



**DALLAS SIERRA CLUB  
THE COMPASS**

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG

**Memorial Day 2008 -  
Back to Bandelier!**



Photo by Arthur Kuehne

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## Great News from the Cool Cities Campaign!

by Lee Berryman-Tedman

A big congratulations is in order for the Garland team for their hard work in getting Mayor Ron Jones to sign the Climate Protection Agreement. After more than a year of presentations and meetings with the mayor and city council, the Garland team-made up of Peggy Henger, Nora Czigan, Caroline Vornberg, Richard Bach, Emil Raggi, Roxanne Seibert, and Jennie Image- were able to convince the mayor of the many benefits of joining the U.S. Conference of Mayors in reducing GHG emissions. Mayor Ron Jones was so proud of his decision that he held a press conference on February 4, with members of the Garland city council, business community, and the Sierra club present for the event. His signing was covered on the local evening news and can only help our campaign as we continue to approach other cities to join the green movement.

Thanks to all for their hard work!!



## Conservation Committee Starts New Local Campaigns

At their January monthly meeting the Conservation Committee of the Dallas group set priorities for 2008 and decided on several new local campaigns to work during the first half of the year. A major campaign for this year continues to be local efforts in the national club's Cool Cities campaign, designed to persuade mayors to sign on to the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. During the second half of the year we expect the club and individual volunteers to be working on political campaigns to help elect environmentally friendly politicians to office. This left us with an opportunity to work other initiatives during the first half of the year. The committee decided to focus on a few relatively small scale local campaigns.

Two of these campaigns are concerned with education. In one of these we will try to work with Dallas Area Interfaith to develop an environmental seminar for their Civic Academies. This might give us a chance to present an environmental message from a practical, immediate perspective to people who may not normally be exposed to club concerns. The second is targeted toward developing and distributing materials for families and younger children.

Our third campaign is working with local grocery chains to encourage shoppers to just say "NO" to "Paper or plastic?" and bring their own bags.

To help out with any of these campaigns contact the Conservation Committee co-chairs Mike Rawlins, [mike@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:mike@dallassierraclub.org), 972-783-0962, or Robin Sowton, [robin@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:robin@dallassierraclub.org), 214-680-8349.



*Dallas skyline from the Trinity River*

Photo by Peter Wilson



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

THE COMPASS  
MARCH/APRIL 2008  
Volume 112, Issue 0208

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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 listed on the back fold.

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WHO or WHAT is The Sierra Club? It's a question your friends have probably asked you or you may be asking yourself while looking over this newsletter. This question is being asked more and more these days and the answer is not as simple as you might think.

Frankly, I remember my first meeting in the late 80s walking into an old elementary school auditorium just in time to see the local leaders dressed in outrageous costumes putting on a skit dramatizing the latest environmental issue and wondering exactly what I had wandered into. The people were friendly, but I wasn't ready to join a group I didn't really understand. I was concerned about the same conservation issues, but content to pay my dues and let others fight the real conservation battles, most of which I didn't even know existed. I was interested in outings, but let other "priorities" keep me indoors behind a desk.

The breakthrough came in the early 90s when I returned to Sierra Club and re-visited these same monthly meetings with a new mindset that sitting on the sidelines was no longer an option. I had started reading the works of Edward Abbey who reminds us in clear and sometimes blunt language that we all share the need to get off the couch, get out of our cars, and only then will we start to understand and experience the magnificence of nature. Abbey also injects into our very souls the next step, which is to defend that magnificence with whatever skills we have. Abbey as a writer, your fellow Sierrans as activists and outdoor enthusiasts of all types, and finally you, gentle reader. . . What skill or passion will you bring to the table?

Over the next few months, I would ask each of you to join me in exploring the question: What is the Sierra Club? You can e-mail me at [wendel@dallas sierraclub.org](mailto:wendel@dallas sierraclub.org) or just tell me at one of our events. In the end, I believe we will all find the Sierra Club experience to be personally rewarding and special for many different reasons. Please share these with me, so others who are still on the sidelines might be inspired to find their own place in the heart and soul of our club. Long live the Wilderness. Long live The Sierra Club.

Wendel Withrow

### Collin County Satellite Group

Do you live in Collin County? Are you interested in Sierra Club activities closer to home? A Collin County satellite of the Dallas Sierra Club is starting now! Please join us on Monday, March 17th at 7pm at the Haggard Library (at Coit & Park). We'll talk about upcoming events and share ideas. We'll also be showing The Story of Stuff and having a discussion afterwards. The April meeting will also be at the same location on Monday, April 21st at 7pm. For more information, please contact Robin Sowton or Dan Vining.

[robin@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:robin@dallassierraclub.org)  
[vininda@voughtaircraft.com](mailto:vininda@voughtaircraft.com)

### Dallas INNER CITY OUTINGS Outreach Program

**Tuesday, March 25 and April 22**  
**6:30pm Guest/New Volunteer Orientation,**  
**7pm Meeting**

Inner City Outings ("ICO") is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club that provides outings, such as day hikes and camping, for selected groups of disadvantaged youth. Screening required and training provided for all outing volunteers. ICO meets the 4th Tuesday of every month (except July and December) at Dallas REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (westbound service road of LBJ between Midway and Welch). Contact Liz Wheelan for more information.

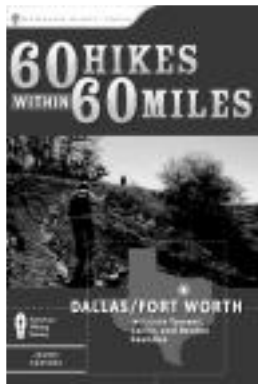
### PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION TO BE RESURRECTED

With the help of James Wilson, a local commercial photographer and Sierra Club member, the Photography Section is looking for all club members who would be interested in improving their skills and attending various photo shoots during the year. The first outing will be at the Dallas Zoo which provides unlimited subjects for some great photography. Other outings will include some local day trips to such places as The Haggard Wildlife Refuge on Lake Texhoma and eventually overnight trips specifically geared to photography.

If you are interested, contact the current Photography Chair, Wendel Withrow, 972-416-2500, [wendel@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:wendel@dallassierraclub.org) or James Wilson, 214-823-6542.



## MARCH/APRIL PROGRAMS



### March General Meeting - 60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Dallas/Fort Worth

60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Dallas / Fort Worth covers the best trails the metroplex has to offer, including popular trails as well as lesser-known paths no guidebook has covered before. This is the essential guide you'll need for hiking in the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex. Choose a trek alongside ancient dinosaur tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park, or follow fresh prints of live coyote and white-tailed deer at Lake Mineral Wells. Explore remnants of Texas' disappearing blackland prairie, or wander amongst the dense

hardwood forests of the riparian wetlands. A hike for every mood, you can pick a quiet hike to a secluded pecan grove or an upbeat populated hike to a State Champion Oak Tree – or maybe you just want to feel like a pioneer as you hike through the wilderness of the LBJ National Grasslands. Hikes include treks through open prairies, rolling hillsides, lakeside beaches, and other treasures all found just a daytrip or less from the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex.

#### Author Bio

An avid hiker, camper and traveler, **Joanie Sanchez's** love of the outdoors began one summer with the Youth Conservation Corps in Yosemite National Park. That led her to serving as a leader within the group the following year, teaching and mentoring as she shared her passion for nature.



Since then her adventures have taken her backpacking across Europe, on a state-to-state bike tour across New England, and hiking through the Caribbean islands. She has traveled extensively throughout Mexico and has written an adventure guidebook to Mexico's Gulf Coast. Sanchez is a graduate of Yale University. She grew up and lives in the Dallas area and spends her free time showing fellow hikers the beauty that Texas trails have to offer.

#### MARCH SHORT PROGRAM

The March short program will be on Environmental Education of our youth as the future generation who will have to deal with the successes and failures of

the current efforts to clean up our planet. Kirk Evans of the Allen Independent School District will be here to tell us about the great progress in environmental education, including the award winning Eco Literacy Project he heads up.

#### April General Meeting – DFW Wildlife Coalition

Growth and prosperity come at a cost, and wild animals across North Texas are paying dearly. As DFW sprawls, encroaching on wild animals' homes, problems arise. The DFW Wildlife Coalition's strives to educate residents and help them cope with unexpected wild neighbors. Humans can learn to coexist with the local "wildlife." Each day the DFW Wildlife Coalition receives calls from panicked Texans wanting to know what to do about opossums in their back yards and coyotes in their parks. The DFW Wildlife Coalition not only knows what to do, but can also alleviate fears. That makes the DFW Wildlife Coalition an important and unique resource. The DFW Wildlife Coalition can even help you deal with the most feared invaders on Earth, Reptilia: Serpentes – Snakes! The scariest things to ever cross your path, right? Well according to the US Human Society many views of snakes are complete myths: A) **Snakes dig holes and burrow in backyards.** Snakes are physically unable to dig holes, but do use existing holes of small rodents for shelter and food. B) **A snake in the yard is a danger to children and pets.** Any snake can bite a child or pet if it feels threatened. If the snake is venomous, depending on the size of the victim, a bite may be life threatening if not treated in a timely manner. But in general, snakes do not waste their time attacking animals too large to be considered a meal. C) **Snakes are slimy.** Snakes have smooth, dry skin composed of scales. For much more on snakes (and other "scary" reptiles) you may find in your yard, Lucy Carcerano from the DFW Wildlife Coalition will speak to the Dallas Sierra Club at the April 8th general meeting.

An additional note from the US Human Society, "The persecution of snakes and the acts of violence often committed against them can largely be blamed on our societal and cultural prejudices. Snakes instill a deep-rooted fear in many people, even though these shy creatures prefer to avoid humans and most other animals larger than themselves. Of those snakes who share human habitats, the vast majority are harmless." Join us on April 8th to learn more firsthand. For immediate information on dealing with snakes (and many other visitors from the natural world) check out the DFW Wildlife Coalition's website at: [www.dfwwildlife.org](http://www.dfwwildlife.org)

## Mid-Suburban Sierra Club Meetings and Speakers

**Tuesday, March 25,** Gary Hogan will speak to the Mid-Suburban Sierra Club on "Gas Drilling: Making an Informed Decision." The gas companies are coming to Northeast Tarrant County and Irving/Grand Prairie. They are full of promises of instant riches and few-to-no-problems.

Gas drilling came to Gary Hogan's community in 2004. A gas well drilled there in 2005 catapulted his association into the realities of that world and caused them to demand changes to the Fort Worth ordinances for Urban Gas Drilling. Hogan, president of The Chapel Creek Neighborhood Association on the west side of Fort Worth, served on the Fort Worth Gas Drilling Task Force from October, 2005, through September, 2006, and will be reappointed to the task force when it reconvenes.

He will not only talk to us of the environmental issues associated with gas drilling, he will also speak to us about the life quality problems that

are just beginning when you sign on the dotted line. In short, he has been there; done that. Bring your questions for Mr. Hogan to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville from **7 pm to 8:15 pm** on the 25th. Directions below.

**Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22,** Elizabeth Samudio of Elizabeth Anna's Old World (Organic) Garden will speak to the Mid-Suburban Sierra Club on "Living More Earth Conscious at Home and Simple ways to Do This."

Ms. Samudio communicates the importance of caring for the earth from the home garden to the food we eat, even starting an organic farmers' market at her 8th Av center. As a cancer survivor she is committed to nontoxic environments and supporting the earth. As a teacher and author, she is a dedicated organic garden instructor.

Learn ways to care for your home and lawn with non-toxic products, how to start a worm garden for compost, and how to start an organic garden, even in containers. Bring your questions for Elizabeth Samudio to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville from 7 pm to 8:15 pm on Earth Day.

**Directions:** Healthy Approach Market, 817 399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034 is located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road. Turn right into the Healthy Approach parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's.

For further information, contact Terry Jensen at 817 545-0140 or 972 251-1532.



**MAR 8 (SAT) DAYHIKE ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GRAPEVINE LAKE** We'll hike about 5 miles on a dirt trail along the north shore of Grapevine Lake. No reservations required, just show up. No pets allowed. Take spare shoes for after the hike in case the trail is muddy. Take snacks and water. Meet at 9:30am at Rockledge Park in Grapevine in the parking lot near the restrooms on the northern part of the park. This is at the end of Park Rd. Three. Hike is cancelled if it's raining in Grapevine. Directions: From Hwy 121, exit at Bass Pro Road and go west. Turn left (southwest) on Hwy 26 toward Grapevine. Drive about ¼ mile to Fairway Drive and turn right (north). Continue to drive across the dam and past the spillway. Turn left on the first driveway after the spillway to Rockledge Park. At the park, veer right to Park Rd. Three, and drive to the north parking lot. Leaders: Marcos Jorge 972-394-2546(H) and Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242(H) or 817-307-4808(C) NEW

**MAR 8 (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)

**MAR 9 (SUN) DAYHIKE WHITE ROCK CREEK TRAIL** Meet at 9:30 at Moss Park (SE corner of Greenville Ave and Royal Lane). Hike 5-6 miles along paved trail. Bring water. No reservations necessary. Just show up. Optional lunch at local restaurant. Leader: Dale Edelbaum 214-343-6741(H) NEW

**MAR 14 (FRI) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYE TRAIL WALK.** Meet at the Trailhead at 9 AM. See the Texas Buckeye Blossoms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions dependant upon weather conditions. Wear appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Guides are Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers -North Texas Chapter. Trailhead is at: 7000 Bexar St, Dallas TX 75215. Mapsco 56L. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is at [www.texasbuckeyetrail.org]. Leader: Jim Flood 972-557-1144(H) NEW

**MAR 15 (SAT) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYE TRAIL WALK.** Meet at the Trailhead at 10 AM or 1 PM. See the Texas Buckeye Blossoms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions dependant upon weather conditions. Wear appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Guides are Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers -North Texas Chapter. Trailhead is at: 7000 Bexar St, Dallas TX 75215. Mapsco 56L. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is at [www.texasbuckeyetrail.org]. Leader: Jim Flood 972-557-1144(H) NEW

**MAR 15 (SAT) ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ON GREENVILLE AVE - DSC PARADE ENTRY** The Dallas Sierra Club will be entering a conservation-themed/SC awareness entry into this year's parade scheduled for Saturday, March 15th. We're green; St. Paddy's is green... BRILLANT! The City of Dallas has agreed to lend us up to a dozen of the blue, recycling containers on wheels that we'll push around the parade route for use in gathering parade viewer recyclables. We are seeking volunteers to help (wo)man the blue containers (two people per bin) along the parade route or just be part of the parade and walk along with the Sierra Club group. Total volunteer time would be about four hours beginning at 10:00 AM. The parade starts at 11:00 AM near Park Ln. and usually lasts a couple hours, after which, we can hang out to enjoy some of the festivities. To participate, please RSVP by February 28th to the Young Sierrans email address or call Peter at 214.454.6879. We'll follow up to everyone the week before the parade with an email that includes additional details. All are welcome to join in the fun! Organizer: Peter Wilson NEW

**MAR 15-16 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK BUCKEYE MOUNTAIN TRAIL, ARKANSAS** Hike one of the most scenic Wilderness trails in Arkansas in the Caney Creek Wilderness of west central Arkansas. Saturday we'll enjoy the views from the ridgetop Buckeye Mountain Trail. Sunday we'll hike out along the creek bottoms of the Caney Creek Trail. With any luck the wildflowers will be starting to emerge. This trip is rated moderate and would be suitable for beginners in good shape. Both days cover about 4 1/2 miles. Saturday includes an 800 foot uphill section. We'll camp Friday night near our

cars, Saturday night near a nice little waterfall. Leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(H)

**MAR 16 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H) NEW

**MAR 16 (SUN) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS BUCKEYE TRAIL WALK.** Meet at the Trailhead at 10 AM or 1 PM. See the Texas Buckeye Blossoms. Learn about the Trinity River and its Hardwood Bottomland Forest. Trail conditions dependant upon weather conditions. Wear appropriate outdoor hiking gear. Guides are Texas Master Naturalist Volunteers -North Texas Chapter. Trailhead is at: 7000 Bexar St, Dallas TX 75215. Mapsco 56L. No reservations are required - just show up. More information is at [www.texasbuckeyetrail.org]. Leader: Jim Flood 972-557-1144(H) NEW

**MAR 19 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Ask Bill to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(H)

**MAR 30 (SUN) ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB AZALEA DAY-HIKE ALONG TURTLE CREEK** Leisurely 1.5 or 2 hour walk with rest stops. Suitable for children in strollers. Meet 2 PM in shopping strip on Oak Lawn (4200 block) just north of Wycliff. Take Oak Lawn Exit off I35 or Fitzhugh exit off Central Expressway. No reservations needed. Leader: Austin Brouns 214-528-3812(H) NEW

**APR 6 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, (817) 283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen NEW

**APR 12-13 (SAT-SUN) BEGINNERS BACKPACK AT MCGEE CREEK** This very nice natural scenic recreation area is just two hours north of Dallas. It features thick woods with scenic bluffs, and interesting trails going down to the lake. We'll do a short backpack over familiar trails and then have the option for a couple of day hikes. You can either leave home early Saturday morning and meet us at the trail head, or drive up Friday night and stay at the state park. This trip usually fills up, so please sign up several weeks in advance to reserve a spot. No sign ups will be taken after the Saturday before the trip. Leader: Mike Rawlins 972-783-0962(H)

**APR 16 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Ask Bill to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Contact: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(H)

**APR 20 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H) NEW

**MAY 4 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, (817) 283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen NEW

**MAY 18 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H) NEW

**MAY 23-27 (FRI-TUE) BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT BUS TRIP.** Join us Memorial Day weekend as our sleeper bus takes us to this area west of Santa Fe, New Mexico. There will be a variety of hikes tailored to

allow backpackers of all skill levels to explore and enjoy this great area. Special adventures will include learning about Native American history and exploring their ruins in this unique area. Signups will begin soon. Bus trip leader: Bill Beach 214-662-3224(C) NEW

**JUN 1 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, (817) 283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen NEW

**JUN 15 (SUN) SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY LUNCH** Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H) NEW

**JUL 1-7 (TUE-MON) FOURTH OF JULY BUS TRIP TO PECOS WILDERNESS IN NEW MEXICO.** This trip to the Pecos Wilderness east of Santa Fe, New Mexico is for backpackers who want to escape the heat of Dallas. This mountain range has numerous peaks, streams, lakes, waterfalls, and wild flowers. There will be five trips available rated from moderate to strenuous. Each trip will be created to provide an interesting and challenging experience for each skill level. Five days on the trail will allow us extra time to get used to the altitude and allow us to explore more of this very scenic area. Signups will begin in March. Bus trip leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(C) NEW

**AUG 28-SEP 2 (THU-TUE) LABOR DAY BUS TRIP TO THE WEMINUICHE WILDERNESS IN COLORADO.** Escape the Texas heat this Labor Day weekend and join us for our trip to the cool Colorado mountains of the Weminuche Wilderness. This trip has mountains, lakes, streams, and valleys. Trips will range from car camping with day hikes to strenuous long hikes. The Weminuche Wilderness offers a great diversity and all the miles you want to hike. It is a hidden jewel and one of our most popular trips. Summmiting the Rio Grande Pyramid and the Window are highlights on two of the trips. Bus trip leader: Kathryn Hurn 214-321-4030(H) NEW

**NOV 26-DEC 1 (WED-MON) THANKSGIVING BUS TRIP TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK.** The Dallas Sierra Club Thanksgiving Holiday tradition continues with our annual bus trip to Big Bend. There will be a variety of hikes that will visit different parts of this very scenic National Park. If you've never been to Big Bend National Park, you owe it to yourself to discover this unique part of Texas. If you've been before, come back and explore another area! Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas on Wednesday at 6:30 PM and returns about 4:30 AM on Monday. We will have five backpacking trips from moderate to strenuous. Some backpacking experience is required. Signups will begin in September. Bus trip leader: Bill Greer 972-964-1781(H) NEW

## sierra singles outings

**MAR 3 (MON) SIERRA SINGLES REGULAR MONTHLY DINNER** A casual monthly gathering of Sierra Singles at a local restaurant. Watch for details about time and location. No RSVP's required. Contact: Paul Heller 972-620-1703(H) NEW

**MAR 30 (SUN) HOUSE CONCERT AND POTLUCK, 6:00 PM** This popular event brings touring singer/songwriters to a living room in Farmers Branch. Enjoy some great live music and share a meal with other singles in friendly setting. RSVP's usually required. Watch for details on the Sierra Singles email list a few weeks before the event. Contact: Paul Heller 972-620-1703(H) NEW

## young sierrans outings

**APR 5 (SAT) YOUNG SIERRANS DINNER AND LIVE MUSIC EVENT** Please join the Young Sierrans section for an evening of fine food and music. We will be dining at Kozy Kitchen, one of Dallas' most health and eco-conscious restaurants, and follow it up with the creative sounds of Okkervil River (out of Austin) at the Granada Theater. Dinner reservations are made for 7:00 PM which should give us plenty of time to enjoy our meal prior to heading over the show. See the Granada site for more info. You don't have to be a YS member to join us. Please RSVP by April 2nd for dinner; be sure to buy your concert tickets well in advance to ensure preferred admission. Email Peter for details. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! Contact: Peter Wilson NEW

## non-sierra club outings

The following are privately sponsored and administered trips. 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 service because they may be of interest to readers of this list.

**APR 26-27 (SAT-SUN) 29TH ANNUAL TEXAS WILDERNESS POW WOW.** Come to the woods of East Texas for guided nature walks, live music, interesting programs, a great campfire, canoeing, and surprise features. This year's Pow Wow will be held for the first time ever at Village Creek State Park in the Big Thicket. Sponsored by the Texas Conservation Alliance and the Big Thicket Association. More information here. For more information: Texas Conservation Alliance 512-327-4119(W) NEW

## 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 Sierra Club outings 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. Outing 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 vol-

untary, 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. Before leaving, be sure this or some other method is agreed upon. Reservations are necessary for outings unless otherwise noted in the outing description. To participate in an outing, contact the leader. The leader 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. 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 listed on the newsletter back page.

*Notice: to receive the outings list monthly via email, visit [www.dallassierraclub.org/subscribe](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/subscribe)*



## Memorial Day 2008 - Back to Bandelier!

by Bill Greer

For many years the Memorial Day sleeper bus trip to Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico was one of our most popular trips. Several years ago this ended when a non-Sierra Club hiker started an illegal campfire that escaped and burned parts of the area. Not too long after a Park Service controlled burn also escaped. Like Yellowstone did, Bandelier has recovered nicely from the fires and in 2006 we returned to this unique area for a great trip. Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2008 we will pay it another visit.

One main attraction of the area is unique scenery. Bandelier takes in part of the Pajarito Plateau, a slab of volcanic tuff spreading out from the Jemez Mountains. The Plateau is split by several canyons resulting in a kind of upside down topography. Instead of mountains rising from the plain you have a plain with canyons cut into it.

An aspect of Bandelier not matched by any other Dallas Sierra Club trip is the extensive Ancestral Pueblo ruins and rock art. The area was home to a thriving community from about 1075 AD to 1550 and today much evidence of their occupation remains. Bandelier was established to preserve these ruins. Many of the finest examples can only be reached by hikers.



Photos by Arthur Kuehne



The Dallas Sierra Club bus trip will feature 5 different backpack trips. All 5 trips will hike in to a base camp the first day; do a dayhike the second day, and hike out the third day. The trips differ in how long the backpacks and dayhikes are. The easiest trip will concentrate on extensive ruins and water falls near the visitor center. Camp will be in a shaded



canyon with water nearby. Other trips will backpack farther into the backcountry, get to see more of the area, and visit more remote ruins. A highlight of many of these trips will be Painted Cave.

Like most of our bus trips this one will leave Friday evening. When you first board the bus seating will look more-or-less like a regular bus. Around 10pm the bus will convert to "bunk mode" and we'll stretch out to sleep the rest of the way to Bandelier. When you wake up Saturday morning you'll be there and it will be time to go hiking! Seating and trips are assigned in the order you sign up for the trip so sign up soon and come along with us to this very scenic area. Visit the Dallas Sierra Club web site ([www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org)) to find out how to sign up.



## St. Patrick's Day Parade on Greenville Ave.

The Dallas Sierra Club (DSC) will be entering a conservation-themed/DSC awareness entry into this year's parade scheduled for March 15th. We're green; St. Paddy's green: BRILLANT! The City of Dallas has agreed to lend us up to a dozen of the blue, recycling containers on wheels that we'll push around the parade for use in gathering parade viewer recyclables. We are seeking volunteers to help (wo)man the blue containers (two people per bin) along the parade route or just be part of the parade and walk along with the DSC group. Total volunteer time would be about four hours beginning at 10:00 AM. The parade starts at 11:00 AM near Park Ln. and usually lasts a couple hours, after which, we can hang out to enjoy some of the festivities. To participate, please reply by February 28th to the Young Sierrans email address or call Peter's contact info located on the Contact Us page of the DSC website.

We'll follow up to everyone with an email that includes additional details. All are welcome to join in the fun!

## Young Sierrans Outing - Canoeing with Everlast

by Jenny Lehman

Last fall a group of friends who met in the Dallas Sierra Club Young Sierrans group decided to spend a Saturday canoeing the Trinity River. We expected warm weather, mucky water, trees, camaraderie, and sweaty bodies at the end. We got that, and more.

When we met at the put-in spot, we noticed a mangy dog hanging around and often carrying trash in his mouth. Our canoeing guide asked us not to pet or feed him because someone had dropped him there and he didn't want the dog to try and follow us ten miles down the river.

We managed to rappel down the steep bank for the put-in, and we were on our way in 2-person canoes. We heard stories from our highly knowledgeable guide about the river, the sights and scenes along the way, and how the upcoming referendum could impact the river. We also watched the dog continue to follow us.

Ten miles later, we arrived at the take-out, with all of us - and the dog - still intact. A couple of times we thought the dog had left us, but then we would see him again. He swam most of the way, but occasionally walked along the riverbank. At that point, some of the folks named him "Everlast."

We called animal control and the Humane Society, with no success. We could not take him in the shuttle van. One of the kindhearted couples from the canoeing trip returned the next day to try and rescue Everlast, but he would not get in their car. Finally, on Tuesday, three days after our trip, the canoe guide saw that Everlast was still there, and decided to rescue him. If the dog wanted to survive that badly, he deserved a chance! The latest word is that he makes a great pet, and truly is "man's best friend." Some of the Young Sierrans sent money and Petco or Petsmart gift cards to the guide to help with expenses for his new pet. Although it breaks my heart that some evil, rotten person would leave their amazing dog for dead at a river bank, it warms my heart to know there are wonderful, caring, kindhearted people who, when possible, will save a life, risk themselves to remedy a bad situation, and give this story a happy ending.

I encourage others to canoe the Trinity River like we did. It has a lot to offer, it's a wonderful resource right in our backyard, and it's not just home to mangy animals gnawing on used baby attire. We traveled the Main Stem, which offers scenic views of downtown Dallas, an insider's view of the Great Trinity Forest, shale and limestone outcrops, various bridges with construction dates back to the early 1900s, and a couple of old lock and dam structures which required careful navigation. In addition, there are native floral and wildlife sightings.



Photos by Peter Wilson

## Don't Get Left Out In the Cold...

## Join Us!



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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 Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
 Please charge my  Mastercard  Visa Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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



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Enclose check and mail to:  
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## Young Sierrans (and friend) at the Trinity River



Photos by Peter Wilson

# CALENDAR

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG



**3/5 • 4/2 First Wednesday.** The Executive Committee (or Excom - the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club) and other Club leaders meet to discuss Club business and plan for the future. See [www.dallassierraclub.org/calendar](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/calendar) for details, or contact the Group Chair.

**4/7 Monday before General Meeting.** Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to [editor@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:editor@dallassierraclub.org).

**3/11 • 4/8 Second Tuesday.** Sierra Club General Meeting  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM.** Come to the Center for Spiritual Living located at International Place Business Center, 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115. Check [www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org) for directions. Come at 6:00 PM for refreshments and socializing and to pick up activity

materials.

**3/19 • 4/16 Third Wednesday.** Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapsco 14Q). Discuss schedules and issues. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

**3/25 • 4/22 Fourth Tuesday.** Inner City Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapsco 14Q). All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans are welcome.

**4/23 Fourth Wednesday every other month.** Newsletter Mailing Party at 7:00 PM at the Churchill Recreation Center at Hillcrest and Churchill Way (Mapsco 15V). Help sort, bundle and label the newsletter. Just show up.



The Dallas Sierra Club's general meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. The meetings are held at The Center for Spiritual Living located at International Place Business Center, 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115.

Check [www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org) for directions. (Mapsco 14L)