



**DALLAS SIERRA CLUB  
THE COMPASS**

WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG



Photo by Robert Muchsel

**Read about the Dallas Sierra Club's entry  
in the St. Patrick's Day Parade - article on page 6**

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## Population and a Visit to Ethiopia

by Gail Loeffler

Human population is projected to reach nearly 9.2 billion under the UN “medium scenario” by the year 2050 – up from 6.7 billion today. If today’s fertility rate remains constant, world population could reach 11.9 billion by 2050.

The environmental challenges humanity faces in this century and beyond will become harder to address as the number of people increase. The overwhelming majority of this growth will occur in the developing world.

In November of 2007, I was fortunate to travel with a small group of activists and staff from the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society on a 10-day study tour to Ethiopia where we saw first hand the problems of rapid population growth. Our purpose was to attend the International Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Confer-



ence held at the United Nations Center in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. We joined hundreds of development professionals including many from Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, as with many developing and undeveloped countries around the world, rapid population growth has put a huge strain on the environment.

Ethiopia has one of the highest fertility levels in the world. It is the second-largest country in Africa with 77 million people, 40% in their reproductive years. Population has more than quadrupled since 1950. Since their population is projected to double in the next 20 years, these trends are alarming. Once being the most forested country

in Africa, it now retains only 2% of its forests. Eighty percent of Ethiopians subsist on climate dependent agriculture. Population growth has accelerated land degradation as forests are converted to farms and pastures, and households use unsustainable agricultural methods to eke out a living on marginal land.

All of this may sound depressing, but the innovative PHE programs offer rays of hope. They are holistic, addressing community concerns that include sustainable agriculture, health care, and education. And the family planning component is critical. The average Ethiopian woman will have 5.4 children. Fertility decreases as educational level increases. Uneducated mothers have three times as many children as women with some secondary education (6.1 to 2.1 children). One in three married women want voluntary family planning services but lack access. Currently only 31% of the demand is being met.

Our group journeyed to the countryside to visit remote villages where we witnessed how communities are struggling to survive on depleted land, with little access to basics like sanitation, clean water, and health care. Although the poverty and suffering is overwhelming, I found Ethiopia to be a colorful, beautiful country, and we were met with friendly, celebratory people. We visited small-scale projects funded by local organizations and the USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development), in which communities work to address the related challenges of population growth, health, and environmental protection. These communities are planting tree seedlings, health workers are being trained, more young girls are going to school, and economic opportunities are increasing. We saw how family planning is a necessary part of a development package that can foster community well-being in the short term and help to ease pressure on natural resources in the long term. There is progress.

Special Note: The Sierra Club’s Board of Directors approved a new population policy on November 17, 2007. This policy supports pro-



grams such as those in Ethiopia where the hallmark is education, access to voluntary family planning, health care, and economic opportunities, especially for women.

These programs have proven their effectiveness in slowing population growth in order to attain a sustainable human population. To review the new population policy, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/population.pdf>.

Gayle Loeffler is Chair of the Dallas Group Sierra Club Population Committee, Chair of the Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club Population Committee and a Member of the National Sierra Club Global Population & Environment Program Committee.



## Ten Steps to an Earth-Friendly Yard

by Terry Jensen

1. Use a design plan that considers topography, existing vegetation, and grouping plants and grasses by their watering needs.
2. Improve soil to prevent erosion.
3. Add organic material, such as compost, to soil to promote water penetration and retention.
4. Select appropriate plants such as native and adapted plants that use less water and are more resistant to diseases and pests.
5. Plan turf and landscaped areas in appropriate locations to be separately irrigated.
6. Use efficient watering by avoiding watering until absolutely necessary.
7. Never water in the heat of the day or on windy days to avoid evaporation.
8. Use mulches to cover and shade soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth, and minimize soil erosion.
9. Lower maintenance by a gradual switch to organic gardening.
10. Install a water harvesting system to water your yard. They are easy to install, cost effective, and very earth friendly.





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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The Compass is published six times per year by the Dallas Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Members of the Dallas Group support The Compass and receive the publication as one of the benefits of their membership in the Sierra Club.

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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](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

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

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As some of you early birds may have noticed, KVIL Radio, a part of the National CBS Radio group, interviewed me for their Sunday morning series known as the Rancken Files. It was also broadcast on one of their other local talk radio stations. The scheduled subject was Earth Day, but the discussion quickly turned to the reputation and image of the Sierra Club and the environmental movement. While the tone could have turned into a debate, I was very pleased the host recognized that the 'green movement' was sweeping the country in many different areas, including the common bonds and goals which environmental groups and faith-based organizations are now forming. We also discussed the formidable task of fighting air pollution in a metropolitan area along with other local subjects.

As most of you readers know, the Earth Day celebration started in 1970 as a teach-in and national demonstrations in order to send a message to President Nixon that the environmental movement was not a "fad" and was here to stay. Unfortunately, the movement continued to fight battles against corporate polluters, but the national media and general public interest was diverted by such massive issues as the Viet Nam War. In other words, the environmental movement was alive and even growing, but the political will was weakened and the opposition very well funded. This struggle has been going on for 38 years.

Which, of course, brings us to 2008 and the renewed energy and focus on the environment. It has many similarities to 1970, and there is no question that opportunity is knocking. The good news is that Sierra Club, other environmental groups, and now new allies, will give us the strength to change political direction in favor of a sustainable planet. If you missed the 70's, make sure you are a part of this pivotal moment in history.

Long live The Wilderness. Long live the Sierra Club.

Wendel Withrow  
Dallas Chair

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## Volunteer for Recycling at the Richardson Wildflower Festival!

The Richardson Wildflower Festival celebrates its 16th anniversary this year with featured acts including Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, Bret Michaels Rock of Love Tour, America, Everclear, The Guess Who, Loverboy, Jerry Jeff Walker, Blue Oyster Cult, Kathy Mattea, Eve 6, Roger Creager, Firehouse, Seven Mary Three, Quietdrive, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Butch Hancock, The Django Walker Band, Candy Coburn, No Justice, Slaid Cleaves, Jon Vezner, Steve Fromholz, Chris Smither, and Paramount's Laser-Spectacular featuring the Music of Pink Floyd.

The festival, running May 16 – 18, is trying something new this year in the form of attended recycling stations. Richardson is asking for groups to volunteer for a day, and they specifically asked the Sierra Club to take Friday evening. This is an important follow-on to the work we started with then Mayor Slagel signing the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2006, and we would like to have a good turnout. We'll be working two shifts on Friday evening of about 3 hours each, starting at 5:30 and ending at midnight. Volunteers receive a T-shirt, free admission and parking pass for Friday, and free admission for either Saturday or Sunday. To volunteer, please contact Andrew Laska at [wildflower08@richardsonecho.com](mailto:wildflower08@richardsonecho.com), or 972-480-8390.



## MAY/JUNE PROGRAMS

### May 13, Gayle Loeffler, Environmental Degradation, Population, and Women's Empowerment

By the year 2050, world population is projected to reach nearly 9.2 billion according to the United Nation's "medium scenario" (up from 6.7 billion today). That's not even 50 years away. That means the environmental challenges that our children, and grandchildren, will only grow more difficult. The overwhelming majority of growth in world population will occur in the developing world. Studying these hot spots for population growth is the first step to facing the problem. And last November Dallas Sierra Club member Gayle Loeffler did just that. Gayle is the Chair of the Dallas Group Sierra Club Population Committee, and holds similar post at the state and national level. She journeyed to Ethiopia where she saw first hand the problems of rapid population growth.

Her goal was to attend the International Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Conference held at the United Nations Center in Ethiopia's capital. In Ethiopia, as with many other developing and undeveloped countries, rapid population growth has put an unsustainable strain on the environment. One obvious sign of this strain is Ethiopia's shrinking forest. Once being the most forested country in Africa, Ethiopia now retains only 2% of its original forests. Population growth has accelerated land degradation as forests are converted to farms and pastures.

Many parts of the Ethiopian story may sound depressing, but the PHE programs offer hope. These programs are holistic in approach - addressing community concerns that include sustainable agriculture, health care, and education. And the family planning component is critical. Experience shows that fertility rates decrease as educational levels increase. Uneducated mothers have three times as many children as women with some secondary education. Many married women want voluntary family planning services but lack access.

As a direct witness, Gayle saw poverty and suffering that was overwhelming, but still found Ethiopia to be a colorful, beautiful country, that is full of friendly people. She witnessed projects in which communities work to address the related challenges of population growth, health, and environmental protection. These communities are planting tree seedlings, health workers are being trained, more young girls are going to school, and economic opportunities are increasing. She saw how family planning is a necessary part of a development package that can foster community well-being in the short term and help to ease pressure on natural resources in the long term. There is progress to report and Gayle will provide that report at the Seara Club General meeting on Tuesday, May 13th.

### June 10, Terry Moore, Introduction to Carbon Markets – A Beginner's Guide from a US perspective

Quick, what are the largest sources of global warming pollution in the world, and what's the largest source within the United States? As explained on the Sierra Club's national website, the sad answer is "The US produces far more carbon dioxide than any other country in the world." They note that according to the latest figures by the Department of Energy, the US produces 22% of all CO2 emitted into the atmosphere. That is more than China and India put together (17% and 4.1% respectively). Furthermore, US CO2 pollutants total more than Russia (6%), Japan (4.7%), Australia (1.4%) and the whole of Europe put together (17.2%). Okay, so we know the United States is the worst CO2 polluter on the planet, now what is the source of our CO2? As reported by the national Sierra Club the United States CO2 emissions stem from burning fossil fuels, like coal, natural gas, and oil. We burn coal and natural gas to produce electricity and energy for our homes, businesses, and factories, while most of the oil is burned to power transportation (planes, buses, and especially cars). And to make matters worse, all of the technology that produces this energy is outdated and inefficient.

Now that you know a little bit about the scope of the problem, the next question is what is our government doing about it? One approach being developed is known as "Cap and Trade" legislation. Cap and Trade (sometimes called "emission trading") is an administrative approach aimed at controlling pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in the emissions of pollutants. In theory, if big businesses are provided economic incentives to reduce pollutants (like CO2) they will tend to do so.

On Tuesday, June 10th, Sierra and Cool Cities Leader in Austin, Terry Moore, will offer a presentation titled "Introduction to Carbon Markets - A Beginner's Guide from a US perspective." Terry notes that we all read about cap-and-trade, carbon trading, and voluntary offsets in various media reports, but it can be confusing. Terry's presentation will explain the key terminology, briefly touch on some of the history of the Kyoto Protocol, and what the rest of the world is doing to combat pollution. Then he will wrap up with an update on the efforts here in the US to begin mandatory regulation of greenhouse gas emission using the cap-and-trade approach. When the cap and trade legislation officially becomes law, it will affect all of us, so consider June 10th as your chance to learn about what's coming to all of us in the near future. For more information, or just to bone up on your Global Warming facts, check out the website [www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/qa](http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/qa).

## Collin County Satellite Sierra Club Programs

On Monday, May 19th at 7:00 our program topic is Community Supported Agriculture. They say eating locally and in season is the way to go. Curious?

Our meeting will start with a short film titled The Cost of Food featuring Michael Pollan.

Many farms offer produce subscriptions, where buyers receive a weekly or monthly basket of produce, flowers, fruits, eggs, milk, coffee, or any sort of different farm products.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a way for the food buying public to create a relationship with a farm and to receive a weekly basket of produce. By making a financial commitment to a farm, people become "members" (or "shareholders," or "subscribers") of the CSA. Most CSA farmers prefer that members pay for the season up-front, but some farmers will accept weekly or monthly payments. Some CSAs also require that members work a small number of hours on the farm during the growing season. A CSA season typically runs from late spring through early fall. The number of CSAs in the United States was estimated at 50 in 1990, and has since grown to over 1000.

Come explore the possibilities of Community Supported Agriculture in Collin County. The meeting will be held at the Mirabelle Davis Library at 7501-B Independence Parkway, just north of Legacy.

For more information about the Collin County satellite group, contact Dan Vining at [danvining@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:danvining@dallassierraclub.org) or Robin Sowton at [robinsowton@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:robinsowton@dallassierraclub.org)

## Mid-Suburban Sierra Club Programs

On Tuesday, May 27, we will show The True Cost of Food followed by a discussion of food production and consumption from an environmental perspective. Food issues are heavy and often emotional. This animated video takes a light approach to explaining the hidden costs of mass-produced food and about alternatives that are kinder to the planet. Join us at 7 pm in the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville 76034.

On Tuesday, June 24, we will show Fighting Goliath--Texas Coal Wars followed by a discussion of where Texas is today. Narrated by Robert Redford and produced by Alpheus Media, the film follows the story of Texans fighting a high-stakes battle for clean air and centers around the unlikely partners- mayors, ranchers, lawyers, cities, citizens, green groups, and CEO's-that came together to oppose the construction of 18 coal-fired power plants that were slated to be built in Eastern and Central Texas and being fast-tracked by the Texas Governor. Join us at 7 pm in the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville 76034.

For further information about the Mid-Suburban group, call Terry Jensen at 972 251-1532.



**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 earth1@dfwnetmall.com

**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 earth1@dfwnetmall.com and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H)

**MAY 21 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 7:00 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning 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) or wbgreer@verizon.net

**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. Bus trip leader: Bill Beach 214-662-3224(C) or bbeach45@sbcglobal.net Note: This trip is now full, but contact the leader about the waiting list.

**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 earth1@dfwnetmall.com

**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 earth1@dfwnetmall.com and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H)

**JUN 28 (SAT) CLUB SERVICE OUTING AT CEDAR RIDGE PRESERVE** Special Dallas Sierra Club service outing from 8AM – 12

noon at Cedar Ridge Preserve, one of our closest special hiking locations, only about 20 minutes southwest of downtown Dallas. Come enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans and friends while we remove non-native and overgrown plants from around the much loved cattail pond. Rumor has it chocolate may also be involved. Project guidance and equipment will be provided by Audubon Dallas. Volunteers must be at least 18 yrs. of age and sign up before the event (preferably by June 1st). Members and non-members welcome. Details including directions and information on event private parking and possible carpooling will be sent to volunteers via email the week before the event. Contact outing leader to sign up or for more information. Leader: Liz Wheelan 214-368-2306(H) or Lizwico@aol.com

**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. Head on over to [www.dallassierraclub.org/outings](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/outings) and download the full trip write up. It should answer all of your questions and provide the forms you need to sign up. Bus trip signup coordinator: Liz Wheelan 214-368-2306(H) or lizwico@aol.com, bus leader Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260(H) or arthur@dallassierraclub.org

**AUG 28-SEP 2 (THU-TUE) LABOR DAY BUS TRIP TO THE WEMINUCHE 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. Summiting the Rio Grande Pyramid and the Window are highlights on two of the trips. Signups will begin in July. Bus trip leader: Kathryn Hurn 214-321-4030(H) or khurn@iggroup.com

**OCT 25-26 (SAT-SUN) BACKPACK OUCHITA TRAIL IN OKLAHOMA** Meet Saturday morning at Winding Stair Campground on Hwy. 1. Backpack 4.6 miles to camp overnight at Red Spring. Sunday morning hike 6 miles to Pashubbe Trail Head. Enjoy

the dogwood and maple fall color. Leader: Greg Holman 214-398-8061(H) or greg-hol937@sbcglobal.net

**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 on 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 leaders: Laura Kimberly 972-307-8364(H) or laurakimberly@dallassierraclub.org and Kent Trullsson

### Young Sierrans Outings

**MAY 10 (SAT) REHOBOTH RANCH GUIDED TOUR AND PICNIC LUNCH** We have the opportunity to tour the Rehoboth Ranch which is located in Greenville, TX. Robert Hutchins, owner of the ranch, participated in the January Dallas Sierra Club program and discussed how his family raises

"clean" beef and lamb, without synthetic hormones and steroid drugs, on pastures untailed by pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilizers. We will need at minimum 20 participants for this event and are requesting a FIRM headcount by 4/30. All are welcome to participate!! (1) Date: May 10th. (2) Time: Arrive around 12:00 PM to the ranch to have our picnic. The tour would begin around 1:00 PM. (3) Plan: We'll start with a picnic lunch under shade trees. The tour will begin in the Grade A Raw Goat Milk Dairy with an opportunity to milk a goat, followed by a pasture walk to see the grass fed organic free range cattle, goats, pigs, chickens and turkeys. Educational oriented talk about each organic enterprise and how they work together to be sustainable. We'll conclude by gathering eggs from the portable hen houses (eggmobiles). (4) Lunch: Please pack your own lunch. (5) Guide: Our tour guide will be Robert Hutchins. Robert has been ranching organically since 1980, and operating Rehoboth Ranch full time with his family since 2000. (6) Cost: \$5 per participant for the tour. Picnic lunch is individual responsibility. (7) Ride-Sharing: A link to an online spreadsheet will be created for ride-sharing. (8) Email Peter or the Young Sierrans' email address if you have any questions or would like to join us. Organizer: Peter Wilson peterwilson@dallassierraclub.org

## 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)*

## SPECIAL EVENT and YOU'RE INVITED!

### SIERRA CLUB SERVICE PROJECT

*Saturday, June 28th from 8 AM – 12 noon*

*Cedar Ridge Preserve, Dallas*

### COME PLAY AT THE POND!

Join fellow Sierrans and friends while we work together to remove non-native vegetation from around the cattail pond at one of our favorite area hiking spots. Audubon Dallas will provide instruction and equipment. Thirty adult volunteers needed. Pre-event sign up required. For more information see outings list in Compass or on club website ([www.dallassierraclub.org/outings](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/outings)). To sign up contact Liz at 214.368.2306 or [Liz@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:Liz@dallassierraclub.org).



## How to Stay Dry in the Woods

### Part Two: Plastic Bags 101

by Bill Greer

On a beginner backpack trip I lead a few years ago we had a good mix of beginner and experienced hikers. As luck would have it we arrived at our camp in a pouring rain. After an hour or so the rain quit and we all emerged from our tents. The contrast between the beginners and experts was pretty obvious. Most of the experts were dry and happy; most of the beginners were a bit damp around the edges. For this article I would like to look at how to stay in the “dry and happy” category. I’ve already looked at rain gear in Part One. This time we’ll look at most other things you need to have and do.

Staying happy in the rain starts before you leave home. How you pack for the trip is vital to staying dry once it starts raining. Everything that you want to stay dry must be in a plastic bag. Don’t trust stuff sacks or your pack to keep anything dry. Both of them will leak in a hard rain. Line all stuff sacks with a plastic bag before you start stuffing the stuff. Turkey roasting bags are great but even they are not indestructible. I’ve seen the end blow out leaving a tough but leaky tube. Carry spares. On a wet trip I promise you’ll find uses for them. Be careful stuffing stuff in your lined stuff sacks, it’s easy to poke a finger through the liner bag. Pay particular attention to your toilet paper. Wet tp is pretty useless. Some things you don’t need to worry about. What does it hurt if your cook pot gets a little wet?

Many people carry a pack cover which goes over their backpack when it rains. If you’ve got everything in the pack protected properly you really don’t need one but it certainly won’t hurt anything. Carry a large 35 to 50 gallon bag to store your pack in at night. It keeps rain and critters out of the pack.

Wearing proper clothing makes a huge difference when it rains. Above all else leave the cotton at home! It’s cold and clammy when wet and takes forever to dry. Everything you’re wearing should be one of the synthetic fibers that dry quickly. I like to bring a good cotton wash cloth but otherwise leave the cotton at home. Have at least one extra set of underwear, socks, and tee shirt. Gaiters really help keep rain out of your boots. They should be under your rain pants. Don’t dress too warmly or you’ll sweat and get everything wet from the inside.

Once you reach camp you will no doubt want your tent up. Your tent has two tasks it must accomplish to keep you dry: keep outside water (rain) outside and get inside water (mostly your exhaled moisture and vapor from damp clothing) outside. Many of the things you need for both tasks involve the design and construction of your tent.

Some tents work much better than others when it rains. If you want to stay dry when it rains your tent must have a full coverage rain fly. The

moisture you exhale will condense on the first impermeable surface it meets. If that’s your rain fly it gets wet but you stay dry. If any part of the body of your tent is impermeable that part will get wet and pretty soon thereafter so will you. Lots of room between the rain fly and body is a good thing. A big vestibule lets you leave some wet stuff outside. Extra room is nice when it’s rainy outside and gear starts to explode inside your tent. Be sure the tent is completely seam sealed. Of course most of these good features add weight that has to be carried rain or shine.

Getting your tent up in the rain is all about speed. You want to get the thing up before it gets too wet. Get the rain fly over your tent as soon as possible even if it’s not attached. Another way to do it is to have two friends hold your tent fly up while you erect your tent underneath it. Then, just lower the fly into position and attach it. Poles that attach with clips rather than sleeves help here. Use all points that are provided for attaching tent pegs. The loops high up on the side of your tent are vital to prevent a broken pole if the wind blows. Extra loops around the lower edge of the rain fly keep it away from the tent body and help hold it in place in the wind. If you see a loop on the outside of your tent it’s there for a reason. Use good tent pegs. The wire gizmos that come with most tents are pretty useless at best and worse when the ground is wet. The yellow plastic pegs are best and they’re cheap. There are some metal “Y” shaped pegs that are pretty good for smaller tents. A good tight pitch helps keep the rain fly and tent body separated. Be sure they don’t touch.

Once your tent is up keep the rain fly open as much as possible. It doesn’t do any good to keep all the rain out if you get wet from condensation. Put as much wet stuff as you can in your spare plastic bags. Don’t unpack your dry cloths until you’ve used your wash cloth to mop up any water you tracked in. Don’t unpack your sleeping bag until bed time.

On the Big Bend trip in 2007 we got an ice storm. This will cause problems with just about any tent because of the weight. You will have to knock the ice off any time it builds up or the weight will push the rain fly down onto your tent body. This will cause the inevitable condensation on the inside of your rain fly to drip on your nose in the middle of the night.

When the sun finally does come back out enjoy it! You will no doubt have a renewed appreciation of the joys of a sunny afternoon. Spread anything that got wet out in the sunshine to dry. Do the same thing with your own body.

I hope all this helps you out the next time it rains on your wilderness parade. A rainy day does have a special beauty. But I would have to confess that after all these years I still prefer the sunshine.

#### ***Don't Miss Our Bus Trip To the Pecos Wilderness***

Our annual Fourth of July bus trip is heading to the Pecos Wilderness in New Mexico. This year we are going to spend 5 days in this magnificent area. Our chartered sleeper bus leaves Dallas on the evening on July 1 and returns early in the morning on July 7. You'll find complete details and sign-up instructions at [www.dallassierraclub.org/outings](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/outings).





## Dallas Sierra Club in the St. Patrick's Day Parade



Photo by Candace Weinberg

By Candace Weinberg and Peter Wilson

On March 15th, the Dallas Sierra Club participated in the 29th annual Greenville Avenue St. Patrick's Day parade. Thirty volunteers focused on a conservation theme of "recycling" to keep the message simple and actionable, and the crowd caught on quickly. In fact, parade attendees were so enthusiastic about our group's efforts that they shouted out lots of encouraging feedback and regularly dropped "high-fives" on us as we passed by.

We entered our club chair Wendel's Prius as our "float" and worked with the City of Dallas Recycling Department to provide us with a dozen rolling, recycling bins. Armed with Dallas Sierra Club banners, recycling signage and dazzling, green t-shirts, our volunteers were ready to spread the word about the Dallas Sierra Club and how anyone can "Make Every Day Green." Over the two-mile parade route, we worked quickly (the parade was moving fast) to gather as many recyclables as we could from the crowd and street. We completely filled all 12 bins before the end of the route and could have easily collected more with additional bins and volunteers. All and all, it was estimated that there were over 100K parade viewers, which was one of the largest crowds ever, and they didn't disappoint us in creating a sea of recycling opportunity or a rewarding experience for our volunteers!

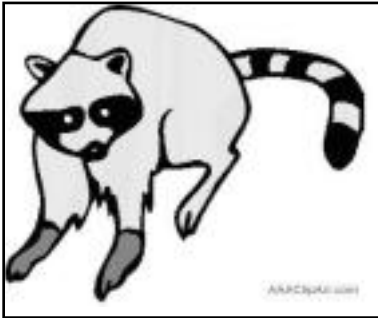
We've already begun discussions with the parade planning committee about how the Dallas Sierra Club can participate in the 2009 event. The good news is that they appear to be

supportive of our message and are working with us on ways to increase the awareness and recycling efforts throughout the parade, so mark your calendars to participate next year.

If you're interested in looking at additional pictures of the event, you can use Google and search on "Young Sierrans Parade Photos." We hope your St. Patrick's Day was as green as the Dallas Sierra Club's!



Photo by Peter Wilson



## Recycling Roundup by Rita Raccoon

A new column for the newsletter featuring updates, sources, and comments on the recycling phenomenon sweeping across north Texas. Well, maybe not sweeping, more like crawling. Oh, what the heck - recycling's here and get used to it!

The Raccoon-ita is here to spur you on to start recycling if you haven't, think about what else you can recycle (yes, there's more!), and pat you on the back if you're going all the way (in a recycling sense).

### RECENT RECYCLING NEWS - Spring 2008

**Richardson is bringing its recycling hauling in-house**, estimating the cost savings at over \$150,000 annually. The city hopes it can expand the program to businesses and apartments and increase household participation to 30 percent (at 25 percent now). The city council suggested blue recycling bags could be provided free to residents to encourage participation.

**The city of Dallas launches a green website, greendallas.net**, featuring all things green and beautiful in their fair city. From their Top 5 Ways To Green Your Home, I want to highlight Number 1: RECYCLE!!! Recycle your cardboard, metal cans, plastics, and paper products. By recycling you help reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. . . . Now if they could make recycling pick-up weekly, we'd all be happy.

**Texas Instruments** makes a radio frequency ID chip for recycling bins. Some cities (mostly in the Northeast) can now log how many pounds of waste you're putting in those bins and give you reward points that can be converted into store discounts. Check out RecycleBank.com for more information.

### Where can I recycle . . .

Need to know where to recycle in your neighborhood?  
Go to [earth911.org](http://earth911.org) and search by zip code.

Great information about all types of recycling.

**Cell phones** ReCellular buys old phones or will take their carcasses. Some are repaired and resold, but others may be donated to charities. One of their favorite charities is Cellphones for Soldiers. Go to [recellular.com](http://recellular.com) for more information.

**Electronics** Trade in your old iPod, laptop, or Gameboy at Costco for cash. See Costco.com Trade-In Program.

**Styrofoam peanuts** (nope, these are not edible). Go to the Plastics Loose Fill Council's Peanut Hotline (1-800-828-2214) or [loosefillpackaging.com](http://loosefillpackaging.com). Type in "Texas" or your city and you'll see a long list of drop-off centers. All peanuts must be clean and dry.

Like all this great recycling information? I knew you would!

Don't cut up your newsletter to save all these great hints - visit the Dallas Sierra Club website for current information about city recycling programs and where you can recycle those odd items.

Contact the Raccoon-ita with your questions/ suggestions for recycling at [scifi\\_chick@juno.com](mailto:scifi_chick@juno.com).

# CALENDAR

[WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG](http://WWW.DALLASSIERRACLUB.ORG)



**5/7 • 6/4 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.

**6/9 Monday before General Meeting.** Deadline for submitting material for The Compass. Send to [editors@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:editors@dallassierraclub.org).

**5/13 • 6/10 Second Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:30 PM.** Sierra Club General Meeting  
Come to the Center for Spiritual Living located at International Place Business Center, 4801 Spring Valley Road, 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.

**5/21 • 6/18 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.

**5/27 • 6/24 Fourth Tuesday.** Inner City Outings Committee meeting at 7:00 PM at REI (Mapsco 14Q). Guest/New Volunteer Orientation starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Inner City Outings 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.

**6/25 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. (Mapsco 14L) Check [www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org) for directions.