



Mar-Apr 2015

## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

# Sierra Sentinel

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## KXL -- The End Game Begins

Surprising nobody, President Obama has quietly followed through on his promise to veto the bill from Congress that would have authorized construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. It's only the third veto of his presidency, and it means the way is now clear for the president to make a final decision about whether Keystone XL, and the toxic tar-sands oil it would pump across America's heartland, are in the national interest.

Why did Congress force the president to waste perfectly good ink reasserting his authority to make this decision? Certainly not because they were looking out for the best interests of the American people, who would be



accepting all of the many risks associated with Keystone without seeing any appreciable benefits. The more people learn about the project, the more they think it's a bad idea. [A poll just released by the League of Conservation Voters](#) found that after hearing arguments both for and against the pipeline, a majority of voters believe President Obama should reject it.

What's more, nearly two-in-three voters (63 percent) say that if President Obama decides the Keystone XL pipeline is not in the nation's best interests, then Congress should accept the decision and move on to other issues facing the country, rather than trying to force the administration to issue a permit.

Seems like good advice. Yet tar-sands supporters in Congress will find it hard to tune out the fossil fuel interests that want to see Canada's oil sands mined to the utmost. After all, the biggest foreign lease holder in Canada's oil sands is [none other than the Koch brothers](#). And they didn't become among the wealthiest people on the planet by taking "no" for an answer graciously.

But we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. For now, it's up to President Obama to do the right thing -- for America, for Americans, and for our planet.

### Please Join us for Blue Mesa Community Night

Tuesday, March 24, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
1600 S University Dr, Fort Worth, TX

Have dinner with us at Blue Mesa and they will donate 20% of the sales to our group. Sounds fun, right? We get our own area with plenty of room to mingle while we eat. We will have our merchandise table set up too. Bring all your friends and family...the more people who eat with us, the more \$\$ we get! This is a come and go event, so don't worry if you can't be there right at 5 pm.

**BLUE MESA**  
GRILL



Tandy Hills Natural Area, a 160-acre native prairie remnant located minutes east of downtown Fort Worth, will host the 10th Annual Prairie Fest, Saturday April 25, 2015. A FW Weekly Best Outdoor Cultural Event winner, this free, family-friendly festival will run 11 am to dusk. Set amongst wildflower-covered hills, the festival fosters environmental awareness with a fun, innovative, yet down-home event.

Come celebrate the festival's 10th anniversary with live, local music on 2 solar-powered stages. Enjoy guided wildflower tours for young and old at the Best Place to View Wildflowers in the Metroplex. Explore local art, craft, and green living exhibitors in the "Prairie Circle." Experience site-specific interactive art installations, plein air painters and "live artists" creating art on site. The festival features a kids area with educational activities and discovery hikes. Don't miss performances by storytellers, belly dancers, and more! Tasty local food and beverages will be available.

Prairie Fest - the greenest outdoor festival in Texas - is presented by Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area to sustain and grow their award winning environmental education and conservation programs at Tandy Hills. The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club will have an exhibitor booth set up at the festival. So join us on the prairie, and drop by and see us!



**City of Fort Worth Earth Party  
March 28, 2015, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Magnolia Green Park  
1201 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth, TX**

**Come join the fun at the fourth annual City of Fort Worth Earth Party. And while you're at it, enjoy live music and games, and learn about local conservation efforts and other green initiatives. The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club will have a booth set up, so please come by and visit. Admission is free.**



**River Legacy Park  
Earth Day Celebration**

**Saturday April 11  
10:00 am - 2:00 p.m.**

**703 N.W. Green Oaks Blvd.  
(at Cooper Street)  
Arlington, TX 76006**

**March General Meeting—The Trust for Public Land  
March 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

Robert Kent is the North Texas Area Director for the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit that creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. In November 2014, TPL opened its North Texas Area Office with Mr. Kent at the helm. He will present on the **Lake Worth Greenprint**, a recent TPL study of the Lake Worth watershed, as well as other TPL projects happening in the North Texas area. 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 followed by refreshments and announcements. All are welcome!



Join River Legacy Living Science Center as they celebrate Earth Day with nature walks, story times, crafts, activities, demonstrations & camping classes, and more. The Sierra Club will have an exhibitor booth set up, so please stop by and say hi!



## MONTHLY MEETING - WED. APRIL 15, 7:00 P.M.

Billy Cook, a certified arborist with Preservation Tree Service in Fort Worth, will speak about urban trees in our landscape, their preservation, and

environmentally friendly practices for their care. 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 followed by refreshments and announcements. All are welcome!

## Sat. March 21 - Equipment Sale And Swap At Bear Creek Ranch

Buy, sell, swap or just have a whole lot of fun at the BEAR CREEK RANCH in Aledo, Texas. Bring all your camping equipment that you have no need of anymore. You may want to upgrade or just get rid of stuff after cleaning out the camping closet. If you want to have your first camping experience without investing in the expensive new stuff, make a trade, or just shop - this is for you. You can bring equipment anytime after 10:00. There is plenty of room to set up tents, boats and tables for any other stuff. Tables will be furnished. Just bring yourself and your equipment or a desire to get a bargain. Please put a price on your equipment. We will have a picnic lunch around noon. Bring what you would like to eat - drinks will be furnished. Sale will be over at 3:00 pm. It should be a beautiful day at this remarkable organic ranch, which in May 2014 was honored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a [Lone Star Land Steward Award](#). To see a video about the ranch and learn more about their sustainable land management practices, please visit

<http://dixonwater.org/ranches/bear-creek-unit/>

Address of Ranch - 2701 Bear Creek Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. There will be Sierra Club signs at the entrance. Hope to see all of you there.

If you plan to attend, please contact Nancy McVean at [nancymcvean@gmail.com](mailto:nancymcvean@gmail.com) - 817 596 5209. We would like to know if you plan to take part in this really fun day. PS - Donations to the Sierra Club will be welcome!

## Volunteers Needed to Help Out at Events!

The Sierra Club will have an exhibitor table set up at several of the great spring events coming up soon in the area -- namely, Prairie Fest, the City of Fort Worth Earth Party, and the River Legacy Earth Day celebration. We need some volunteers to work at our tables and help sell merchandise and pass out literature. Two-hour shifts are available at the various events. See previous page for more information about the events and times/dates. Please come give us a hand, and have a lot of fun meeting people and enjoying the festivities while you're at it!

Please email John MacFarlane at [fw.sierra.excom@gmail.com](mailto:fw.sierra.excom@gmail.com) to sign up and get more information.



Some of the members of Paschal High School's Recycling Club who showed up in the cold weather to help make our February 21 recycling event such a success. Their hard work, energy, and cooperative spirit helped make it a fun and productive event. Thanks to all the students who helped!

# Calendar of Events

**Sat.-Sun. March 7-8 Car Camp at Mother Neff State Park.** We will camp overnight at this wonderful state park just 2 hours southwest of Fort Worth off I-35. It is the first Texas state park and has been recently renovated to add a new camping area and visitor's center. We will hike in the afternoon and have a special ranger program on Sunday morning. Trip limited to 10 persons. **Must contact trip leader to register to arrange camping sites before March 1.** Trip leader, Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 and [claudia.blalock@att.net](mailto:claudia.blalock@att.net).



**Sat. March 14, 8:00 a.m. - The Long Walk at the Fort Worth Nature Center.** Come join us for a hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. We will meet at the large parking area at the Boardwalk inside the Nature Center. The park opens at 8 AM. After you enter the Fort Worth Nature Center, you will pay your entrance fee (\$5 per person) at the entrance booth and follow signs to the Boardwalk. The hike will be 14.4 or 7.2 miles and will start at 8:00 am. We will have lunch (bring your own) at the halfway point around noon. For those not making the return 7.2 mile hike, cars will be waiting at the halfway point to take you back to your cars. After the hike, we will gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant (dutch treat). Wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes or hiking boots since we will be walking on uneven terrain with rocks and dirt trails. We plan to hike at a comfortable 2 miles per hour with short water breaks at trail intersections. Each participant must carry at least 64 oz of water (2 Nalgene bottles) and snacks. 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. Trip leader: Craig Woodcook, 817-983-1305 or [CAWoodcook@benekeith.com](mailto:CAWoodcook@benekeith.com). Just show up for hike; no need to preregister. For more information on Nature Center, visit [www.fwnaturecenter.org](http://www.fwnaturecenter.org). No dogs or children, please.

**Wed. Mar. 18, 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting** - Robert Kent is the North Texas Area Director for the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit that creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. In November 2014, TPL opened its North Texas Area Office with Mr. Kent at the helm. He will present on the **Lake Worth Greenprint**, a recent TPL study of the Lake Worth watershed, as well as other TPL projects happening in the North Texas area. 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 followed by refreshments and announcements. All are welcome!

**Sat. March 21, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Equipment Sale And Swap At Bear Creek Ranch** - Buy, sell, swap or just have a whole lot of fun at the BEAR CREEK RANCH in Aledo, Texas. Bring all your camping equipment that you have no need of anymore. You may want to upgrade or just get rid of stuff after cleaning out the camping closet. If you want to have your first camping experience without investing in the expensive new stuff, make a trade or just shop - this is for you. You can bring equipment anytime after 10:00. There is plenty of room to set up tents, boats and tables for any other stuff. Tables will be furnished. Just bring yourself and your equipment or a desire to get a bargain. Please put a price on your equipment. We will have a picnic lunch around noon. Bring what you would like to eat - drinks will be furnished. Sale will be over at 3:00 pm. It should be a beautiful day at the remarkable organic Ranch! Please contact - [nancymcvean@gmail.com](mailto:nancymcvean@gmail.com) - 817 596 5209. We would like to know if you plan to take part in this really fun day. PS - Donations to the Sierra Club will be welcome!

**Fri.-Sun. March 27-29 Car Camp at Lake Tawakoni State Park.** This is a relatively new park in the Texas Parks system and is located near Wills Point, TX about 90 minutes East of Arlington. We will be camping in water/electric sites, and you will need to make your own camping reservation, but you are welcome to share a site with others if you desire. Contact the leader before making your camping reservation since the trip is limited to 12 persons. Sites are \$20.00 a night. You can have up to eight people per site but only two tents. We will be staying in the White Deer camp loop. Activities planned for the weekend include hiking, biking, a potluck dinner, and campfire stories. The park also rents pontoons, kayaks, canoes, and tubes if you want to do some paddling on your own. Please contact the trip leader Carla Egyed to sign up for the event at [cegyed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cegyed@sbcglobal.net). You can also call or text at 214-886-1814.

**Wed. April 15. 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting.** Billy Cook, a certified arborist with Preservation Tree Service in Fort Worth, will speak about urban trees in our landscape, their preservation, and environmental friendly practices for their care. 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 followed by refreshments and announcements. All are welcome!

**Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19 - Car Camping at Chickasaw National Recreation Area.** Join us for a weekend of car camping in this beautiful recreational area in Oklahoma, known for its hiking, fishing, and water - lakes, streams, small waterfalls and mineral springs. On Saturday you can explore the park through a choice of two hikes. The first hike will be approximately 3 miles in length. The second hike will be slightly longer at 4-6 miles. There will be time in the afternoon to relax, visit the Travertine Nature Center, or try your hand at fishing. We'll meet for a potluck dinner Saturday night. There is the possibility of a short hike on Sunday morning. After leaving the park on Sunday you will have the option of lunch and a tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center. This center explores the rich history of the Chickasaw people. Leader approval is needed. The trip is limited to 16 people. Contact Lisa Gowan, trip leader ([lgowan10@yahoo.com](mailto:lgowan10@yahoo.com), 817-691-9901) or Mary Goodman, co leader, ([Larry-goodman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Larry-goodman@sbcglobal.net), 817-300-7982) to register. Additional information about campsite reservations and trip details will be emailed to trip participants

**Friday May 29, Saturday May 30, And Sunday May 31, 2015 -- Caddo Lake State Park Car Camping and Paddling Weekend.** Join us for a weekend of camping and paddling on beautiful Caddo Lake, Texas' only natural lake. Leader approval is necessary. Participants limited to 18. Camp at State Park Friday and/or Saturday. Paddle Caddo Lake on Saturday. Canoes available for rental at park. Meet at Mill Pond and be ready to paddle by 10 AM Saturday. Sierra Club liability waiver required. Contact Tolbert Greenwood at [tolbertgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:tolbertgreenwood@gmail.com) or (817) 455-3302 to register and for approval. Additional information and emailed trip details on request.



## GREEN SOURCE DFW

**Want to keep informed about upcoming events in North Texas involving environmental groups? Want to learn more about green businesses in the area and opportunities for environmental education? Then subscribe to the Green Source DFW newsletter.**

The stated goal of Green Source DFW is to advance the environmental movement in the Dallas-Fort Worth area by promoting: green living, sustainable practices, nonprofit environmental organizations, eco-friendly green businesses, environmental education, scientific information, public policy discussions, and socially responsible investing.

The newsletter is a great source of information and a good way to learn about and communicate with green groups and businesses in the area. Please visit their website at <http://greensourcedfw.org/> to sign up.



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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 → → → →



### 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](http://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 <http://texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/support.html> 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!

### 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 300 signatures and counting. 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!



## 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](mailto:claudia.blalock@att.net)

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



**SIERRA CLUB**  
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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