801-517-1014

Also access www.sierraclub.org as the Club will undoubtedly update the information on the Roadless Rule as this progresses.

Rita Beving, Conservation Chair.

Sierra Club Outings

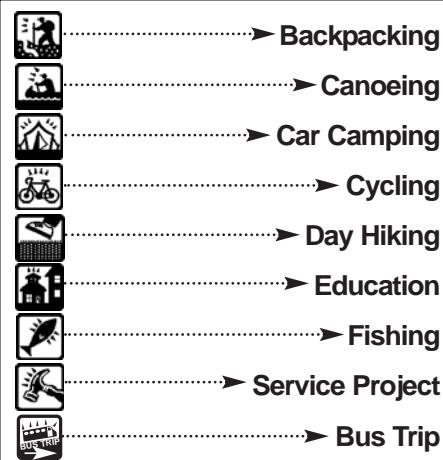
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The Compass

4

SEPTEMBER 2004



**SEP 2-7 (THUR - TUE)
LABOR DAY**

BUS TRIP TO THE WEMINUCHE WILDERNESS IN COLORADO. Last year this sold out in a month!! So get on board to escape the Texas heat and grind. Join us for our annual trip to the cool Colorado mountains on the Weminuche Wilderness. This year we will have a riverside carcamp for those who want to dayhike/or fish for trout. Or you can join us for 4 other levels of hiking trips - there's something for everyone - easy to strenuous. You can walk on the Continental Divide or perhaps hike up the Pyramid. The sleeper bus leaves Dallas 4:00 pm on Thursday evening and returns before 6:00 am on Tuesday morning. Trips cost are \$175 for nonmembers/\$190 for members. To sign up, send a check payable to Dallas Sierra Club and send to: Rita Beving, 14605 Dartmouth Court, Addison, TX 75001. For info, you can call Rita at 214-373-3808 or email her at rita@dallassierraclub.org

SEP 3 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the September Outings List and October Newsletter. Contact Mick Nolen, 972-991-9351, mick@DallasSierraClub.org



SEP 11 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP. Help clean up the Dallas Sierra Club's Adopted Shoreline. Meet at 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) or
cnash@dallasisd.org



SEP 11 (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

SEP 15 (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 local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Contact: Mick Nolen 972-991-9351(H) or mick@dallassierraclub.org

SEP 16(THU) NIGHTHIKE ON THE WHITE ROCK CREEK TRAIL.

Meet at 7:00PM at Moss Park on the corner of Greenville and Royal. We will walk 5 miles on a paved path. Bring water and comfortable shoes. No reservations, just show up. Ice cream afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738 (H)



SEP 19-24 (SUN - FRI) KINGS CANYON BACKPACK. Enjoy a late summer - early fall backpack trip in the Southern Sierras. This is one of the best hikes in the Sierra Nevada's. We'll hike about 41 miles from Road's End at Kings Canyon to the Sierra Crest on the Rae Lakes Loop. The hike will take us up Kings Canyon, then follow Woods Creek to alpine lakes where we'll camp before climbing Glen Pass at about 12,000 ft. The trail will then take us down the scenic Bubbs Creek Canyon back to the cars. The trip is limited to 8 experienced backpackers. The National Park Service requires all backpackers to carry a bear resistant container for food storage as black bears and mountain lions are common in the area. The Sierra Club rates this trip as strenuous and challenging. For information and to sign up, contact the leaders. Leaders: Marcos Jorge (972) 394-2546 H; e-mail mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com, Steve Longley (214) 824-1128 H; e-mail sclongley@sbcglobal.net



SEP 19(SUN) WALK AROUND THE ROCK DAYHIKE. Meet at the parking lot on Mockingbird Lane (west of Lawther Drive at the Dog Park) at 9:00 A.M.

HOW THE OUTING PROGRAM WORKS:

Dallas Sierra Club outings are open to members and non-members alike. Some trips may require special qualifications and capabilities. The leaders of each 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 trip. 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 on all outings. Pets are not allowed unless specifically stated. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign car pools, but may help coordinate ride sharing for energy conservation and to promote fellowship. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. Car-pooling is SOLELY voluntary, but the costs should be 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. 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 of 12 hikers or 12 canoes/kayaks. 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 there are any questions or problems, or you are interested in becoming a leader, contact either the Outings Chair or the appropriate Activity Coordinator listed in the newsletter. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver.

Walk one revolution of the Lake (approx. 9 mi.) Bring a water bottle (water is available) plus some light snack food for energy; also tried and tested walking shoes with appropriate sock combination. Optional brunch or early lunch to follow our walk. No reservations necessary...just show up.
Grayson Garner
214-596-9827

SEP 28 (TUE) BABYHIKE ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL IN PLANO. What's a Baby Hike? Bring your infant or toddler and a stroller and we'll see if we can make 2 miles on the paved trail. Meet at 5:30PM in front of the Starbucks north side of 15th, just west of US 75 in Plano (**Mapsco 658V**).
Leader: Mick Nolen (and baby Sarah),
972-991-9351,
mick@dallassierraclub.org

OCT 1 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the October Outings List and November Newsletter.
Contact: Mick Nolen,
972-991-9351,
mick@DallasSierraClub.org



OCT 2-3 (SAT-SUN) FAMILY CARCAMP WICHITA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Come and enjoy dayhiking and carcamping at this great destination in Southwestern Oklahoma. Located 25 miles North of Lawton, the refuge is home to wonderful trails as well as fantastic wildlife.
For more info:
<http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/oklahoma/Wichita>
There will be a limit on group size so sign up soon.
Leaders:
Mick and Sarah Nolen,
972-991-9351,
mick@dallassierraclub.org

OCT 2-3 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACKING TRIP on the FOUR C NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL.

This easy trail in the Davy Crockett National Forest in East Texas is perfect for beginners. We'll hike about 10 miles total on an easy, level trail that's only about 170 miles from Dallas.
Leader: Arthur Kuehne,
214-902-9260 or
arthur@akuehne.com



OCT 9 (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) or
cnash@dallasisd.org



OCTOBER 9-10 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNER BACKPACK IN McGEE CREEK, OKLAHOMA. This will be an easy hike into a nice area. Here's your chance to check out the legs and all that new gear. McGee is close enough that we can leave Saturday morning for the drive to the trailhead. We'll hike in about 3 miles to camp, then do some day hiking. Sunday morning will feature another easy dayhike, then we'll take a different trail back out to our cars.
Leader: Bill Greer
972-964-1781 (h) email
wbgreer@worldnet.att.net.



WALK THE OUACHITA
The Dallas Sierra Club Group is proud to sponsor a backpacking program to enable everyone to hike the entire national Ouachita Trail, 222.5 miles, from Talimena State Park in eastern Oklahoma, to Pinnacle

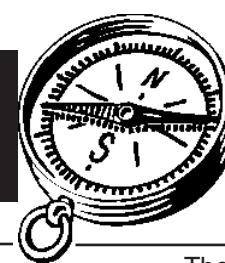
Mountain State Park, west of Little Rock, Arkansas. We have divided the trail into twenty segments to allow us to hike it a little piece at a time. Leaders from the Outings Committee will be listing hikes of these segments on various weekends from October through April. Each of the segments will be repeated so you can catch up if you missed the first time. You don't have to want to hike the entire trail to participate; but if you try and go when you can, the trail can be entirely finished in 2 ½ to 3 years. Successful completion will entitle you to wear a one-of-a-kind, very special, DSCG T-shirt! Watch the newsletter and outings lists.



Learn How to Backpack

Why in the world would anyone want to go backpacking? You have to carry this heavy thing on your back, sleep on the cold ground, eat crud out of a plastic bag, and wear out your feet. You can drive to some pretty amazing and beautiful places. And from your car, you can dayhike to a bunch more. But if you look at a map, you'll see that roads and dayhiking only get you to a very small percentage of America. If you want to see the rest, you have to backpack. Once you learn to backpack, a whole world will open up for you. A world of supreme beauty, star covered skies, rushing mountain streams, desert solitude, and quiet you won't find here in the Metroplex. You'll also find that that thing on your back (your backpack) does not have to be heavy, sleeping on the ground can be amazingly comfortable, you can have gourmet food, and your feet won't wear out. So, how do you get started? You're in luck! The Dallas

Sierra Club's Beginner Backpacking and Camping Class will be Saturday, September 11. If you miss this one, we won't have another until February. So mark your calendars now. This class is an ideal way to learn about backpacking. Topics covered include wilderness ethics, outdoor clothing, boots, backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, and preparing for a trip. The class is taught by experienced Dallas Sierra Club trip leaders. There will be plenty of time for a hands-on look at all kinds of backpacking equipment and to have all of your questions answered. We'll even break up into male and female groups so you can ask any gender specific questions you may have. We'll provide lunch. You'll get a chance to sample a variety of freeze-dried backpacking foods. (But we'll show you how you can get all your food at the grocery store.) We'll also have water and cokes available throughout the day. Before the class is over, you will have a chance to sign up for one or more beginner backpack trips. These can get you ready for our most spectacular trips, our bus trips to Colorado, New Mexico and, at Thanksgiving, to Big Bend National Park. 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, **Mapsco 14Q**. 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. Bring a light jacket or sweater, as the room is often cool. If you have questions or want additional information, please contact:
ArthurKuehne at
214-902-9260 or
arthur@akuehne.com.



SIERRA CLUB TO BE INVOLVED IN NORTH TEXAS POLITICAL RACES

Most Americans do not realize how important their votes are in the electoral process. Each year, many local, state and national elections are decided by less than one percent of the vote. The outcomes of these contests can often decide whose agenda controls a particular body of government and can often affect the outcome of crucial decisions made by the elected officials in that body.

This year more than ever, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups have the opportunity to make a difference in the outcome of some of these potentially close contests by getting involved with the campaigns of a number of Texas and Federal candidates who support a strong environmental agenda.

U.S. Congress – Martin Frost

Expectations are that control of the U.S. House this year could be decided by a few hotly contested contests in swing districts. One of those races for control of the U.S. House is here in Dallas County in the 32nd Congressional District where the Sierra Club National Political Committee, at the recommendation of the Dallas Group's Executive Committee, has endorsed Congressman Martin Frost for re-election.

After the Texas Legislature redistricted the Texas Congressional map again in 2003 for the second time in two years, Congressman Martin Frost's old 24th District, primarily in Tarrant County, was carved up so badly that he had no chance of winning re-election there. Thus, Frost decided to run for re-election this year against Pete Sessions in the 32nd District in Dallas County. The new 32nd district includes the Oak Cliff area of Dallas where Frost lived and represented his constituents in Congress for over 20 years. The 32nd District also now includes much of Irving, the Park Cities, North and Far North Dallas, Richardson and Addison. Over half of the local Sierra Club members in Dallas County live in the new 32nd District. A large voter turn out is expected throughout the district due to the fact that millions of dollars will be spent by the candidates in what some say could be the most expensive and important congressional race in the country.

Martin Frost is a well-known incumbent congressman in the North Texas area. Sierra Club has had a very good long-term relationship with him and his staff. He has always been approachable and he is usually supportive of our positions. His voting record on environmental issues is among the best in the Texas delegation, and his opponent Pete Session's environmental voting record is very poor. Congressman Frost actively sought our endorsement this year and wants to make clean air in Dallas a major

issue in his campaign. With such a large number of our members in the 32nd District, Sierra Club can make a significant impact on the outcome of this race if our members turn out in record numbers to vote and take advantage of volunteer opportunities to help the campaign. For more information or to volunteer, contact Arthur Kuehne at 214-353-292

(arthur@dallassierraclub.org) or David Griggs at 972-406-9667 (david@dallassierraclub.org).

Texas House of Representatives

Much of the environmental legislation that affects our daily lives comes from our state government. This year, local Sierrans have an opportunity to affect the balance of power in the Texas House of Representatives in Austin by helping candidates with pro-environmental credentials win in key house races.

The Lone Star Political Committee and the Chapter Excom have made several endorsements in these 2004 Texas House races in the Dallas area:

District 106 – Katy Hubener

Katy Hubener is a long-time environmental activist and Sierra Club member who is running against Ray Allen, an incumbent with a bad environmental voting record. Katy recently served as executive director of the Blue Skies Alliance, a local clean air-focused environmental group. She has had years of experience in advocacy for the environment. Most recently, she lobbied the EPA and challenged Congressman Joe Barton, chairman of the powerful U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee on clean air issues. Her efforts were instrumental in persuading the state and the EPA to include Ellis County in the DFW non-attainment area. This was significant because Ellis County is the home of numerous polluting industries, including cement kilns, which account for nearly 40% of local air pollution. Katy's district is in the southwestern corner of Dallas County, including the City of Grand Prairie and part of south Irving. The favorable demographics of this district, together with Katy's successful fund raising efforts, give Katy a good chance to upset the incumbent in this race.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Melissa J. McIntosh at 214-403-4651 (melissajmcintosh@yahoo.com).

District 102 – Harriett Miller

Harriett Miller is also a Sierra Club member running in the far north Dallas and Garland district now held by Tony Goolsby, another incumbent with a less than stellar environmental voting

record. Among her top priorities are improving air quality and developing alternative sources of energy. She supports directing the TCEQ to establish levels of civil penalties to prevent violators from profiting from non-compliance with state environmental laws. Harriett has developed wide-spread support throughout North Dallas, and her election chances could be helped significantly by an expected large turnout in many of her precincts which overlap precincts in the 32nd Congressional District. For more information or to volunteer, contact David Griggs at 972-406-9667 (david@dallassierraclub.org).

District 105 – Mike Moore

Mike Moore is challenging first term incumbent Linda Harper-Brown in a district which comprises much of central and northern Irving, including the Las Colinas area. Mike has been active as an Irving community activist for years and has served on the Irving Solid Waste Committee. Mike supports the requirement for TCEQ to establish levels of civil penalties that would prevent violating industries from profiting from non-compliance. He also supports a shift to renewable and alternative sources of energy away from oil, gas, coal and nuclear power. Many of the precincts in Mike's district also overlap those in the 32nd Congressional District and thus, he could also benefit indirectly from the expected large voter turn out in those precincts. For more information or to volunteer, contact John Rath at 817-488-3489 (john@dallassierraclub.org).

District 70 – Martin Woodward

Martin Woodward is running in the Frisco and McKinney area of Collin County against incumbent Ken Paxton. Martin is a young attorney with strong environmental positions on a number of issues important to the Sierra Club. While in law school at UT, he gained valuable experience when he clerked for the TNRCC, the previous name for the state's environmental "protection" agency (TCEQ). Martin supports legislation which would ensure accountability for any private company engaged in radioactive waste disposal. He strongly supports a shift to a sustainable energy plan that focuses on increased energy efficiency and favors a requirement that TCEQ establish levels of civil penalties commensurate with the economic benefit that polluters derive from their violations of state environmental laws. For more information or to volunteer, contact Mike Rollins at 972-783-0462 (dqez@comcast.net) or David Griggs at 972-406-9667 (david@dallassierraclub.org).

By David Griggs, Political Chair

TXI Sues EPA Over Non-Attainment Status As Agency Seeks to Clear the Air

Federal regulators and Midlothian's TXI operation are gunning for a showdown. TXI wants to scale back pollution controls at its plant as the Environmental Protection Agency is raising concerns that doing so will hamper area efforts to improve DFW air quality.

TXI is still involved with the Dallas Sierra Club in a different battle, begun in 1997, over its earlier permit to allow its aging kilns to burn more hazardous waste without adequate pollution controls. This case currently sits in the Texas Court of Appeals as legal wrangling continues with the state environmental agency that is siding with the plant's law firm.

The new permit battle has TXI suing the EPA to force the federal agency to allow TXI to turn off pollution controls at its cement kiln operation after ozone season formally ends in October. Doing so would result in the facility discharging tons of additional ozone-producing pollutants each year.

Dallas-based TXI applied two years ago to amend its state air permit to increase production at the kiln and reduce pollution controls. State regulators at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) have not approved the modification request. However, they have indicated they plan to do just that after having determined that the cost to the largest cement maker in Texas to operate the pollution controls was not "economically reasonable."

The EPA has cautioned the state that approving the modification could violate federal Clean Air laws. This is due to the fact that TXI's operation is in Ellis County, one of nine counties recently added to our previous 4-county non-attainment region, that do not comply with the new ozone standards. Industries in non-attainment counties cannot reduce pollution controls due solely to cost, nor can they increase pollution without reducing emissions elsewhere in the area.

The EPA has not formally threatened to overrule the state if it approves the revisions. TXI has filed the lawsuit in case it does. "If everything goes great, and the permit

is issued, I'm pretty sure we wouldn't be interested in pursuing (the lawsuit) further," said Al Axe, an Austin attorney representing the company.

Environmental groups such as the Blue Skies Alliance and Sierra Club say the proposed changes will make it difficult for the region to comply with new ozone standards. If the region fails to comply within six years, it could face a wide array of sanctions, including the loss of tens of millions in federal highway dollars.

"This seems to be TXI's way of operating, to fight everything to the bitter end," said Wendi Hammond, executive director of Blue Skies Alliance, a Dallas-based clean-air advocacy group.

"The bottom line is the real problem for TXI isn't that it's 'not economically feasible' to have these controls," commented Rita Griggs, Conservation Chair of the Dallas Sierra Club. "The fact is that this operation doesn't want to do anything - unless forced to - to upgrade or clean up its dirty act at all."

"We've heard the 'economically feasible' excuse before", commented Griggs. "I always find that interesting coming from one of the biggest and most profitable cement makers in the state. Here's a plant who can undercut its concrete competitors by being paid to burn hazardous waste for fuel, while other cement plants have to pay for natural gas or coal to operate their facilities. Seems like a sweet double dip to me."

TXI's lawsuit is the latest skirmish in the clean air wars in North Texas. U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, and other Ellis county leaders have argued that pollution from the modestly populated county southeast of Fort Worth does not significantly contribute to DFW's ozone. Sierra Club and other advocacy groups contend that these dirty Ellis plants contribute as much as 40% of the area's industry pollution - an amount per day equivalent to that produced by almost one half million cars.

TXI now wants the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to determine whether the EPA has

authority to block the modification request, or to require the company to cut emissions elsewhere to "off-set" the increased pollution at the Midlothian plant.

Six other companies have filed similar lawsuits, according to the District Court of Appeals.

The Department of Justice declined to comment. EPA spokesman Dave Bary said the agency wants the lawsuit to "run its course" before commenting.

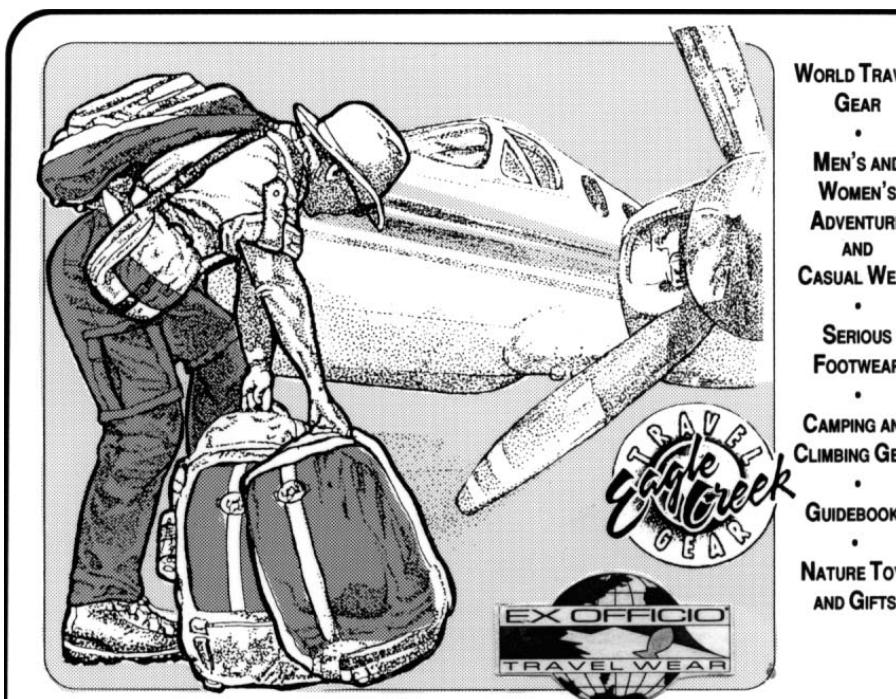
In May, David Neleigh, EPA regional chief of the air permitting section, filed comments with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the state's environmental agency, noting that the EPA had "significant concerns" with the TXI's proposal.

Specifically, the EPA challenged state claims that the permit modification would not affect ozone concentrations in the region. The EPA also questioned claims that it was not economically feasible to operate the pollution controls at the kiln, noting the state had failed "to provide an adequate rationale to support this conclusion."

TXI contends, among other things, that because it submitted its request two years ago, long before the new ozone standards went into effect last month, the permit modification should be approved.

Turning off the pollution controls while ramping up production will result in increased emissions of volatile organic compounds, a group of pollutants that, when combined with nitrogen oxides, form ground-level ozone. Emissions of these compounds from the kiln during ozone season -- May through October -- will run almost 10 times current levels, according to numbers provided by the company.

As with Dallas Sierra Club's permit battle, which will soon be turning ten years old on our 1997 permit fight, stay tuned to how this new battle will end. We should all take comfort in that Richard Green, our Region 6 EPA administrator and the agency, has stood its ground on the non-attainment rule. He is not being swayed by the heavy hand of politics from powerful local legislators like Joe Barton, whose biggest contributors are the polluters the agency seeks to keep in line.



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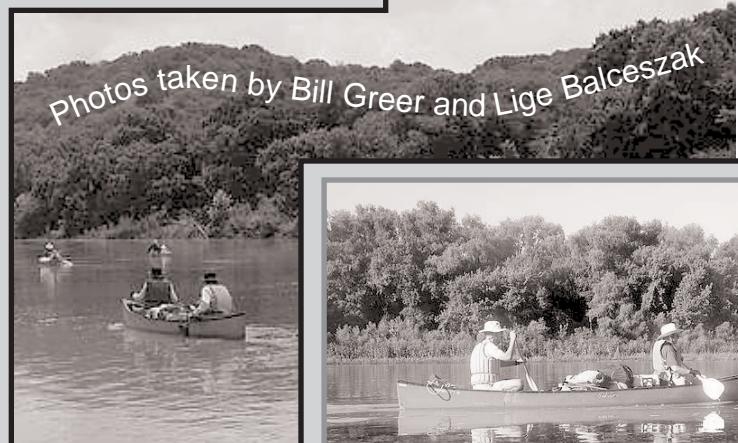
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