

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - May, 2022



[Follow us on Facebook](#)



[Check out our website](#)

In this issue . . . (scroll through the newsletter or click a numbered link below)

1. [May Meeting - in person](#)
2. [Outings](#)
3. [GreeningDallasISD.org e-petition](#)
4. [June Meeting - in person](#)
5. [Note from the Chair](#)
6. [Farmers Branch to be powered by solar farm](#)
7. [Adopting a More Eco-Friendly Lifestyle](#)
8. [Profile: Reneé Roberson](#)
9. [Recommended Viewing](#)
10. [Recommended Reading - updated](#)
11. [Cartoon](#)
12. [Et Cetera](#)
13. [Let Us Know](#)
14. [Videos of Prior Meetings](#)
15. [Outreach Speakers Program](#)
16. [Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, May 10

Electronic Recycling Bonanza

Ever wonder how to recycle office items like wall partitions? Not sure where to recycle certain electronics? Ever cringe at having to throw away an item that can't be donated? Then please join us in a conversation with Terry Shultz from United Electronic Recycling (UER), a top-rated electronic recycling company headquartered locally in Coppell, Texas. UER is an established, environmentally responsible recycler of electronic waste. In 2020 alone, their team recycled over 8,000,000 lbs. of electronic waste, prevented it from ending up in landfills, and redirected it to be re-used as new products. UER hosts monthly electronic drop offs in the metroplex as well as pick-up options for recyclers!



FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, May 10, Dallas Sierra Club at Brookhaven College

[Click here](#) for a map of the meeting's location

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We would love to meet you.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in building H, the Geotechnology Institute building. From 6:30 to 7:00 you can wander among various issue booths to pick up information and talk with Sierra Club members. Contact Victoria Howard, 214 855 1580 Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org

Outings

by Mark Stein

Northern New Mexico Outing Jeopardized by Wildfire

The Cerro Pelado fire has forced closures of Bandelier National Monument, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and parts of Santa Fe National Forest until further notice, rendering the Dallas Sierra Club's May 26-30 outing to hike at Bandelier National Monument, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and nearby Santa Fe National Forest improbable as planned. New Mexico Highway 4 is closed west of White Rock except for evacuations. A go/no-go decision about the planned trip will be communicated to registrants on May 11. If the original plan is cancelled, our alternative will be a backpacking trip on the same dates to San Pedro Parks Wilderness Area, near Cuba, NM, west of the wildfire in Santa Fe National Forest. San Pedro Parks is characterized by green meadows ("parks") surrounded by spruces and other conifers. Although San Pedro Parks is at altitude between 9,200' and 10,200', its gentle grades make for easy backpacking. It's ideal for a beginner backpacking outing. Anyone interested in backpacking at beautiful **San Pedro Parks**, space permitting, may contact trip leader Mark Stein for information. [Send Email](#) or call 214-789-4596.

E-signatures needed for [GreeningDallasISD.org](#) e-petition & volunteer needs

Please, add your signature to the [petition](#) to show support to Dallas ISD for green initiatives and climate actions, including clean, electric school buses, which are needed to improve students', drivers' and community health.



Greening Dallas ISD, an all-volunteer effort to help make that school district and others in North Texas greener, healthier, more efficient, resilient and lower carbon, is a project in which the Dallas Sierra Club is supportive.

Check out the [GreeningDallasISD.org](#) website, still under construction by volunteers, [here](#). It's intended to be a resource for students, parents, school staff and trustees, and community members. We'd appreciate more volunteers for the website and as well as for other project needs. Students, parents and teachers (current or former) are especially needed, but we need anyone who has a little time and interest. We appreciate you checking our Contact Us - Get Involved [form](#) for opportunities and fill it out if you're so moved.

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, June 14

Dallas trees and invasive species

WOODen you like to know more about trees? We enTREEt you to attend a TREEmendous, inTREEguing presentation by an illusTREEous person who worked for the foresTREE service.



Do you ever look up into the tree canopy and wonder which tree you're looking at and what its characteristics are? Ever debate for hours, poring over the internet, trying to decide which species of tree is best to plant? Want trees but don't have any? Then, you've come to the right place! Please help Dallas Sierra Club in welcoming Karen Woodward, Forester for City of Dallas, as she discusses invasive tree species and the status of Dallas trees in general. Karen Woodward came to the City of Dallas in 2008 and has degrees in Horticulture, Environmental Science, and Master of Science Forestry. She came to the City of Dallas from the Texas Forest Service where she worked as a Regional Urban Forester, with her last assignment being the Hurricane Rita Urban Tree Recovery Project. Karen is the City Forester, assisting all departments with tree issues and teaches/trains both the City of Dallas personnel and the public on all things trees.

FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 14, Dallas Sierra Club at Brookhaven College

Map of meeting's location <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?generalmeeting>

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We would love to meet you.

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in building H, the Geotechnology Institute building. From 6:30 to 7:00 you can wander among various issue booths to pick up information and talk with Sierra Club members. Contact Victoria Howard, 214 855 1580 Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org

Note from the Chair

by Dan Moultonn

On April 12, we held our first in-person general meeting in two years at Brookhaven College. We had about 30 people in attendance including several newbies who expressed interest in the club. As always, we had a good program by our own Wendel Withrow and a good time was had by all.

On May 10, we will continue our in-person meetings. Same time, same place. I want to encourage all of you to try and attend these meetings.

"Participation - that's what's gonna save the human race." - Pete Seeger



Farmers Branch to be powered by solar farm

by Marshall Hinsley (GreenSourceDFW.org)

Farmers Branch is about to go solar in a big way. The Dallas County suburb will soon meet its total municipal electric demand with a solar farm built over the city's former landfill.

In February, the city of Farmers Branch selected New York-based [B.Q. Energy Development](#) to begin construction of a roughly 20-acre solar farm on Valley View Lane just east of the President George Bush Turnpike.

Once completed two years later, the solar facility will generate 13.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year for the city, which has a [population](#) estimated at around 50,000. That's enough electricity to power all the city's municipal buildings, street lights and other assets plus another 1,100 homes, says the city's sustainability manager, Alexander Pharmakis.

This article is too large for our newsletter. [Click here](#) for the entire article.



Adopting a More Eco-Friendly Lifestyle

If everyone reduced their carbon footprint, it would have a positive effect on the natural environment. Living a more sustainable and green lifestyle is not only healthy, but it's also good for the planet. The [Dallas Sierra Club](#) explains that a few simple modifications to your lifestyle and your home mean you can save on costs and help to conserve the planet.

Making Modifications for an Eco-Friendly Home

When purchasing or [building an eco-friendly home](#) you might want to enlist the help of an architect who is an expert in sustainable design principles or an engineer who is a certified green professional. Revamping your current home to make it more energy-efficient can increase its resale value, so it's important to keep a record of changes made.

Green Matters notes that an [eco-friendly](#), energy-efficient home should have:

- Low-emittance windows

- An abundance of natural light, which reduces the need for electrical light
- Water-saving appliances
- Solar panels
- Cellulose wall insulation
- Sustainably sourced wood from renewable forests

Implementing an Eco-Friendly Lifestyle in the Home (and at Work)

There are a few small things you can implement to live a more planet-friendly lifestyle.

- **Recycle.** Minimize your use of plastic by taking your own bags to the shops for groceries and your own eco-coffee cup when getting take-out coffee. Plastic shopping bags and single-use coffee cups are the two most common trash items found in nature. When you do use plastic in the home, be sure to put it in a separate plastic recycling bin.
- **Green up the workplace.** For business owners, many of these ideas can also be implemented for sustainability at the workplace. Reducing paper usage – or omitting it entirely – by digitizing documents is one possibility, as is emailing invoices to customers instead of sending paper copies. An [invoice generator](#) allows you to choose from pre-made templates to create customized invoices that include text, photos, your logo, and more. Look for an invoice generator that also allows you to download your invoice in your preferred format.
- **Compost.** Self.com points out that you can create your own nutrient-rich humus for your garden by [composting at home](#). Purchase a small countertop recycler where you can dump your fruit, vegetables, and other organic matter. Keep a composter in the yard where you layer leaves and twigs with organic waste from the kitchen, and then add fertilizer.
- **Switch off lights.** If you're not in a room, turn off the lights.
- **Solar power.** Going solar is effective, and homeowners can receive a tax credit for making the change. There are numerous [solar installers](#) that can help you harness natural energy.
- **Save water.** Water is wasted when switching on a tap and letting it run. Put a bucket in the shower to collect water and use it in the garden. Consider using borehole water for irrigating your garden or a [greywater system](#) that recycles water from your home.
- **Make plastic eco-bricks.** This trend started in Guatemala. Take empty PET bottles (2-liter soda bottles), clean them, and stuff them with plastic trash. The trash makes the bottles heavy. Put the lid back on when the bottles are full, and use them as [eco-friendly building blocks](#).

Go Green and Save the Planet

Start your green journey by making a few small changes to your home life — your health and the environment will thank you.

Image via [Unsplash](#)

Inspired by nature, the [Dallas Sierra Club](#) works together to protect our communities and the planet. Connect with us today for more info! 214-369-5543

Profile: Reneé Roberson

Programs co-chair

Reneé Roberson is a native of Dallas, Texas, and graduate of Bishop Dunne High School. Graduating from Walden University in 2014, she received a master's degree in public health, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from TCU's Harris College of Nursing in 1980. As a Parish Nurse for the Catholic Diocese of Dallas, she started the Health Ministry at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Reneé is a Registered Nurse for Parkland Health for 20 plus years experienced in Infection Prevention, Critical Care, Med/Surg, Population Health, and a current Advisory Board Member of Parkland's Red Bird, Bluit Flowers, and Oak West COPC Clinics.



Reneé has been a Sierra Club member for five years, is the Programs co-chair, and is on our Club's Executive Committee (Excom). She is a recently appointed District 8 Environmental Commissioner for the City of Dallas, and Interim Environmental Climate Chair for the NAACP.

Working in communities of color to reduce and eliminate environmental disparities, Reneé is a recipient of the 2021 Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Environmental Justice Award. Her interest for community education includes Recycling, Air Quality, Safe Water and Space.

Recommended Viewing



Click [here](#) to watch this short, fascinating video about The Ocean Cleanup - System 002.

Boyan Slat is trying to clean up **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch** which is the size of the state of Texas, and also turn trash into something truly valuable.

Water recycling, 4 minutes, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOefGELrWEw>

Earthship home and Conservation communities, 25 minutes, click here

<https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode-1212-greening-up-the-places-we-call-home/>

About the Sierra Club, 2 minutes, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7bq87ZLwmw>

Previous video recommendations are here. <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?videos>

Please give us YOUR viewing recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

Recommended Reading

Click on a book's title (below) for a link to information about the book at goodreads.com

The World's Littlest Book on Climate: 10 Facts in 10 Minutes about CO2 by Mike Nelson, Pieter Tans & Michael Banks

This book is a quick read on climate facts. The authors have given clear information about such things as why we know that the type of CO2 in the atmosphere is caused by burning fossil fuels, why there are more extinctions, wild weather, and why 2-3 F degrees impacts the earth so much. - Pam Klich
[Click here](#) for a free download e-version.

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores. [Click here](#) for Amazon.

There are also in-person discussion sessions, May-August, in Plano called the **Friendly Science Climate Science Workshop**. [Click here](#) to sign up. - Pam Klich

The End of Bias: A Beginning by Jessica Nordell

This book examines unconscious bias, which is unintentional prejudiced behavior that clashes with our consciously held beliefs. The book is somewhat surprising in its revelations. It made me think and re-think some things. For example, in diversity training, if you try to be color-blind, it makes bias worse; if you stress differences, it helps reduce bias. This seemed counter-intuitive to me, but the author explains why this is so. She uses real life examples to illustrate points throughout the book.

The author is very open about her journey in researching and writing the book, and how surprised she was with what she found during her research and also in what she found out about herself.

It should be beneficial to all of us in our everyday lives. The book is a quick read. Check it out. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

The City and the Coming Climate by **Brian Stone, Jr.**

This book taught me that there are many aspects of climate change that I wasn't aware of -- and that many of the world's climate change powers also are not aware of. Consequently, we are not addressing some of the most urgent climate change problems.

Most large U.S. cities not only are warming faster than the planet as a whole, they are warming at double the rate of global climate change, with major implications for human health. The implications for city dwellers are suggested by the 2003 European heat wave, in which 70,000 people died as a result of heat-induced illness. Managing urban heat (the heat island effect) is essential for mitigating climate change. After explaining the problems, the author gives concrete solutions to the problems. - Kirk Miller

Available at the Dallas library and at local and online bookstores

Previous book recommendations are here. <http://dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?buystuff>

Please give us YOUR reading recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org



Et Cetera

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous. - Aristotle

Accept what you can't change and change what you can't accept.

May the forest be with you.

Limerick

Early morning's a good time to be
On a hike through a meadow. For me,
 It's the best time of day,
 So of course I will say
I dew love morning walks in a lea.

- by Kirk Miller

Let Us Know

Please 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** and **videos** do you recommend? Please let us know. This is YOUR newsletter. Feedback is welcome (comments, suggestions, letters to the Editor, etc.). Submit feedback to newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

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

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](#).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is our calendar for the next few months. For complete listings, click [here](#).

May 10, Tuesday - IN PERSON General Meeting

Electronic recycling bonanza. Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

May 26-30, Thursday - Monday, Camp and hike Bandelier, Valles Caldera, and Santa Fe NF, New Mexico

- Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

June 7, Tuesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) 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.

June 14, Tuesday - IN PERSON General Meeting

Dallas trees and invasive species - Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

July 6, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) 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.

July 24-29, Sunday - Friday, South San Juan Wilderness, Colorado

Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

To donate to our Club, please [click here](#).

