

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

July-Aug 2017

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Sierra Sentinel

August Monthly Meeting Wed. Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Learn About (and Meet!) the Bats

Bat World MidCities brings BATS to the Sierra Club. The program will introduce us to these



extraordinary creatures and the many ways in which they affect human life through lecture/discussion, artifacts, and live nativespecies bats. Special attention is given to White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that is devastating bat populations throughout the U.S. Bat World Sanctuary is located in Cool, Texas near Mineral Wells for the rehabilitation of bats and has worldwide prominence. Don't miss this educational opportunity. And bring the kids!

A suggested donation of \$3.00 per adult will help us defray program costs, since we are paying the presenter, but any amount is welcome and appreciated. Thank you!

A potluck dinner will be at 6:30 pm, so please bring a dish or dessert to share. Drinks are provided.

We meet 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. All are welcome! https://batworld.org/

Watch an "Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power" Sunday, August 6, 4:15 — AMC Grapevine Mills 30



Join us as we watch "<u>Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power</u>" the sequel to Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth. Buy your tickets HERE for the Sunday, August 6, 4:15 pm showing.

A decade after AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH brought the climate crisis into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. Cameras follow him behind the scenes – in moments both private and public, funny and poignant -- as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion.

an inconvenient seque TRUTH TO POWER



Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune Responds to Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement

As we all know, Donald Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the <u>Paris Climate</u> <u>Agreement</u>. According to the terms of the Agreement, no country can begin the withdrawal process until three years after the Agreement enters into force. The Agreement, which entered into force on November 4, 2016, has been formally joined by over <u>145 nations</u>, and dozens of countries -- including <u>India</u>, <u>China and the EU</u> -- have reaffirmed their commitment.

A recent <u>Yale Program on Climate Change Communication poll</u> found that nearly 70 percent of Americans, including a majority in all 50 states, support the U.S. participating in the Paris Agreement.

In response, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune released the following statement:

"Donald Trump has made a historic mistake which our grandchildren will look back on with stunned dismay at how a world leader could be so divorced from reality and morality. Trump has abandoned the standard of American leadership, turned his back on the what the public and the market demand, and shamelessly disregarded the safety of our families just to let the fossil fuel industry eke out a few more dollars in profits. This is a decision that will cede America's role internationally to nations like China and India, which will benefit handsomely from embracing the booming clean energy economy while Trump seeks to drive our country back into the 19th century.

"But the world should know that state and local action in the United States is moving strongly forward even in the face of Trump's historic mistake. For every terrible decision Trump makes, grassroots activists, frontline communities, local governments, and concerned people across the country are fighting to make sure clean energy continues to grow by leaps and bounds. With our allies, Sierra Club members and supporters have helped retire more than 250 polluting coal plants and ensured more than 25 American cities have already committed to getting 100 percent of their energy from clean, renewable sources by 2030.

"Our resistance is sustainable and we will serve as a counterpoint to Trump's dangerous policies every step of the way. Like leaders across the world, we aren't going to wait around for our climate denier-inchief to play catch up. As we win locally, countries across the world are already moving forward on meeting and surpassing their climate commitments. Make no mistake: the Paris Agreement was adopted after decades of climate advocacy by concerned citizens across America and around the world, and it certainly will not be derailed by the ignorance of one man."

July Monthly Meeting - Making Native Seed Balls and Learning about Water Erosion

Wed, Jul 19, 2017 6:30 PM

This general meeting is for the kiddos and their families, but of course, everyone is welcome! We will be making native seed balls and learning about water conservation and erosion with the stream trailer. Please join us at 6:30 pm for a potluck dinner before the fun begins. We meet in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Please bring a dish or dessert that kids will enjoy!



Living in Texas and being an environmentalist can be difficult. We fight and we fight, only to see the corporate polluting interests win. However, sometimes we win! Many members of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club sent emails and letters to the Railroad Commission in protest of the proposed well. Read the article below about a recent win for the environment and the people of Arlington and Fort Worth.

No disposal well – application for Lake Arlington site withdrawn

By Julie Thibodeaux, GreenSource DFW June 16, 2017

BlueStone Natural Resources has withdrawn its application to install a fracking disposal well next to Lake Arlington.

Ranjana Bhandari of Liveable Arlington was the first to report the news on social media.

"Somebody tipped me off that they might be doing that and I called the Railroad Commission and they confirmed it," said Bhandari.

A spokesperson from BlueStone later issued a statement. "BlueStone has decided at this time it will withdraw its pending application for its Cravens SWD Well, in order to align optimal company growth and expansion opportunities. BlueStone looks forward to continuing to support Fort Worth, Arlington and the communities in which it operates and to furthering its business development opportunities to responsibly provide clean burning natural gas that results in an affordable and reliable domestic

energy supply for all Texans."

BlueStone Natural Resources II, LLC , an Oklahoma-based energy company, submitted an application for the disposal well to the Texas Railroad Commission in January. It was to be located in east Fort Worth, about 9,000 feet from Lake Arlington dam, alarming many residents who saw it as a threat to a major drinking water source.

Disposal wells are used to bury deep underground fluid used in fracking that cannot be recycled. The wastewater includes oilfield brine and chemicals used in the fracking process. Disposal wells are banned in Fort Worth and Arlington. Cities and environmentalists feared that the company would lean on H.B. 40, a bill that severely limits local control of fracking, to override those city ordinances.

The cities of Fort Worth, Arlington and the Tarrant Regional Water District along with hundreds of residents submitted letters of protests.

Bhandari said Liveable Arlington was strategizing in advance of a public hearing on the permit in September when she heard the news. "We were thrilled," Bhandari said. "We were hoping for it but didn't know if it was going to happen. We want to thank the entire community for coming together to fight this threat to our drinking water. This happened because thousands of us spoke up. Our organization submitted more than two thousand protest letters against the injection well to the Railroad Commission. Let us celebrate, but stay vigilant to protect our water and air from polluters."

Zero Waste Should Be a Goal for Fort Worth

John MacFarlane, Chair

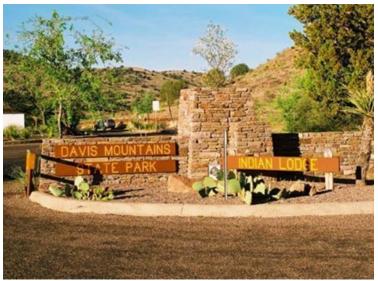
CRETHINKING WASTE For a Greener Fort Worth As the City of Fort Worth's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan 2016-2036 heads to the Fort Worth City Council for a final review and vote in August, we encourage you to join us when we attend the Council work session tentatively scheduled for August 2 or August 8 and the vote to adopt the plan, again tentatively scheduled for August 22. Non-profits, local businesses, and religious institutions are coming together to ensure this plan is a strong, sustainable, forward-thinking plan that puts Fort Worth on a path to zero waste. We know that zero waste (80-90% landfill diversion) is a long-term goal, but the City should be striving to reach that goal in the plan. The city's website states "(t)he plan will serve as a blueprint for how waste is handled and managed in Cowtown for the next 20 years." We expect this plan to serve as a blueprint on how to increase landfill diversion, create a more sustainable city, and how to move beyond traditional waste management practices, all while experiencing rapid population growth and associated development.

When the initial draft plan was issued, we believed that the City could do more to increase landfill diversion. Thus, a contingency of non-profits (Zero Waste Fort Worth, Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, Fort Worth Interfaith Power and Light, and Texas Campaign for the Environment) submitted a list of recommendations to city staff on how to strengthen the plan.

Thus, please plan to join us, and many others in the community, in August as we attend both the Council work session and the Council meeting. Look for an email and posts on Meetup and Facebook regarding dates and times. Please help us put Fort Worth on a path to zero waste, ensuring a more livable and sustainable city which can support population growth all while experiencing lower costs for waste management services. To see the draft plan, click <u>HERE</u>. And to learn more about the zero waste concept, click <u>HERE</u>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat. July 29—Day Hike Fort Worth Nature Center. We will meet at 8 AM at the Hardwicke Interpretative Visitors Center parking lot at Fort Worth Nature Center. After you enter the Nature Center, you will pay your entrance fee (\$5 per person) at the entrance booth and follow signs to Hardwicke. We will hike a 3-5 mile section of trails for approximately 2 hours. Bring water, hats to protect your head from the sun, snacks, and rain gear. Wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes or hiking boots since we will be walking on uneven terrain with rocks and dirt trails. The Nature Center is located in NW Tarrant County on Lake Worth. Take Highway 199 exit west toward Azle off 820 West on western edge of Fort Worth. Must preregister with trip leader to attend hike: Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817 924-6242 and. For more information on Nature Center, visit www.fwnaturecenter.org. No dogs or children, please. Hike is cancelled in the event of rain.



Sat. Aug. 12—Camping 101. First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth 8:30 AM – 12 PM. Want to improve your outdoor skills for camping and hiking? Want to hike beyond the paved trails of the Trinity River or River Legacy Park with confidence? Spend the second Saturday of August with the Sierra Club to improve your outdoor skills by attending our Camping 101 class. There, our experienced and patient Sierra Club outings leaders will conduct the Camping 101 class, demonstrate equipment, answer questions, and provide advice on trip planning. Topics to be covered include selection and care of tents, back packs and day packs, stoves, hiking boots, clothing, sleeping bags, sleeping pads as well as meal and trip planning. Class fee is \$15 per person to be prepaid by Aug. 10. Class size limited to 20 persons and participants must preregister by Aug. 8 by contacting Claudia Blalock - <u>claudia.blalock@att.net</u> or 817-924-6242. Details about the class including directions will be provided when you contact Claudia. A minimum of 5 persons is needed to hold the class.

Fri., Aug. 18 - Mon. Aug. 21 - Car Camping at Davis Mountains State Park. By August you may need a break from the heat! You can find cool nights (wear a jacket) and cool days and never leave Texas. Davis Mountains SP is the place! Camping, RV, and a beautiful Indian Lodge in the park is available. If you prefer a more comfortable experience in the Lodge, you can make your reservation through the Texas Park and Wildlife web site. If you prefer tent camping - make your reservation for a campsite in the middle of the campground. The camping area has one road through the park. We will be close if you are camped in the middle. I will have a Sierra Club sign on my car. If you bring an RV, please come to my campsite when you arrive and let me know where you are parked. There are many options for activities in the park.

We will hike in the morning - moderate hiking. but it is in the mountains - hiking boots are preferred and a hiking stick can be helpful. We will also hike in the <u>Davis Mountains Preserve Nature Conservancy</u> land and visit the headquarters of the Conservancy. Bring picnic food. We will picnic at the Nature Conservancy. If you prefer not to hike, there is a terrific bird blind in the park. The park is home to some exotic bird species you won't see in the north central area of Texas. We will visit <u>McDonald Observatory</u> on Monday to view the solar eclipse. Reservations are required. Please contact the trip leader, Nancy McVean, nancymcvean@gmail.com - 817 596 5209, to make your reservation.

Please let me know ASAP if you plan on being at this great outing, so I can make our reservations for the Observatory. We will visit Marfa, eat at <u>Hotel Paisano</u> where stars of Giant stayed while making the movie. It is a beautiful, historic hotel. Of course, we will see the Marfa Lights and any art exhibits from some of the world's great artists. One more adventure - we will visit the <u>Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute</u>, for short, beautiful hikes. There is also the original Fort Davis to visit.

Fort Davis has no chain restaurants, Wal-Marts or Hilton hotels, Just a quaint, pristine small town - with great Mexican food. It is a long drive, but once you exit off I -20 and I -10, you will begin the beautiful drive into the magnificent Davis Mountains.

Make reservations here: <u>Texas Parks and Wildlife Park Reservations</u> Contact <u>nancymcvean@gmail.com</u> 817-596-5209; <u>Davis Mountains State Park website</u>

(Continued Next Page)

Fri Sep. 22 - Sun. Sept. 24 - Garner State Park Car Camping. Join us for a trip to one of Texas' most popular state parks. Garner offers great hiking trails and the beautiful Frio River. On Saturday morning, we will have a moderate hike of between 3-5 miles that will take us up into the hills that overlook the park. Then we will spend the afternoon floating on the river. Saturday evening there is the option to drive 12 miles to the Frio bat cave, provided the bats are still here to view millions of bats as they exit the cave to hunt. Sunday morning we will have a short hike before leaving the park. You must contact the trip leader Lisa Gowan at lisagsierraclub@yahoo.com to register for this trip.

Fri. Sept. 29 - Sun. Oct. 1 - Camping at Tyler State Park. Enjoy a car camping experience in the Piney Woods portion of Texas that will allow time for geocaching, biking, kayaking, day hiking, birding or just plain reading with likeminded people. Maybe even a fireside chat as you begin to learn more and enjoy a different time with your camping neighbors. Come on out and enjoy the time. I am your adventure co-lead: Howard "Davis" Tubre, 817.403.8555 text and cell; I welcome your call/text as needed. Have not experienced wi-fi at the park, but keep my number handy for park contact. Ask the ranger for my site area. I will be in a 2003 Dodge Dakota with a yellow Wilderness Kayak (16.5 feet).

To obtain the details of the park, activities, fees, check-in and check-out, weather, available maps, special notices visit the following URL: http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/tyler

Park Address: 789 Park Road 16, Tyler, TX 75706-9141

Park telephone: 903.597.5338

To make park reservations, please go to http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/park_reservations/

I will be at the State Park beginning the day before on Thursday, 28 September. The official outing begins on the 29th. Participants are required to obtain their own campsites. There is a day-fee and a site-fee. A site fee can be shared with another camper, if allowed by the park.

Summer is here so please bring sufficient water and a water container. (A camelbak allows you to have free use of your hands but on the campsite you will probably prefer to use a cup). Hey, do not forget your food. 2 breakfast meals, 1 or 2 lunch meals and 1 or 2 evening meals and snacks. It all depends on how long you are going to camp. Please dress accordingly. It is still summer. Also, bring suntan lotion, chigger and mosquito protection, rain protection and a first aid kit. If the park permits, I look forward to a campfire in the evening. Please bring a couple of cords of firewood if the park is open to campfires.

Oct. 6-8 (Fri-Sun) - 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 6-7 miles on dirt trails inside the park. On Sun. morning we will hike 3-4 miles. Hiking in this park is on rugged trails which require climbing over rocks and uneven terrains. Hiking boots are required. Please contact the trip leader, Claudia Blalock (817 924 6242) or <u>claudia.blalock@att.net</u>) immediately to reserve your place and prior to Sept. 29. You must repay your camping fees to hold your place. Campsite fees will be shared among the group and will be approximately \$10.00 per person. Trip limited to 12 participants.

October 14 (Sat.) - Star Party, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. Come out and enjoy the beautiful nighttime skies at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park. Members of the Fort Worth and Dallas Astronomical Society will host this free event. Star Party from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am. Members of the Society are eager to answer questions and give information as to what you are viewing. Great outing for children of all ages! There will be telescopes that you can use to view the stars and constellations. Bring your own telescope if you like. Also a flash light with red light will be helpful. Car lights should be on parking lights when you enter the parking area.

For more fun, meet at the Smokestack Restaurant in Thurber, Texas. We will meet at 6:00 pm for dinner together and then travel to Strawn and the Palo Pinto Mountains State Park for the Star Party. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, 1915 FM 2372, Strawn. Texas. Exit I 20 at exit 361, go north on Hwy 16 four miles to Strawn. Go west on FM 2372 from Strawn. Go two miles from town and look for the signs - or you can meet everyone at the Smokestack Restaurant in Thurber and follow the leader to the Park.

Tarleton University has a museum and other interesting buildings at the Thurber exit. You might want to come earlier and check it out. Although Thurber has a population of 5, the Smokestack is a very popular place for some West Texans, so we need to make reservations and not take them by surprise. You must contact the leader if you plan on meeting at Strawn. If you don't meet at Strawn, the chances of seeing anyone you know is slim to none.. It is a star party and it will be very, very dark, lots of telescopes. There is no camping at the park, but there is ample parking space. Contact - nancymcvean@gmail.com - 817 596 5209

Earth Day at Weatherford College

EARTH DAY at Weatherford College is a very special day. The Science Department organizes the celebration. Science students at the college have their research projects about the environment and climate change on display Even Weatherford middle school students have projects on display. The Fort Worth Nature Center, Master gardeners, Master Naturalists, the Weatherford Young Democrats and their sponsors register voters; electric, hybrid and Tesla cars are on display; and several departments have displays about the abundance of plastic bottles thrown away and other non sustainable products that become garbage and pollution. And, of course. The Sierra Club is represented with the bag lady, which is the most popular item at the event. It introduces the oldest environmental organization to many who have never heard of Sierra Club These are the leaders of the future. They are faced with major challenges. Having Earth Day is a great start to having them recognize the challenge of saving the planet.





Ask Mr. Green

Q: It seems that liquid soap in plastic containers—with the pump mechanisms and so forth—is a lot less environmentally friendly than plain, old-fashioned bar soap. What's your take?

A: I've been suspicious of liquid soap since it appeared on store shelves around 1980. After all, soap has been around for 4,800 years, but there was never much enthusiasm for the liquid variety first concocted in 1865.

You're right—this kind of soap does have a bigger environmental footprint, according to Bill Chameides, professor emeritus and former dean of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. He notes that its carbon footprint is at least 25 percent bigger than that of bars. Liquid soap requires plastic bottles and their pumps, which lead the typical user to extrude six or seven times as much soap by weight as the ornery, traditional bar-barian. But note that bar users draw at least 30 percent more hot water than liquid aficionados.

Soap bars now account for only 30 percent of soap, bath, and shower product sales and have been slipping at a rate of more than 2 percent a year. So why is the liquid variety so popular in the home? It's essentially a marketing gimmick. Also, people tend to believe it's more hygienic, since many brands contain antibacterial chemicals like triclosan and triclocarban.

The FDA, however, has reached a different conclusion: In 2016, the agency banned 19 of these chemicals (starting in 2017) because soap companies failed to prove that they are safe for long-term use or make soap more effective.

Read more advice from Mr. Green and submit your own questions for him at sierraclub.org/mrgreen.



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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 $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

Help keep the air we breathe CLEAN.

Have you Signed our Single-Use Bag Ban Petition?

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

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!

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 <u>http://www.tomthumb.com/IFL/Grocery/Home</u>, 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!





amazon

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, <u>http://www.sierraclub.org/texas/greater-</u><u>fort-worth</u>, 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





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 <u>web</u> <u>page</u> 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.

| Name | | | | | | |
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| YES! I would like to give | a gift members | hip to | | Join today and receive | | |
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| Card Number | | Exp. Date | _/ | | | |
| Signature | | | | | | |
| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint | | itions, gifts and dues to Sierra | | |
| Special Offer | \$15 | | | not tax deductible; they suppor | | |
| Standard | \$39 | \$49 | | tive, citizen-based advocacy and efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 | | |
| Supporting | \$75 | \$100 | for a subscription to Sierra magazine ar \$1 for your Chapter newsletters. | | | |
| Contributing | \$150 | \$175 | | Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-104 | | |
| Life | \$1000 | \$1250 | P.O. Box | | | |
| Senior | \$25 | 🗌 \$35 | or visit our website www.sierraclub.org | | | |
| Student/Limited Income | \$25 | \$35 | | F94Q W 1909 | | |