

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - November , 2021



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### Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, November 9

#### Paved A Way

Please join us as our Dallas Sierra Club colleague, Collin Yarborough, discusses his new book, *Paved Away: Infrastructure, Policy and Racism in an American City*. For over a year, Collin Yarborough explored Dallas' history with the help of some of Dallas' greatest residents and advocates, in order to understand the intersection of infrastructure, policy and racism in this city. This book is the first step in learning, unlearning, and relearning that history...an attempt at narrative change in a city so determined to pave away the past.



This book tells the stories of five neighborhoods in Dallas and how they were shaped by racism and economic oppression. The communities look nothing like what they did during their prime. Their declines were intentional; their foundations were chipped away over time. The book is an eye-opening look at the various factors that led, and continue to lead, to dissolution of neighborhoods. And it offers solutions to reverse these age-old practices.

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. you can log in to the meeting, chat, and ask questions. The meeting will begin at 7:00 with announcements, followed by our speaker's presentation.

#### How to join the meeting via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99535860396>

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,99535860396#

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 995 3586 0396

### The Truth behind **America Recycles Day**, November 15

*America Recycles Day* was founded by Keep America Beautiful in an attempt to sidestep responsibility for pollution resulting from the burgeoning use of plastic. Keep America Beautiful is an organization created by large corporations that produce massive amounts of plastic products that end up as pollution, companies such as Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Nestlé, and Phillip Morris.



As shown in last month's newsletter article *The Truth and Lies about recycling plastic* ([click here](#)), petroleum and plastic industries' devious greenwashing campaigns have swayed people to believe that most plastic is recyclable, but that isn't true.

[Click here](#) for an article about the pernicious use of *America Recycles Day*.

And [click here](#) for an article that advocates *reducing* plastics production instead of promoting cleaning up plastic afterward, which doesn't work.

Yes, recycling is important, but it is not the plastic pollution panacea.

## Let Us Know

Let us know **your opinion**. Give us **an article** for the newsletter. Give us **feedback** on articles. What would you like to see in the newsletter? Changes? Improvements? What **books** do you recommend? ([see below](#)). Please let us know. This is YOUR newsletter. **Feedback is welcome** (comments, suggestions, letters to the Editor, etc.). **Please submit feedback to [newsletter@dallasierraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@dallasierraclub.org)**

Previous issues of our newsletter are available [here](#).

## Recommended reading

***Paved A Way: Infrastructure, Policy and Racism in an American City* by Collin Yarbrough**

This book tells the stories of five neighborhoods in Dallas and how they were shaped by racism and economic oppression. The communities look nothing like what they did during their prime. Their declines were intentional; their foundations were chipped away over time. The book is an eye-opening look at the various factors that led, and continue to lead, to dissolution of neighborhoods. And it offers solutions to reverse these age-old practices. - Kirk Miller

Available at the Dallas library and at local and online bookstores.

***The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate* ♦ *Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben**

This fascinating book explains the science behind the secret and previously unknown life of trees and their communication abilities. Trees communicate through underground fungal networks; they share nutrients, send distress signals, and nurture each other. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

***Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken**

This book lists one hundred things that could draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These are practical, economical things (many are technologies) that are cost-effective and can be done now. Hawken writes a paragraph or two about each item -- in non-technical language -- giving the methodology and science behind each. Very interesting. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

Previous book recommendations are [here](#).

## Conservation / Eco Action

Greetings from the Conservation / Eco Action Committee!

We have a new project going on, and we need the help of our Dallas Sierra Club members! As many of you know, we are highly involved in our partnerships with two North Texas Superfund Sites: Globe Union (Garland) and Lane Plating (South Dallas). Both group leaders and I agree that we need to create a community of advocates who have worked on (and continue to work on) Superfund Site issues in North Texas. We would like to start a coalition of advocates who have experience with the entire contamination to remediation process.

I've put together a list and links to the current (and some former) Superfund Sites in North Texas. If any readers happen to know advocates who have worked in regards to these sites, please direct them to email me at [victoria@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:victoria@dallassierraclub.org) so that I can speak to them.

Additionally, if I have missed a Superfund Site listing, please feel free to reach out and correct me with whatever information you have.

With thanks,

Victoria

[Click here](#) for the main link to the EPA Superfund Site list.

[Click here](#) for a link to search Superfund Sites.

### **Local Superfund Sites Ongoing**

1. Air Force Plant #4 Ft Worth (Fort Worth County)
2. Bio Ecology Systems (Dallas County)
3. Circle Count Groundwater Plume (Parker County)
4. Delfasco Forge Grand Prairie (Dallas County)
5. RSR Corp. Dallas (Dallas County)
6. Van Der Horst Terrell (Kaufman County)

[Click here](#) for a list of 68 (yes, 68!) Superfund Sites in Texas.

## Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

### COP 26 is in the news. What is it?

The **2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference**, also known as **COP26**, is the 26th [United Nations Climate Change conference](#). It is scheduled to be held in [Glasgow](#), Scotland, United Kingdom, between 31 October and 12 November 2021, under the co-presidency of the United Kingdom and Italy. The conference is the 26th [Conference of the Parties \(COP\)](#) to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) and the third meeting of the parties to the [Paris Agreement](#). This conference is the first time that parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition since [COP21](#) (Paris, 2015). Parties are required to carry out every five years, as outlined in the [Paris Agreement](#), a process colloquially known as the 'ratchet mechanism'.

The venue for the conference is the [SEC Centre](#) in Glasgow. Originally due to be held in November 2020 at the same venue, the event was postponed for twelve months because of the [COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland](#). Among the most high-profile, and socially influential attendees are US President Joe Biden, Turkish President [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](#), climate activist Greta Thunberg, Canadian Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau](#) and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

In October 2021, [Chinese leader Xi Jinping](#) announced he would not be attending the conference in person. With [greenhouse gas emissions by China](#) being the world's largest, [Reuters](#) said this makes it less likely the conference would result in a significant climate deal. The [2021 global energy crisis](#) has intensified pressures on China ahead of COP26 climate summit.

On 20 October 2021, the [Kremlin](#) announced that [Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) would not attend the conference. Putin had said the day before Xi Jinping's announcement that he might not attend the conference due to COVID-19 concerns. A Russian delegation is still expected to head to Glasgow. The world leader's summit will take place on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd, with each leader giving a national statement. An important goal of the conference organizers is to keep a 1.5 degree temperature rise within reach. [Coal phase out](#) will also be discussed. President Biden will not be able to provide the leadership the world had hoped for due to the Republican obstructionism and the greed of coal baron Sen. Munchkin and Arizona Sen. Cinnamon.

In an interview shortly before the 2021 COP26 conference, climate-change activist [Greta Thunberg](#), asked how optimistic she was that the conference could achieve anything, responded, "Nothing has changed from previous years really. The leaders will say 'we'll do this and we'll do this, and we will put our forces together and achieve this', and then they will do nothing. Maybe some symbolic things and creative accounting and things that don't really have a big impact. We can have as many COPs as we want, but nothing real will come out of it." [Queen Elizabeth II](#) voiced similar concerns in a private conversation overheard via a hot mic, saying, "It's really irritating when they talk, but they don't do." Glasgow has made preparations for the largest protests seen in Scotland since [anti-Iraq War marches in 2003](#) from [Extinction Rebellion](#) and others. Over two million people are expected to march in solidarity worldwide.

Greta, in an earlier interview regarding these conferences, commented "blah, blah, blah." I'm with Greta. Most of this material is from Wikipedia. My own comments are obvious!

## Videos of prior General Meetings are on YouTube

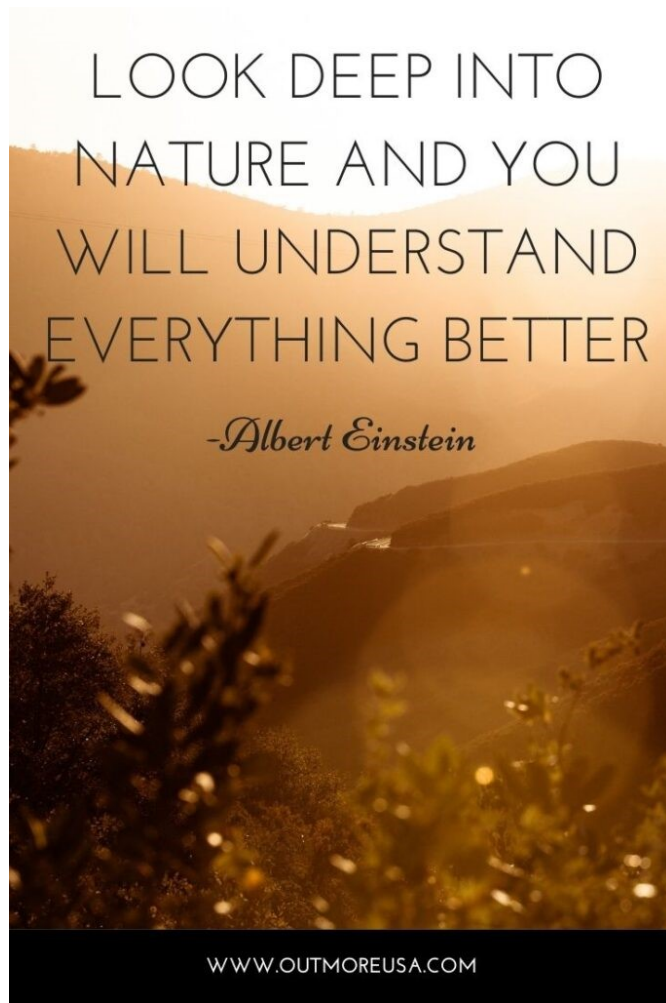
[Click here](#) for a list of meetings with varied topics such as national parks,

Critterman, beautiful photos from around the world, wild animals, activism, and more.



## Dallas Sierra Club Outreach Speakers Program - Speakers for Your Group

The Dallas Sierra Club provides outdoor/environmental education in the form of entertaining and informative presentations by Dallas Sierra Club members with expertise in the topics offered. These presentations range in length from 30 minutes to one hour and cover a variety of topics in the general categories of outdoor adventure, environmental education, and general ecology. These talks are appropriate for a wide range of audiences including youth groups, school classes, civic and social groups, nature and gardening clubs, church groups, etc. Any group interested in an available topic is welcome to contact us. To see available topics and to schedule your speaker, [click here](#).



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## Et Cetera

**Choose only one master: Nature. - Rembrandt**

**Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home, that wildness is a necessity. - John Muir**

**Did you hear the joke about the hill? I couldn't get over it!**

### Limerick

When I'm hiking among all the trees,  
And I'm hot, there's a thing that will please  
Me. Some gusts of the air  
Make hikes easy to bear.  
When the wind blows, it's really a breeze.  
- by Kirk Miller

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## Calendar

Here is our calendar for the next few months. For complete listings, visit us at [www.DallasSierraClub.org](http://www.DallasSierraClub.org).

### **November 6, Saturday - Hike Around White Rock Lake**

Enjoy a brisk and fun 9-mile loop walk with companions around the most loved park in Dallas. Meet at the Bath House Cultural Center (521 East Lawther Drive). Access is via Buckner Blvd. and Northcliff Drive. We'll walk clockwise, starting at 9:00 and finish around 1:00. Bring a day pack with water and maybe a snack. We won't walk if it's raining at 9:00. No dogs. Participants will sign a participation agreement as we start. You can read the agreement in advance at [this link](#). Trip rated: Moderate. Leader: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-789-4596

### **November 9, Tuesday - General Meeting**

Collin Yarborough, discusses his new book, *Paved Away: Infrastructure, Policy and Racism in an American City*.

See details at the beginning of this newsletter or by clicking [this link](#) to our website.

## **November 18, Thursday - GreenSource DFW Sustainable Leadership Awards - Zoom**

Celebrate North Texas environmental heroes by tuning into the 10th annual Green Source DFW Sustainable Leadership Awards online. The popular annual green awards gala, hosted by Green Source DFW and its parent nonprofit the Memnosyne Institute, will be held virtually for the second year due to the pandemic. Nominations for the awards come from Green Source DFW readers. Details are [here](#)

## **December 1, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee (Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. For more information, contact the Dallas Group Chair.

## **December 4, Saturday - Hike Bear Creek and Bob Eden Parks, Euless**

Join me for a walk of approximately 5 mile on a scenic paved trail. Get your miles in before lunch and enjoy a cool late fall walk. Most of the walk is in mixed hardwoods. We will have a chance to ID trees as we walk through Bear Creek, McCormick, and Bob Eden Parks. Bathrooms are at the turnaround at Bob Eden park. Bring a liter of water, dress for the weather (layers), and wear comfortable walking shoes. Walk starts at 8:30 am and we will be back to the cars by 12:00 pm. Participants will sign a participation agreement as we start. You can read the agreement in advance at [this link](#). Trip rated: [Moderate](#). Leader: Jim Binnings [Send Email](#) 214-746-3266

## **December 14, Tuesday - General Meeting**

**This presentation might bug you.** Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

## **January 22-23, Saturday-Sunday - Outings Leader Training**

SAVE THIS WEEKEND for Outings Leader Training for new leaders! Whether your interest is day hikes or multi-day backpacking, the Dallas Sierra Club actively seeks new leaders. We've reserved the heated meeting space and dining hall at Eisenhower State Park, near Denison, for new leader training. Sleep Saturday night in your tent or inside the building on your air mattress or cot. Come for tales from current leaders and role-playing situations you might experience as a leader. The only fee for the weekend is a \$10 park admission. This is an event offered only once every year or two. Don't miss it! Call or email for inquiries. Coordinator: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214 526 3733

## **February 9-13, Wednesday-Sunday - Big Bend National Park**

We missed our annual outing to hike in the Big Bend due to COVID in 2021, but we're going there in 2022! This year's trip will offer a choice of three hiking/backpacking itineraries for a maximum of 25 participants. We've reserved campsites in the Chisos Basin, the Chisos Mountains, and Rio Grande Village. See how the Chisos ecosystem is recovering from a spring 2021 fire in the Chisos Mountains or view Boquillas Canyon from the remote Marufo Vega Trail. [Click here](#) for complete trip details and sign-up information. Coordinator: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214 789 4596

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