

FURRY,
SCALY,
FEATHERED
FRIENDS



Jim Dunlap's Wild Kingdom • pg.1

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H2O Meetings! • pg.6

Dallas Executive Committee

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Adopt a Shoreline

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Mike Rawlins	H: 972-783-0962	mike@dallassierraclub.org

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Endangered Species	Tom Green	H: 972-684-5423	tomgreen@nortelnetworks.com
Forests	Volunteer needed		
Population	Gayle Loeffler	H: 817-430-3035	gloeffler@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	David Gray	H: 214-342-2019	dgray@dallassierraclub.org
Sprawl	Volunteer needed		
Water	Paul Huston	H: 972-732-6566	angler4055@yahoo.com
Energy	Lisa Silguero	C: 214-893-7990	lisa@dallassierraclub.org
Responsible Trade	Molly Rooke	H: 214-369-6667	Molly@Larosa-Ranch.com
True Cost of Food	Terry Jensen	972-988-8687 x3104	sierra@dfwnetmall.com

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Inner City Outings Chair

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Media

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Membership Chair

Volunteer needed

Sierra Singles

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Sue Schaffer	972-304-0974	sueschaffer@comcast.net

Outings Committee Chair

Backpacking	David Van Winkle	H: 972-562-7174	davidvw@dallassierraclub.org
Bicycling	David Van Winkle	H: 972-562-7174	davidvw@dallassierraclub.org
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Dayhikes	Terry Sullivan	H: 972-492-3038	terry@dallassierraclub.org
Training Coordinator	Steve Longley	H: 214-826-3993	steven.longley@worldnet.att.net
Car Camping Coordinator	Arthur Kuehne	H: 214-902-9260	arthur@dallassierraclub.org
	Bob Gates	H: 972-678-1221	gates.rr@verizon.net

Program Chair

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Program Sales Coordinator

Patsy Huston	H: 972-732-6566	
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Special Events Coordinator

Volunteer needed

Video Coordinator

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

Volunteer needed



DECEMBER 2005 PROGRAM

OK parents. This is one of those programs that the kids as well as the adults always enjoy. That’s right, we’re talking about an animal program! Taking center stage at the Dallas Sierra Club in December will be Jim Dunlap. Jim is the Curator of the Plano Independent School District’s Living Materials Center. He will be joined by several exotic, furry, feathered and/or scaly “friends” of his, including a yellow python, a tarantula, a Fennec fox, and a crocodile just to name a few.



Tammy Welch • Photo by Jim Dunlap



The Living Materials Center houses around 200 different animals, some of which are permanent residents, and some of which are transient waiting for rehabilitation or permanent placement elsewhere.

Jim has been a teacher for over 30 years. He is a published author of fiction and non-fiction, he writes a weekly column in the Plano Star Courier, he hosts a weekly show on a Plano cable station, and he is a frequent contributor to magazines, newspapers and trade publications. He has appeared on several local TV stations with his animals promoting an important message of wildlife conservation, and discouraging the use of owning wild animals as pets.

So bring the whole family in December and come join us for a program that promises to be as fun as it is educational.

Bryan Carpenter, Program Chair

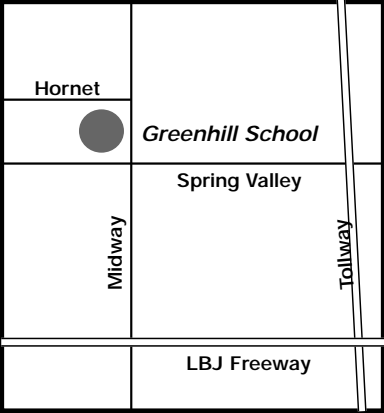


Do Your Holiday Shopping at DallasSierraClub.org

Can’t think of what to get for someone on your holiday shopping list? A Sierra Club calendar makes the perfect gift. Get yours at www.DallasSierraClub.org. Just click on the buy stuff link. Sierra Club calendars are the best-selling calendars in the United States and are sure to please everyone on your list.

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you do, you can help the Dallas Sierra Club make a few dollars by reaching Amazon through the Amazon link on our buy stuff page. Every time you buy stuff from Amazon.com, and use our link to do it, we make a commission of 5%. So, help us out and use our link when you purchase from Amazon.com. A couple of extra mouse clicks will help the environment every time you shop.

The Dallas Sierra Club’s general meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to all interested persons. The meetings are held at Greenhill School located at the corner of Midway and Spring Valley. Please enter from Hornet Drive. Check www.dallasseirraclub.org for directions. (Mapsco 14F)



THE COMPASS

December 2005
Volume 100, Issue 1205

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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Subscriptions: The Compass is available to non-members by subscription for \$12 per year. To subscribe, send a check made payable to "Dallas Sierra Club" to:

Newsletter Subscriptions:

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P.O. Box 800365
Dallas TX 75380-0365

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

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

or email the information to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

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

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Sangre de Cristo Range, CO • Photo by Michael Athens



Hey Dallas! Did you know nearly half of your garbage is “Too Good To Throw Away?”

As of **October 1, 2005**, you can recycle more items in your **blue or clear plastic bags**. And there's no need to separate! Just put everything into the same bag and place it out for collection on your recycling day. It couldn't be easier!

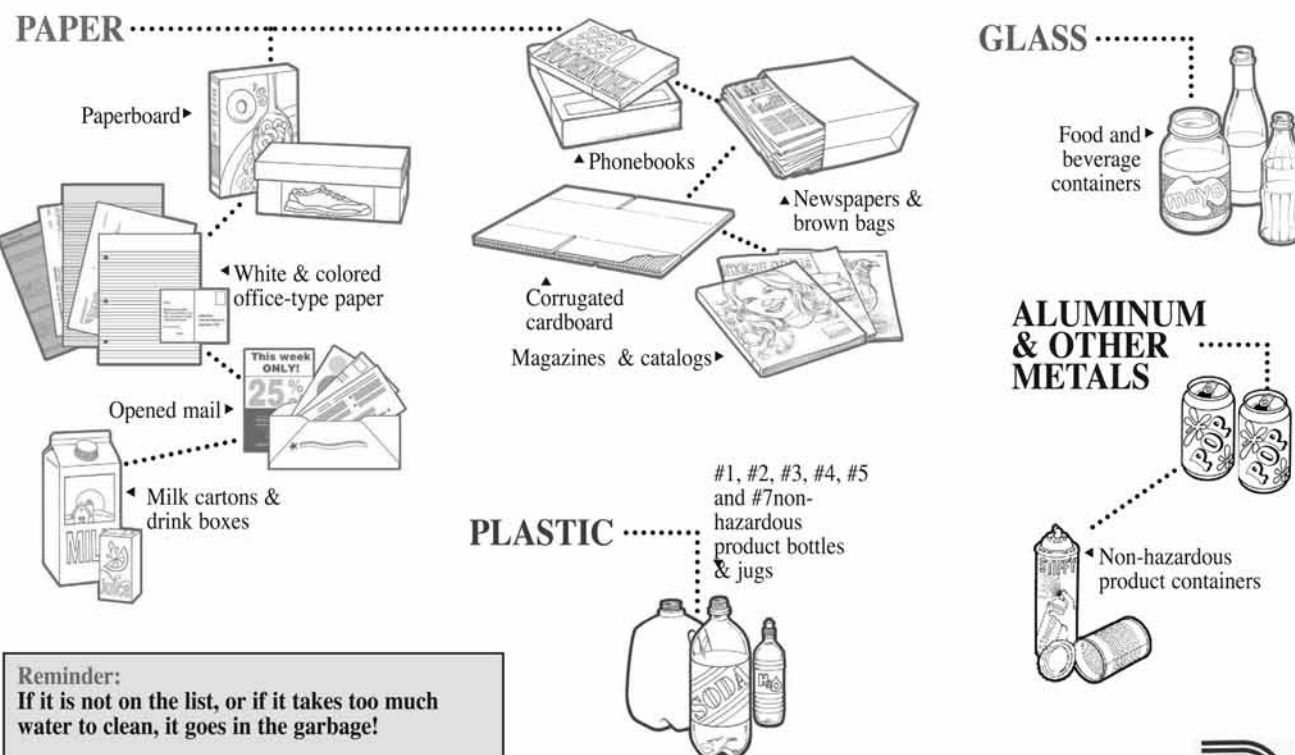
Recycle these items:

Glass (all colors)
Plastics #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7
Newspapers, magazines, junk mail,
telephone books

Steel, tin, aerosol & aluminum cans
Chipboard & corrugated cardboard

Free blue bags are available at Dallas recreation centers and libraries beginning in September 2005. **For more information call (214) 670-4475 or 3-1-1. Free bags subject to availability.**

Additional copies may be obtained from:
**Sanitation Services Department, 3112 Canton St.
Ste. 200, Dallas, TX 75226**



04/05:73 Note: Neighborhoods participating in the Residential Recycling Demonstration Program will not see a change in their sanitation services.



Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.

JOHN MUIR



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

"Too Good to Throw Away": Dallas Improves Curbside Recycling

Our city has taken another step forward in making its single-family residential recycling more user-friendly. These are the major changes:

- **NO SEPARATION:** All items can now be commingled in a blue or clear plastic bag; no need for separating out the paper products.
- **MORE ITEMS ACCEPTED:** Additional materials that were not previously accepted are Plastics #4, 5 and 7; milk cartons and drink boxes; phonebooks and corrugated cardboard.

The frequency of collection of garbage and recyclables has not changed. If you don't know your collection day, dial 311 or check the city website at www.dallascityhall.com/dallas/eng/html/recycling.html.

Although this represents progress, we're not done yet. Many of our council members understand that the best practice is once-weekly garbage collection combined with weekly recycling using the same kind of

large permanent cart that the city provides for garbage. And the current program only serves half of the city's residents – those who live in single-family houses. We still need to craft a plan to service apartment complexes as well. So much work remains to be done. In the meantime, please clip out the "Too Good to Throw Away" flyer and post it where you'll be reminded of the changes. Download more copies of the flyer from our website (www.dallassierraclub.org) and give it to your friends and neighbors. Pick up some free recycling bags at your neighborhood recreation center.

If you want to join our Recycling Outreach Team and help educate Dallas citizens about these changes, contact me and I'll make sure you receive notice of the next training.

Ann Drumm
Dallas Sierra Club Chair
ann@dallassierraclub.org

GENERAL CALENDAR

12/7 • 1/4 First Wednesday. Executive Committee Meeting 6:30PM at REI 2nd floor meeting room (I-635 between Welch Road & Midway Road, MAPSCO 14Q), to discuss Club projects, policy and finances. All members are welcome to attend and participate. Call Ann Drumm at 214-350-6108.

12/12 • 1/9 Monday before the General Meeting. Deadline for electronic materials to be submitted to the Compass E-mail editor@dallassierraclub.org or deliver diskettes to editors during the General Meeting.

12/14 • 1/11 Second Wednesday. Sierra Club General Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Come to the General Meeting at Greenhill School located at the corner of Midway and Spring Valley. Check www.dallasseirraclub.org for directions. Come early to pick up activity materials and afterwards join the socializing at Pappa's Pizza.

12/21 • 12/18 Third Wednesday. Outings Committee Meeting 7:00 PM at REI (MAPSCO 14Q) to discuss schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome. Call David Van Winkle at (972) 562-7174 for more information.

12/18 • 12/25 Fourth Wednesday. Newsletter Party 7:00PM at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest & Churchill Way (MAPSCO 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Socializing afterward. Contact Charlotte Forst at 972-248-7581.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED

HOLIDAY PARTY: We need a coordinator and volunteers to setup & decorate, help with food service and auction, and cleanup. Party is Sunday evening, Dec. 11. We need a DJ, too! To volunteer send an e-mail to Ann Drumm, anndrumm@swbell.net.

TREASURER: Calvin Nichols is stepping down after several years' service. If you know Quicken and Excel and have basic organizational skills, you can provide a tremendous service to our Group. To volunteer send an e-mail to Ann Drumm, anndrumm@swbell.net.

IT'S THE ONE ANNUAL EVENT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!



SIERRA CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 11
Winfrey Point on White Rock Lake, 7-10 p.m.
Fun! Fellowship! Pot Luck Dinner! Silent Auction!

(Tickets: \$8 - Individual/\$14 - Couple)

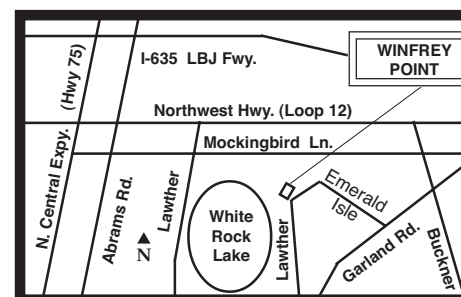
Bring a potluck dish to share, your plate and utensils, and your checkbook to get some of these great raffle/silent auction prizes!

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS 2005

Wine • Russian Art • Oil Paintings • Services • Outdoor gear
Restaurant certificates and other Fabulous Stuff!
To donate items, call Rita Beving at 214-373-3808.

DIRECTIONS: Take Northwest Hwy. east from North Central Expy. (Hwy. 75) to Buckner Blvd. Turn right, heading south. Take a right and head west on Garland Rd. Turn right onto Emerald Isle and follow the road down and around to the left to Winfrey Point which overlooks White Rock Lake. If you go too far on Garland, you will run into the Arboretum/dam area. (See Mapsco 37)

All monies to benefit Sierra Club General Fund!



SILENT AUCTION PROMISES TO BE BEST EVER!

One of the most popular features of the Dallas Sierra Club's Annual Holiday Party is the silent auction. This year promises to be the best auction ever as you can see from the awesome assortment of donated auction items we have acquired thus far:

- Mavericks Tickets to the Lakers Game
- Northface Cat's Meow Sleeping Bag
- 4 Old World Prints
- Outdoor Gear from Whole Earth Provisions
- Daypack from Mountain Hideout
- Gift Certificate to CD Warehouse
- Gift Certificate for Organic Products
- Original Oil Painting on Board
- Russian Hand-painted Ornaments
- Lance Armstrong Autographed Book
- Jim Hightower Autographed Book
- Climbing, Hiking, and Environmental Books
- Restaurant and Movie Date Packages
- Custom Jewelry
- Travel Accessories
- Wine Tastings for You/30 Friends at Tony's Wine Warehouse
- 1 Week Condo Stay at Crested Butte
- Personal Will from Attorney Wendel Withrow
- Eye Exam by Dr. John Haley, Ophthalmologist

If you plan to participate in the auction at the Holiday Party, make sure that you bring cash or a checkbook as no credit cards nor IOU's are accepted. On some of the more expensive items - such as the wine tasting for 30 or the Crested Butte Condo package - feel free to talk to your friends or family about these items ahead of time and see if you can split the cost with them if necessary, but please be aware that we need to receive payment for these items before they are awarded at the end of the auction that evening.

If you have or services, gift certificates, or items (new or gently used) that you would like to donate to the auction, please give us a call and we can make arrangements to pick them up ahead of time so we can prepare the auction materials that will be displayed with that item. For any questions about the auction, please call Rita Beving at (214) 373-3808. All proceeds go to the Dallas Sierra Club's general fund. Hope to see you there!

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG


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

outings.list@dallassierraclub.org

Type SUBSCRIBE OUTINGS LIST on the subject line.

HOW THE OUTING PROGRAM WORKS

Dallas Sierra Club Outings are open to members and non-members. Some trips may require special qualifications and capabilities. The leaders of each outing / trip are serving in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of trip organizer. If you have a medical problem, it is your responsibility to inform the leader before the outing / trip. Outing / Trip leaders are encouraged to participate in training and classes to increase their skills, but they are not paid professionals. They will assist you within their limitations. It is the responsibility of the participant to be aware of any personal limitations before going on an outing.

Radios and firearms are prohibited from all outings. Pets are not allowed unless specifically stated. All outings officially begin at the trail head or outing start point. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing for energy conservation and to promote fellowship. All non-commercial transportation is the responsibility of the individual. Car-pooling is SOLELY voluntary, but the costs are shared. The usual method of sharing transportation cost is for all riders in the car, including the driver, to divide the cost of transportation equally. The recommended method of computing cost is to multiply round trip mileage by \$0.13 a mile for small cars, \$0.16 for large cars and \$0.19 for vans. Before leaving, be sure this or some other method is agreed upon.

Most outings require reservations. To participate in an outing contact the leader, who will decide if the trip you are interested in is suitable for you based on your capabilities and the demands of the trip. There is usually a limit to the number of people allowed on a given outing / trip. Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted. If you must cancel, inform the leader as soon as possible so that someone else can go in your place.

Please respect the wishes of your leader who has volunteered his / her free time to allow you to go on the trip of your choice. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in becoming a leader, contact either the Outings Chair or the appropriate Outings Committee Coordinator on the newsletter back page.



Buy from us and support our local conservation network

Purchase a calendar today through our website:

www.dallassierraclub.org



DEC 2 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the December Outings List and January newsletter.

Contact: David Van Winkle 972-562-7174(H) or davidvw@dallassierraclub.org

DEC 3 (SAT) DAYHIKE THE NORTHSORE TRAIL AT ROCKLEDGE PARK by Lake Grapevine. Time to burn those calories from the Thanksgiving feast. We will hike for 2 to 3 hours (5 to 6 miles) to give the weekend a healthy start. This is a dirt trail with fairly mild elevation. The trail is quite long, but we will only hike a few miles and head back. We will meet at the west end of the parking lot, right next to the trailhead at 9:00 am. Afterward, we can go to a nearby restaurant and have lunch together, if you like. Rockledge Park is very close to the Cowboys Golf Club and Gaylord Texan Resort. You can get to it by taking TX Highway 26 and turn north on Fairway Dr. Go over the dam and the park is on your left shortly after (sign is not overly large). The address is 110 Fairway Drive, Grapevine 76051. It may be useful to get directions from mapquest.com. Hope to see you there!

Leader: Betty Chi 214-530-4438(W)

DEC 3-4 (SAT-SUN) LAKE LEWISVILLE HICKORY CREEK PARK CAR CAMP.

This an easy car camping outing that will not start until 2 pm, after your morning shopping for the holidays. Lake Lewisville Hickory Creek Park is north on 35E just north of the Lake Lewisville Bridge approximately 45 minutes from down town Dallas and just a few minutes north of the Vista Ridge Mall. The Lake is quiet this time of year and we will take a few quiet walks around the Park to observe. Park offers nice showers and restrooms. Saturday evening we will prepare a meal to share with the group. Sunday morning we will take a lakeshore walk. A lunch site will be selected by the group in the area, which will be the end of this trip. We want you to be home in time for some more shopping on Sunday afternoon. This is a beginning car camping trip where we will discuss car camping, equipment, and minimal impact camping.

Leader: Bob Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.rr@verizon.net

DEC 4 (SUN) DAYHIKE ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL IN PLANO. Meet at 9:30 am in front of the Starbucks (north side of 15th just west of US 75 - Mapsco 658V). We will walk 5 or 6 miles on a paved path. Bring water and comfortable shoes. No reservations, just show up.

Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

DEC 4 (SUN) OUTINGS COMMITTEE HOLIDAY PARTY. Have fun sharing food, drink, and your photos at our annual outings committee party. Party will start at 7pm. So, mark your calendars. This party replaces the monthly meeting for December. The party will be at the home of Carri Tucker, 5419 Morningside Ave, Dallas (Mapsco 36N). Bring a pot luck dish to

share, your favorite beverage, your own plate and silverware, and your favorite trip pictures.

For more information: David Van Winkle 972-562-7174(H) or davidvw@dallassierraclub.org

DEC 10 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP. Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd. and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards.

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

DEC 18 (SUN) DAYHIKE EAST SIDE OF WHITE ROCK LAKE. Meet at the Stone Tables at White Rock Lake at 9:30 am on Lake Highlands Drive and Buckner Blvd. We'll walk 6 miles on a paved path. Bring water. No reservations, just show up.

Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

JAN 6 (FRI) DEADLINE for submission of outings to be listed in the January Outings List and February newsletter.

Contact: David Van Winkle 972-562-7174(H) or davidvw@dallassierraclub.org

JAN 14 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP. Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd. and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards.

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

JAN 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 local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome.

Contact: David Van Winkle 972-562-7174(H) or davidvw@dallassierraclub.org

FEB 4-5 (SAT-SUN) LAKE MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK BEGINNING CAR CAMP. We will take some walks around both the lake and rock areas in this very special State Park. Saturday evening we will cook dinner on a shared grill. Sunday morning walk the Nature Trails and local

park trails. Lunch in Weatherford on Sunday where we will end. The park is West of Fort Worth approximately within 2 hours of the Dallas Metroplex. This is a beginning car camping trip where we will discuss car camping, equipment, conservation and other related topics. This should be a very interesting time to visit this park with the trees getting ready to produce their spring leaves with cool nights.

Leader: Bob Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.rr@verizon.net

FEB 18 (SAT) BEGINNER BACKPACKING 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 fee is \$20 for Sierra Club members and \$30 for non-members (cash or check) You can sign up to be a Sierra Club member at the class. No reservations are necessary, just show up. The class will be held at REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch). The class will start at 10:30 AM and end at about 5:00 PM.

Leader: Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260(H) or arthur@dallassierraclub.org

FEB 23-27 (THU-MON) ANNUAL TAOS BUS TRIP. Various trips include skiing, daily snowshoeing while staying in the lodge in Taos, snowshoeing while staying in the cozy yurt, or winter camping. These trips are a great opportunity for people just beginning to experience the wonderful beauty of winter or for individuals wanting to expand their winter camping skills. Our convenient sleeper bus will leave Dallas late afternoon of 2/23 and return early morning of 2/27. More details to be published in December. Reserve this time on your calendar now.

For more information: Cari Tucker 214-826-5461(H) or cari.tucker@sbcglobal.net

MAR 4-5 (SAT-SUN) PAT MASEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA BEGINNING CAR CAMP. We will take some walks in the WMA in both the lake and field areas in this Corp of Engineer managed property. Saturday evening we will cook dinner on a shared grill. Sunday morning we will walk around some of the local area. Later on Sunday we might visit the Caddo Grasslands WMA to the west of Pat Masey. This park is north of Paris Texas just south of the OK border within 2 hours of the Dallas Metroplex. This is a beginning car camping trip where we will assist you in "getting into" car camping. The lakes in this area support a variety of wildlife and birds. The nights should still be cool with the days starting to heat up.

Leader: Bob Gates 972-678-1221(H) or gates.rr@verizon.net

Sierra Club Outings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

SIERRA SINGLES OUTINGS

DEC 5 (MON) DFW SIERRA SINGLES DINNER, 7 PM. Buca di Beppo Dallas - Park Lane, 7843 Park Lane, Dallas TX 75225, Phone: 214-361-8462, www.bucadibeppo.com. Location: On the north side of Park Lane about 1/5th mile west of Central Expwy, opposite North Park Shopping Center. This southern Italian restaurant serves family-style which means large portions are shared by the table. This will require everyone to share equally in the total bill, which should be less than \$15 per person. This regular monthly event is an opportunity to visit with other DFW area Sierra Singles for casual dinner and conversation. No RSVP required, just show up.
Contact: Sue Schaeffer 972-304-0974(H) or sueschaeffer@comcast.net

DEC 10 (SAT) METROPOLITAN WINDS HOLIDAY CONCERT, 11:30 AM at Northpark Mall. Get some Christmas shopping done and at the same time hear our own Sierra Single Grayson Garner ring in the holidays as he performs with the Metropolitan Winds in a holiday concert at Northpark Mall. After the concert have lunch with other Sierra Singles at a mall restaurant before continuing on with your shopping.
Contact: Sue Schaeffer 972-304-0974(H) or sueschaeffer@comcast.net

DEC 18 (SUN) DFW SIERRA SINGLES SUNDAY, 2:00 PM. This will be the first of a regular 3rd Sunday of the month singles' get-together. We will meet at La Madeleine

(817-251-0255) on Hwy 114 and William D. Tate in Grapevine, TX. This is an opportunity for those in the mid cities as well as Dallas and Fort Worth singles to meet. At La Madeleine you can eat, drink or just have a cup of coffee. Weather permitting there will be an optional hike afterwards in Grapevine. No RSVP needed. <http://www.lamadeleine.com/>

Contact: Wendy Lambert 214-493-9110(H) or wlambert@concrete-pipe.org

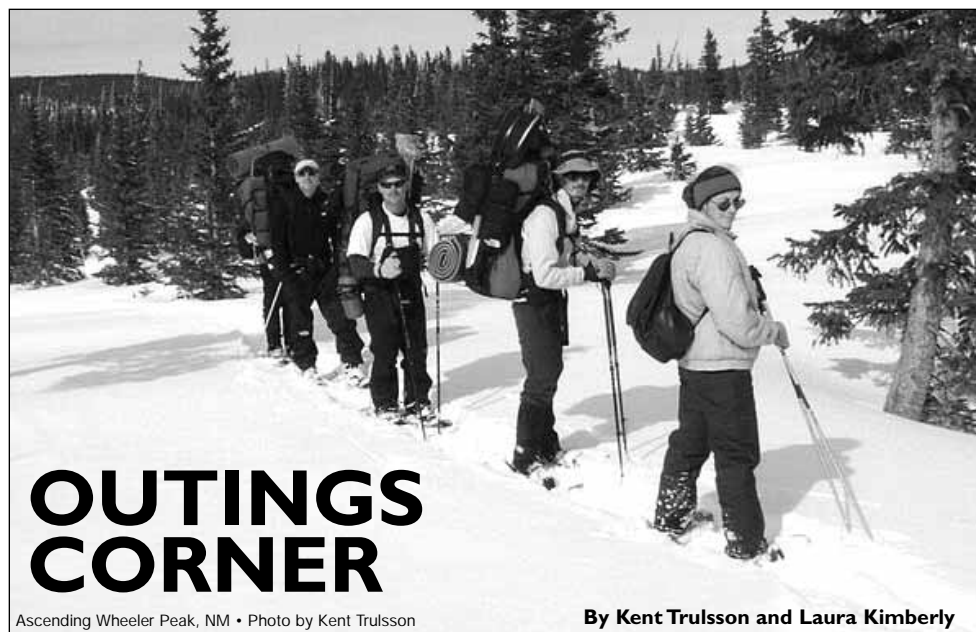
DEC 30 (FRI) A TUNA CHRISTMAS, 8 PM. Christmas may be over but keep the holiday spirit alive by attending the hilarious play, A Tuna Christmas starring Joe Sears and Jaston Williams at the Eisemann Center in Richardson. If you've never seen this or any of the "Tuna" plays you owe it to yourself to go! Comedians Sears and Williams portray all 24 citizens of Texas' third smallest town, where "the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies". Check it out at www.greatertuna.com/atc/tunaxmas.htm. Tickets range from \$20 - \$50. Purchase tickets on your own. We will arrange to meet for dinner prior to the show as well as meet up afterwards to rehash some of the great lines from the evening. To purchase tickets on-line and for directions see www.eisemanncenter.com.

Contact: Sue Schaeffer 972-979-8555(H) or sueschaeffer@comcast.net

JAN 2 (MON) DFW SIERRA SINGLES DINNER, 7 PM. Check the web site for the location of the regular monthly get together.
Contact: Sue Schaeffer 972-304-0974(H) or sueschaeffer@comcast.net



Taos, NM • Photo by Arthur Kuehne



OUTINGS CORNER

Ascending Wheeler Peak, NM • Photo by Kent Trulsson

By Kent Trulsson and Laura Kimberly

We are starting a monthly column that answers questions about various outing issues. Please submit your questions to davidvw@dallassierraclub.org.

Snowshoeing Made Easy

Snowshoeing is almost as easy as walking. Certainly walking on snow with snowshoes is much easier than walking on snow without them. Anyone who has tried a hike through deep snow in boots has experienced "post-holing"—sinking to your knees or even further. Snowshoes are designed to spread your weight over more snow surface, providing floatation and eliminating that deep drop into the powder.

The typical modern snowshoe consists of an aluminum frame from 20" to 30" long and 8" to 10" wide. Across that frame is stretched some type of decking, either a plastic sheet or thin webbing much like a tennis racket's strings. A hinged binding designed for regular hiking boots, usually consisting of a toe clip and heel strap webbing, is attached to the frame. Crampon-like cleats mounted to the bottom of the binding, deck, and frame keep the snowshoe from slipping on ice and steep slopes. Each snowshoe weighs one to one and a half pounds.

Snowshoes are rated to support a specific range of total weight, including both body weight and pack. In Taos and other winter destinations, you can rent snowshoes—a good idea for your first time out. Generally, rental snowshoes are available in either 25" or 30" lengths. If your total body and pack weight exceeds 180 pounds, you need a 30" snowshoe. For most trail hiking, where the snow has already been compressed, any snowshoe will do. On deeper and dryer snow, a bigger shoe is needed to keep you from sinking.

Even if you plan to rent your snowshoes, you will need to bring your own boots. For day trips in dry snow conditions like at Taos, water-resistant ankle-height hiking boots, with your usual liner sock and warm outer sock will work fine. Gore-Tex lining or Gore-Tex socks add a dryness factor. Knee high gaiters keep your legs warm and snow out of your boots.

Many people erroneously believe that special skill is required to snowshoe. In fact, most beginning snowshoe hikers acquire the technique on the first 100 feet of trail. Walking with snowshoes is not much different than hiking on a dry trail, with a few caveats. First, because snowshoes are wider than your

boots, walk with a wider gait. Second, pick up your feet a bit more with each step, to avoid catching the toe of your snowshoe in the snow. Third, use trekking poles with snow baskets (or ski poles), to help in maintaining balance, and in getting up if you fall. While you could hike without poles over gentle slopes, steep sections of trail will necessitate the poles.

Snowshoeing requires a bit more exertion than hiking on a dry trail, because, even though the snowshoes provide floatation, you still sink slightly into the snow with each step and the weight of the snowshoes requires slightly more energy to lift your feet. To offset all this extra effort, snowshoe hikes are usually shorter and at a generally slower pace. If you can hike a six mile trail in the summer, you can handle a three to four mile snowshoe hike. Your first time out, let someone else break a fresh trail and save your strength for making snow angels!

Because snowshoeing is a sustained aerobic sport, expect to get quite warm while moving, even with temperatures around the freezing mark. It is not unusual to see snowshoe hikers stripped down to their short-sleeved tee-shirt tops. Jackets and shells usually trap too much heat and moisture to work well while you are moving. On the other hand, when stopping for breaks, you will cool off fast, and will need to be able to add layers quickly to stay warm. Ventilation options in your clothing—zippers, buttons, and snaps rather than turtlenecks—allow you to control your temperature. Take advantage of the versatility of layering with clothing that is easy to don and doff as temperature and activity levels fluctuate. Don't forget weather stripping for the body—prevent drafts with a hat, a neck gaiter, and gloves. While hiking, be careful to not get wet with sweat; it is better to stay slightly cool than to get too warm.

Carry the same essentials you would on a spring or fall hike including plenty of water. Don't forget your sunglasses. Sun reflects brightly off snow and can cause eye damage.

If you can hike, you can snowshoe. The rewards are the same beautiful mountains, creeks, trees, and views of any season—all dressed up in white.

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They're Back! (at it again that is).

And we REALLY need your help! Please join us if you can at either one or both of these very important water meetings on December 5, 2005:

Where: Region C Water Planning Group, Trinity River Authority at 1:00 pm

Region C will be voting on their Long Range Water Plan that includes four unneeded new reservoirs including Marvin Nichols and Fastrill. Please come to the meeting and support our efforts to stop Region C from moving forward with these unneeded reservoirs by wearing a badge in opposition to the construction of the reservoirs. If you are willing to sign up to speak out against these unneeded and damaging reservoirs, we can provide you with talking points.

Directions to Region C: Take Loop 12 south from Highway 183 (near Texas Stadium). Take the Singleton exit and head west on Singleton till it dead-

ends into the Trinity River Authority complex. A guard will ask to see your license and will open the gate to let you in. The meeting is on the 2nd floor in the complex's main building on the south side of the treed boulevard.

Call Rita Beving at (214) 373-3808 if you can attend either of these meetings or if you need more information. For more information about our water supply efforts and our opposition to these unneeded dams, go to savetexasrivers.org.

Thank you for your support of our Club.

Rita Beving
Conservation Co-Chair



Ozark Creek • Photo by Arthur Kuehne

I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.

JOHN MUIR



Honor a friend or loved one with a Year-End Gift to the Dallas Sierra Club

Make your holiday gift a meaningful one by supporting our local volunteers as we advocate for clean air and water, conduct public education on energy and recycling, and foster outdoor skills and appreciation of the natural world. If your gift is in honor or memory of a loved one, and we will write an acknowledgement to the appropriate person and publish your name and the honoree's name in our honor roll of donors early next year in *The Compass*.

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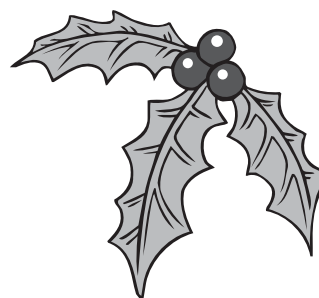
(Contributions and gifts to Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.)

Donors will be recognized in the *Compass* in early 2006. If you do not wish to be recognized in this honor roll, please check here: ☐

For information, call Mary Colston, 214-618-1424.

Mail commitment form with check payable to: Dallas Sierra Club Group, **OR** Sierra Club Foundation to:

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Wheeler Peak, NM • Photo by Kent Trulsson

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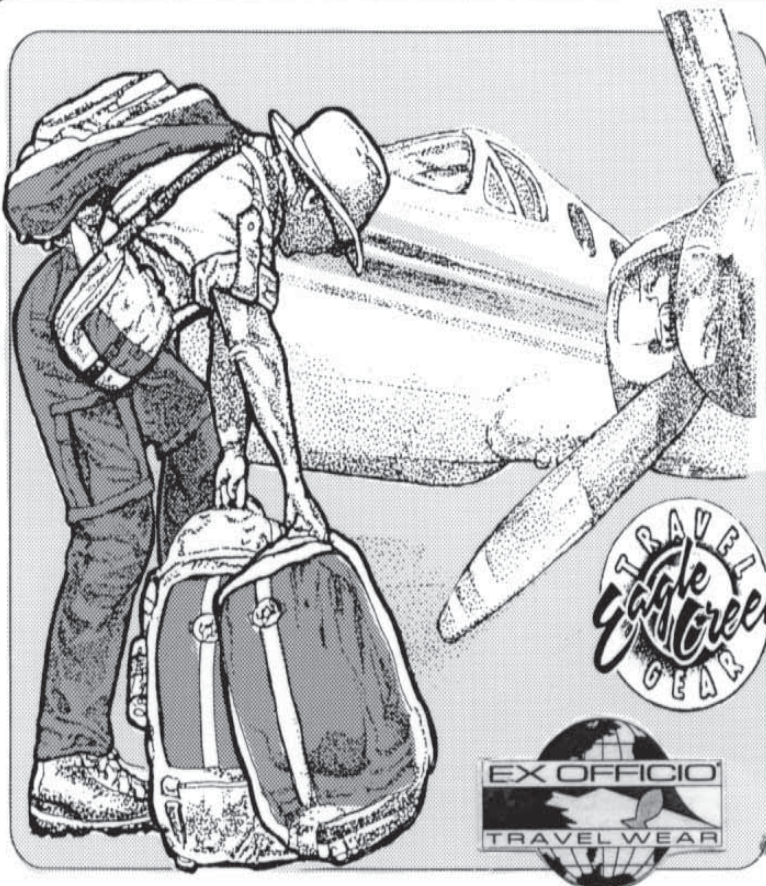
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