



July-August 2015

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

Sierra Sentinel

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84th Legislature Highlights

June 1, 2015, was the official end of the 2015 Legislative Session... at least the regular session. There are always rumors of special session brewing. Go here to read highlights from the perspective of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter.

<http://texas2.sierraclub.org/texas-green-report/lege-update--june-its-over-its-not-over>



General Meeting - Wed. July 15, 7:00 p.m. Learn about Recycling!

Emily Leftwich, Community Outreach Coordinator for the City of Fort Worth, will update us on all aspects of recycling in Fort Worth. Do you recycle, or do you want to learn more about recycling in our community? Come learn how our recyclables can be put to work for us, and how we can take advantage of the FREE rewards program through



Recyclebank. We'll talk about ways to recycle more and recycle right in Fort Worth as well as answer common recycling questions. We meet at 7 PM in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. at University Drive, just north of I-30 in Fort Worth. The speaker is preceded by announcements. All are welcome!

New Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Website!

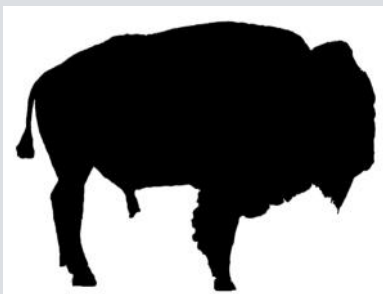
We have redesigned our website to make it more informative and easy to navigate. It's a great way to keep up with our latest goings-on and find out about upcoming outings and events and important environmental issues. Check it out [here](#).

Wed. Aug. 19, 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting

Sarah Josephson of the Texas Wildlife Association will speak about the mission of this group including their Conservation Legacy Program, L.A.N.D.S. This organization hopes to recruit volunteers to teach land and water ecology to DFW's youth. We meet at 7 PM in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. at University Drive, just north of I-30 in Fort Worth. The speaker is preceded by announcements. Please join us.



MEET AND GREET AT BUFFALO WEST TUESDAY, JULY 7, 5:30



Please join us at Buffalo West for libations, food, and fun. Tuesday is half-off craft beer night, so all craft beer bottles, draft or cans, are half price. We will meet on the covered patio (and yes, there are fans on the patio!) There are tables at the bar area indoors too, if anyone wants to step in and cool off.

Buffalo West is located at 7101 Camp Bowie West Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76116. It is behind the CVS Pharmacy and Golden Corral at the corner of Camp Bowie West and Alta Mere. Turn south onto Irene Street from Camp Bowie West. Irene St. is the street that runs behind the CVS. You can find a map, view a menu, and find out more information about Buffalo West here: <http://www.buffalowestfw.com/>.

This is a come-and-go event, so if you can't make it by 5:30, join us when you can. Learn more about the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club and our activities, and meet some new people who are also interested in enjoying the great outdoors and conserving our land and resources. Hope to see you there.



\$2500 Texas Rebate on Plug-In Car Purchase Extended to July 8, 2015

If you want the State of Texas to send you a \$2500 rebate check for purchasing a plug-in car, either a plug-in hybrid like the Chevy Volt or an all-electric plug-in like the Nissan Leaf or a Tesla (as well as a compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas vehicle), you need to purchase it by 5:00 P.M. on July 8, 2015.

The State extended the expiration of the program from June 26th.

The \$7500 Federal tax credit will continue.

Lake Como Park Cleanup

On a recent Saturday morning, a group of Sierra Club volunteers gathered at Lake Como Park for a couple of hours of trash pickup. We collected a large volume of Styrofoam, plastic bottles, and plastic bags, both from the ground and the lake. It was hot work, but a lot of fun, and the park looked much better after we finished. We plan to begin regular volunteer trash pickups at various parks and other locations in the Fort Worth area. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Meetup pages for upcoming pickups. Join us in keeping our city clean! Oh, and don't forget about the City of Fort Worth's "Ten on Tuesday" campaign, which encourages citizens to pick up 10 pieces of trash each Tuesday. Simple but effective! Find out more about it [here](#).



FALL 2015



Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, September 19 Trinity Trash Bash

Join us for the 24th Annual Fall TRWD Trash Bash on Saturday, September 19th. Location will be determined later. Everyone's hard work will be celebrated with an after-party at Panther Island Pavilion kicking off at 11 a.m. Enjoy free food, prizes, giveaways and entertainment by 106.1 KISS FM!

LONE STAR CHAPTER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS BANQUET

When: Saturday, July 18, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: Blue Mesa Grill, 14866 Montfort Dr. Addison, TX 75254

Join Sierra Club members, staff, volunteers, and supporters for a terrific night of celebration at the Blue Mesa Grill in Addison to honor 2014 Chapter Award winners! Each year, we take a moment to look back at the previous year and recognize the great work of our volunteers, staff, and other individuals with special awards to show our appreciation. Two members of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, John MacFarlane and Diane Lancaster, are award recipients. [Learn more about the awards here!](#)

To purchase tickets, please go to: <http://texas2.sierraclub.org/community/lone-star-chapter-environmental-awards-banquet-july-18>.



BUNNY CHEATS DEATH!

Watch a lucky mountain hare cross an avalanche.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2015-3-may-june/green-life/bunny-cheats-death>



Living Off the Grid

The Ghosh family of four in California has **zero** energy bills! That is, in day-to-day living, the family pays zero electricity bills, zero natural gas bills, and zero gasoline bills. They use no propane or firewood. The family meets the energy needs of its all-electric home through a 11 kW PV array. The solar system generates a net surplus which has been used to operate two cars for commuting, chores, and occasional weekend trips. Payback was 8 years after incentives.

Read how they did it [here](#).

Calendar of Events



TUES. JULY 7, 5:30 P.M. -- MEET AND GREET AT BUFFALO WEST. Please join us at Buffalo West for libations, food, and fun. Tuesday is half-off craft beer night, so all craft beer bottles, draft or cans, are half price. We will meet on the covered patio (and yes, there are fans on the patio!) There are tables at the bar area indoors too, if anyone wants to step in and cool off. Buffalo West is located at 7101 Camp Bowie West Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76116. It is behind the CVS Pharmacy and Golden Corral at the corner of Camp Bowie West and Alta Mere. Turn south onto Irene Street from Camp Bowie West. Irene St. is the street that runs behind the CVS. You can find a map, view a menu, and find out more information about Buffalo West here: <http://www.buffalowestfw.com/>. This is a come-and-go event, so if you can't make it by 5:30, join us when you can. Learn more about the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club and our activities, and meet some new people who are also interested in enjoying the great outdoors and conserving our land and resources.

WED. JULY 15, 7:00 P.M. — GENERAL MEETING Emily Leftwich, Community Outreach Coordinator for the City of Fort Worth, will update us on all aspects of recycling in Fort Worth. Do you recycle, or do you want to learn more about recycling in our community? Come learn how our recyclables can be put to work for us, and how we can take advantage of the FREE rewards program through Recyclebank. We'll talk about ways to recycle more and recycle right in Fort Worth as well as answer common recycling questions. We meet at 7 PM in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. at University Drive, just north of I-30 in Fort Worth. The speaker is preceded by club announcements. All are welcome!

TUES. AUG. 11, 5:30—MEET AND GREET AT BAR LOUIE. Take a break from the summer heat and join us for another meet and greet at Bar Louie. So come join us for some good company and cheap eats! Tuesday is \$1 burger night from 5:00 p.m. until closing, so you can chow down on a hamburger, turkey burger, or Portobello burger for only a buck. Bar Louie is located at 2973 W. 7th St., Fort Worth, at the corner of W. 7th Street and Norwood Street in the Cultural District. We will meet at the large tables to your right as you walk in the door. Learn more about the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club and our activities, and meet some new people who are also interested in enjoying the great outdoors and conserving our land and resources. Hope to see you there.

DAVIS MOUNTAINS STATE PARK CAR CAMPING—THURSDAY, AUG. 13—SUNDAY, AUG. 16. Need a cooling off during the hot days in Texas? The Davis Mts. are your relief from the heat! You will need a jacket during the beautiful mornings and evenings in the Davis Mts. Hiking in August? When it is only in the 80's - you bet! This is one of the jewels of Texas. Some of the events of this outing - dinner in Marfa at the El Paisano Hotel where Liz, Rock and James stayed while filming GIANT - and (hopefully) view the amazing Marfa lights, short hikes at the Chihuahua Desert Cactus research Station, other hikes in the mountains and at the Nature Conservancy Land. That is just the beginning of our adventure. The highlight will come at our visit to the McDonald Observatory - one of the best places for viewing the night sky in the world! Here is the best part - the PERSEID METEOR SHOWER will peak on August 12 - 14. A new moon on August 14, 2015 will create perfect conditions for observing the shower. Astronomers suggest watching after midnight on August 13, 2015. The Perseid meteor shower is one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. Davis Mountains State Park is the only state park where you can bring an RV, camp in a tent, or stay in the beautiful Indian Lodge. (nice restaurant in the lodge) You can make your reservations for RV's, camp sites or rooms in the lodge through the Texas Park and Wildlife website. The lodge fills up fast, so make reservations asap. Please contact nancymcvean@gmail.com - 817 596 5209 before making reservations. Nancy needs to know that you are coming and where you are staying.

WED. AUG 19, 7:00 P.M. —GENERAL MEETING. Sarah Josephson of the Texas Wildlife Association will speak about the mission of this group including their Conservation Legacy Program, L.A.N.D.S. This organization hopes to recruit volunteers to teach land and water ecology to DFW's youth. We meet at 7 PM in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. at University Drive, just north of I-30 in Fort Worth. The speaker is preceded by club announcements. All are welcome.

(Continued Next Page)

SAT. AUG 22 — WILDERNESS CAMPING AND BACKPACKING TRAINING, 8:30 AM-12 PM, First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth. Want to update your camping skills or learn more about backpacking? Need guidance in equipment selection or trip planning? This class is the perfect opportunity to learn about a variety of camping topics including selection and care of tents, back packs and day packs, stoves, hiking boots, clothing, sleeping bags and pads as well as meal and trip planning. Join experienced Sierra Club trip leaders as they demonstrate equipment, answer questions, and offer suggestions on trip planning. Participants in this class will be given first priority for beginner backpack trips this fall. Cost: \$15 per person and \$25 per family. Please contact Claudia Blalock by Wed. August 19 at (claudia.blalock@att.net) or 817/924-6242 for reservations and payment. Please mail payments to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76109 and make checks payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club.

SAT. SEPTEMBER 19 — TRINITY TRASH BASH. Join us for the 24th Annual Fall TRWD Trash Bash on Saturday, September 19th. Location will be determined later. Everyone's hard work will be celebrated with an after-party at Panther Island Pavilion kicking off at 11 a.m. Enjoy free food, prizes, giveaways and entertainment by 106.1 KISS FM!

SUN. SEPT. 20—WILDERNESS NAVIGATION TRAINING WITH MAP AND COMPASS. Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, 9:00 AM - 1 PM. Learn basic map and compass skills for use in national parks and wilderness areas. Class will include 2 hours of inside instruction and 2 hours of field work outside practicing with maps and compass. This class does not include GPS navigation. Chad Ethridge, former air traffic controller and water programs coordinator at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge is the instructor. Bring snacks and drink. Must preregister and prepay \$20 fee for class by Wed., Sept. 16 by contacting Claudia Blalock, [817 924 6242](tel:8179246242) or claudia.blalock@att.net. Additional instruction for class will be provided after registration regarding type of compass for class and location. Class requires minimum of 5 persons and maximum of 20 participants.

FRI-SUN. SEPT. 25 - 27 —WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE CAR CAMP. This unique wildlife refuge located in southwestern Oklahoma, has protected unique wildlife habitats since 1901 and is the oldest managed wildlife facility in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service System. Bison were reintroduced here, along with elk and wild turkey. More recent reintroductions include the prairie dog, the river otter and burrowing owls. The refuge is approximately 1 hour north of Wichita Falls and a 3 hour drive from Fort Worth. We will car camp both nights in a group campsite and hike on Sat. AM 6 miles on dirt trails inside the park. On Sat evening, a guided bugling elk tour is available on park roads not open to the public. For this tour, you need to reserve your own tickets by calling the refuge([580 429 2197](tel:5804292197)) at 8:30 AM on Mon., August 31 and requesting the bugling elk tour of Sept. 26. On Sun. morning we will also hike.

Please contact the trip leader, CLAUDIA BLALOCK ([817 924 6242](tel:8179246242)) or claudia.blalock@att.net) by Monday, Sept. 21 to reserve your place and to prepay your camping fees. Campsite fees will be shared among the group and will be approximately \$10.00 per person.

SAT. OCT. 10—STAR PARTY AT PALO PINTO MOUNTAINS STATE PARK. Explore the dark skies of night-time Texas at a stargazing party in our wonderful state park! The Texas Parks & Wildlife, along with the Astronomical Society of Dallas and the Fort Worth Astronomical Society, will be hosting a stargazing party at Palo Pinto Mts. State Park on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 5:00 pm. To get to the event from I 20 - go west and exit at the Strawn exit. Turn west on FM 2372 or the Tucker Lake Road from Strawn. Go two miles from Strawn and look for signs. You can bring your own telescope or use one provided by volunteers, who will be on hand to share expertise, knowledge and lore. In the event of rain or cloudy skies, the event will be the following Saturday, Oct. 17. If you've never been to a star party before and want to learn the do's and don'ts, please go to <http://www.fortworthastro.com/etiquette.html>.

If you would like to join fellow Sierrans for dinner, meet at the Smokestack Restaurant in Thurber at 6:00 pm. There is a Thurber exit off I-20, and you will see the restaurant on the right as you exit. You will be approximately 4 miles from Strawn. **Please contact: nancymccvean@gmail.com - 817 596 5209 if you plan attending the dinner in Thurber. We will need to let them know so they can set up tables for us.** Dinner at the Smokestack is an adventure - lots of history! and good food! We will follow each other to the star party after dinner.



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Have you Signed our Single-Use Bag Ban Petition?

If not, you can sign it by going to <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/622/890/475/support-a-single-use-plastic-bag-ban/>. We have over 400 signatures and counting. You can also like our Facebook page to keep up with the status of our campaign. <https://www.facebook.com/fwbagban>

Please help make Fort Worth an environmental leader by signing our petition to ban single-use plastic bags in Fort Worth. And remember, when you shop, bring your bag!



C'mon, Join the Club!!

Did you know that for only \$15.00, you can join the Sierra Club and enjoy all the benefits of membership? Such as a one-year subscription to the Sierra Magazine and automatic membership in your local chapter. And for a limited time, receive a free gift when you join. So please help support the Sierra Club by joining today!

To join and find out more, please click here → → → →



Sierra Club Mission Statement



To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human

environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. For more information, please visit www.sierraclub.org.

Do you Shop at Tom Thumb?

If your answer is yes, how about helping the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club earn money while you shop? Just link your Tom Thumb Reward card to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, and every time you purchase groceries, the store will donate a portion of the purchase amount to the Club. Just go to <http://www.tomthumb.com/IFL/Grocery/Home>, click on "Community Caring" at the bottom of the page, click on "Good Neighbor" in the column on the left, and then click on "Get Application and Start Saving Today." That link will take you to a form you can fill out to link your card to the Club. The Club's number is 4659. If you shop at Tom Thumb, please take advantage of this easy way to contribute. Thanks for your support!



Do You Shop at Amazon.com?

If so, you can shop and support the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club at the same time. All you have to do is go to our website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/texas/greater-fort-worth>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will see a link to the Amazon website. Just click on that link and start shopping away! Amazon.com will automatically gift a portion of the money you spend to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club. How easy is that? I hope you'll remember us next time you shop with Amazon.com. Thanks for your support. We appreciate it!

Social Connections



Are you on [Facebook](#)? So are we. Like us to stay up to date on outings, conservation issues, and any events we are having.



Meetup.com?

Find us there too and meet others who are interested in the same activities as you.



Visit the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club's [web page](#) and see a list of our outings, events, and upcoming meetings, learn about our bag ban campaign, and find lots of good links!

How to Join a List Serve and Why Should I?

If you would like to receive current information about club news, outings, and conservation issues, please sign up for our list serves. That way you won't miss out on any important news and will be informed if there are any last-minute changes to any of our outings. Occasionally an outing may be cancelled because of weather conditions, etc., so if you are on our Outings list serve, you'll be the first to know. And if you're on our News list serve, you'll receive a reminder about our general meeting each month. And don't worry, you won't get spammed. We don't distribute email addresses to anyone, so the only organization you'll be getting emails from is us! To sign up, go to the home page of our website or click on these links.

[Lonestar-FTW-News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Outings News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Conservation Forum list serve](#)

Cyberspace Contacts

Webmaster -Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407
fw.sierra.webmaster@gmail.com

How to Volunteer and Where am I Needed?

Volunteers are essential to any organization, especially one that doesn't have a full-time paid staff. Currently the Fort Worth Sierra Club needs help with:

- Outings leaders for car camps, hikes, and backpacks
- Fundraising
- Volunteers to bring light snacks and drinks to our monthly general meetings

If you want more information or are interested in helping us, please contact Claudia at 817-924-6242 or claudia.blalock@att.net

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
2905 Benbrook Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76109-2344
(817) 307-4808
ftwsierra@gmail.com



JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB NOW AND HELP US MAKE HISTORY.

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YES! I would like to give a gift membership to
Gift Recipient _____
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**Join today and receive
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Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____
 Signature _____

| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | |
| Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$49 |
| 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 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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