

Sept-Oct 2016

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

Sierra Sentinel

Thursday, September 22 6 AM—Midnight



North Texas Giving Day is an online giving event that provides nonprofits the opportunity to gain exposure to — and start relationships with — new donors, and for people in North Texas to come together to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits. This year, the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club (Sierra Club Foundation) is registered with North Texas Giving Day as a nonprofit, and we hope that you will take the time to make a contribution to help keep us going strong and doing what we can to make Fort Worth and the world a better place. The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club receives no funding from the national or state offices of the Sierra Club, so we depend on donations to enable us to present our monthly programs at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, create and present educational events, and work to protect the environment.

To make a donation, on September 22nd, please go to http://www.northtexasgivingday.org/#npo/greater-fort-worth-sierra-club.

September Monthly Meeting—All About Monarchs Wed. Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Randy Johnson, Horticulture Manager at the Dallas Zoo and previously at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park in Dallas, is an expert on monarch butterflies and milkweed. His presentation will focus on "Managing the Monarchs." Expect to have an opportunity to purchase native milkweed plants at our meeting for your yard. We meet at 6:45 PM for a short social period

and our program begins 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. All are welcome!

October Monthly Meeting—Solar Energy Wed. Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.

Kristina Ronneberg, Air Quality Planner with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, will describe the state of solar energy in North Central Texas. This will cover the number and types of local solar installations, what types of incentives and financing options exist, best practices, and what steps a residential or commercial entity can take to pursue solar. We will provide handouts or contact information about solar options for your home. We meet at 6:45 PM for a short social period and our program begins 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. All are welcome!





<u>Four of the Largest Urban Areas in Texas</u> Have Unsafe Ozone Levels

In August, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) announced its ozone designation recommendations for the updated 2015 ozone (smog) standard. These proposed designations indicate where in Texas the air quality violates the new pollution standard and include four of the largest urban areas in Texas. And in determining the DFW nonattainment area, TCEQ, in a nod to big polluters like TXU Energy's sister company Luminant, has failed again to address the areas where much of the pollution is created. Click on the heading above to read more.

Sierra Club Joins Bee Protection Suit Over Dangerous Pesticides

A new environmental challenge heating up over the last decade is the rapid decline of honeybees. Colony Collapse Disorder - or CCD - is being reported worldwide. The key suspect is a new group of pesticides – nicotine-like substances called "neonicotinoids," or neonics for short. Neonics are estimated to be 1,000 times more toxic than DDT, according to French scientist Jean-Marc Bonmatin. Neonics are similar in structure to the natural compound nicotine, but the neonics are synthetic-based chemicals made from petroleum like most pesticides used in industrial agriculture. Click on the heading above to read more.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 15 (Thurs.) 6:30 PM Solid Waste Management Plan Forum for Fort Worth, "Rethinking Waste" The third and final public meeting will give residents a chance to share their input on one of Fort Worth's largest green initiatives to date: The Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan. The draft plan can be found here: http://fortworthtexas.gov/swplan/. Scheduled to be held at the Botanic Garden Auditorium, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., the meeting will cover ways that the new Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan can address quality of life and ensure a healthy environment now and into the future. The goal is to increase landfill diversion by reducing, reusing, and recycling as much waste as possible.

<u>Sept. 17.(Sat.) DFW Water Conference. Richardson Civic Convention</u> Center, 411 W. ARAPAHO RD, Richardson, TX. Register

at <u>dfwwaterconference.org</u> now while seating lasts. Sign up via Paypal or with your credit card on Clean Water Fund's secure site. It's only \$35 till the price increases on Sept. 1 (includes lunch, 11 speakers, and exhibitors). There is something for everyone at this event: Dr. Neilsen-Gammon, the state climatologist, is talking about water and climate change. Dr. Carey King is talking about the water/energy nexus - how much water is used in ALL forms of energy (coal, fracking, nuclear, etc.) Dr. David Hala, is talking about pharmaceuticals now found in water. Carlos Rubinstein former TWDB chair, is talking about the condition of our water supplies statewide. And for you who just want to save water and save money on your monthly bill....there is an entire series of talks on saving water indoors and out with talks re: indoor water use, landscape specialists, xeriscaping, native plants for DFW, rainwater harvesting, and more! For more information, call Rita Beving at 214.557.2271 or reply to this email. This event is sponsored by Clean Water Fund, Dallas Sierra Club, Texas Conservation Alliance, NTCOG, Dallas County Community College District and EarthDay Texas. http://www.cleanwaterfund.org/dfw-thirsting-our-water-future

<u>Sept. 17 (Sat) Trinity Trash Bash</u>, 2:45 – 5:30 PM. Location to be announced. See Meetup page for details. Join us as we once again help to clean up the banks of the Trinity River. Join us for the 25th Annual Fall TRWD Trash Bash on Saturday, September 17th from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. http://trwdtrashbash.com/fall/. Our river is one of the many things that makes our community unique and beautiful and we can all do our part to protect it. Everyone's hard work will be celebrated with a 90's themed after-party starting at 5:30pm at The Shack. Enjoy free food, prizes, activities, giveaways, and entertainment by 106.1 KISS FM and live music featuring 90's Cover Band, Fun Time Chaos, and a firework show to conclude at 8:15 PM!

<u>Sept. 21 (Wed.) Monthly Meeting Fort Worth Botanic Gardens</u>. Randy Johnson, Horticulture Manager at the Dallas Zoo and previously at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park in Dallas. is an expert on monarch butterflies and milkweed. His presentation will focus on "Managing the Monarchs." Expect to have an opportunity to purchase native milkweed plants at our meeting for your yard. We meet at 6:45 PM for a short social period and our program begins 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. All are welcome!

<u>Sept. 22 (Thurs.) North Texas Giving Day.</u> Mark this date on your calendar to show your support for the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club via your donation through North Texas Giving Day. Help us to continue to bring you awesome and insightful programs, films, and activities. Stay tuned for website information. https://northtexasgivingday.org/

<u>Sept. 24 (Sat) Cedar Ridge Preserve Day Hike</u>. Please join the Fort Worth Sierra Club for a day hike at Cedar Ridge Preserve (Formerly Audubon Dallas). We will meet at 9am in the area by the restrooms. Please bring good walking shoes or boots, water, snacks, sunscreen, and your backpack if you want an extra workout. We will decide as a group which trails to hike. Optional lunch afterward at Chipotle Mexican Grill off Carrier Parkway. Contact Leader if you have questions: Errol Oguzhan at 817-726-9306 c or sierracluberrol@gmail.com.

Oct. 7-9 Car Camp at Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton, OK. This beautiful state park is a 4-hour drive from Fort Worth and located in southeastern OK. It has beautiful hardwood trees along with interesting caves we may explore. This is an exploratory trip. We will camp in a group campsite and hike 5-7 miles on Sat. with a shorter hike on Sunday AM. You will need to drive to this state park on Friday evening. To reserve your place, you must contact leader by email or phone: Claudia Blalock, claudia.blalock@att.net or 817-924-6242 or 817-307-4808 before 10/1. Trip is limited to 12 persons and requires payment of camping fees to leader by Oct. 1. Website for this park is >http://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.6415.

(Continued Next Page)

Oct. 17-21 Big Bend National Park. Join the intrepid volunteers of the Lone Star Chapter for the third annual habitat restoration service trip to Big Bend National Park. The service trip will begin on Monday morning, October 17, and end on Friday afternoon, October 21. Since Monday will be a full work day, volunteers should arrive no later than Sunday, October 16, to set up camp. Wednesday will be a free day for volunteers to simply enjoy Big Bend. (Last year several people crossed the border at Boquillas on their free day.If you would like to do so, you will need your passport!) During the last two service trips, our volunteer crew from all parts of Texas cut brush to restore prairie land, planted trees, and returned an abandoned eroded road to habitat. This year, the plan is to remove fencing that impedes wildlife. These will be full work days and we will be performing manual labor outdoors in a remote location, so you will need to be in reasonably good physical condition. The registration fee is \$55 and includes a donation to Big Bend National Park. Please contact EVELYN MERZ for more information and to register for the service trip at elmerz@hal-pc.org.

Oct. 19 (Wed.) Monthly Meeting Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Kristina Ronneberg, Air Quality Planner with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, will describe the state of solar energy in North Central Texas. This will cover the number and types of local solar installations, what types of incentives and financing options exist, best practices, and what steps a residential or commercial entity can take to pursue solar. We will provide handouts or contact information about solar options for your home. We meet at 6:45 PM for a short social period and our program begins 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. All are welcome!

Oct. 21-23 (Fri-Sun) Tyler State Park Car Camp. Friday through Sunday, October 21-23, 2016. Please join the Fort Worth Sierra Club for a car camp at Tyler State Park. Hiking the trails officially starts at 9 am on Saturday morning but participants may drive down and join us on Friday night with other Sierrans. Make your reservations for camping sites early as this park is popular and will fill up quickly. We will start at 9 am at trail parking area in southwest corner of park and hike around the loops A-D with a lunch at the picnic areas by the lake. Saturday night we may enjoy a potluck dinner. On Sunday morning we will do a shorter hike maybe around the lake and the Whispering Pines nature trail. There is also an optional lunch on Sunday in Tyler. Car Camp is limited to 12 people and approval of leader is required. Fee of \$5 per person is required to hold your reservation and is to be paid three weeks before trip. There is a \$5/day admission to the state park unless you have a State Park Pass and everyone is responsible for their own campsite fees. Contact Leader Errol Oguzhan at 817-726-9306 c or sierracluberrol@gmail.com.

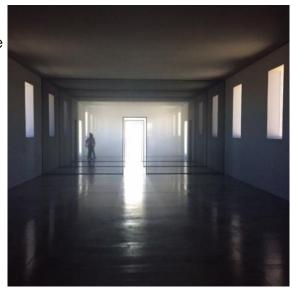
Oct 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpacking Trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness. This is one of the local Sierra Club's favorite local backpacking trips. Come and join us to practice what you've learned in the backpacking class. The Caney Creek Wilderness is located near Mena, Ark. in the Ouachita Mountains of southwestern Arkansas and is about a 5-hour drive from Fort Worth. You will need to drive to this area on Friday prior to the backpack which begins on Sat. AM. We'll hike about 4 1/2 miles one way and camp near a waterfall. We will be hiking along a shallow stream, and go across it a couple of times. There will also be a few small hills to climb. After setting up camp and resting, we'll do a short day hike as time permits. This is a relatively easy backpack outing, suitable for beginners. Priority sign-ups will be given to those who have taken the August 20, 2016 backpacking class. Please contact the leader to sign up. Trip rated: Easy. Leader: Marcos Jorge Send Email 214-682-6555.

Oct. 29- Sat. - Day hike the Mineral Wells Rails to Trails - 10:00 AM. One of the best trails for hiking is the Mineral Wells Trailways, and the best time for hiking is in the beautiful fall of the year. The trail begins in Weatherford and travels 22 miles to Mineral Wells. It is virtually flat because it is an old railroad track converted to a terrific hiking trail. No traffic or sounds of traffic - only the distant sound of a train's whistle. It travels through ranch country, lots of shade, benches along the trail and signs giving info about the flowers and fauna and Native Americans who were the first occupants of this area. It is a great place for birding -we will pass by a lake on our hike, so don't forget your binoculars, water, and camera. It is a wide trail and you might even meet a horse along the way. The hike will be approximately 2 miles out and 2 miles back. Great family outing - adjust hike to your fitness level. It is a get - away- from - it -all hike - peaceful, quiet, beautiful Texas country! Directions: Take I 20 to Weatherford - drive past Weatherford and exit at the RIC WILLIAMS MEMORIAL HWY. Turn right and go approximately 4.4 miles to FM 920. Turn left and go approximately 6/10 of a mile to brown sign announcing Mineral Wells State Park Trailways. Turn left and go 2/10 of a mile - turn left into entrance of Park. If you go to the lake, you have gone 2/10 of a mile too far. Contact: NANCY MCVEAN - 817 596 5209 - nancymcvean@gmail.com

Nov 4-6 (Fri-Sun) Dinosaur Valley State Park Backpack. Join Sierrans on this beginner backpack to Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose, TX located 1 hour southwest of Fort Worth. It is a relatively small park with dinosaur tracks visible when the Paluxy River is low. This will be a combination trip: car camp on Friday night and backpack on Saturday night. Campers will need to reserve their own campsite for Friday night at the state park immediately since there are only a few sites left. After packing up on Sat. morning, the group will backpack within the park and camp Sat. night in a primitive campsite. You may also drive to the park on early Sat. for the backpack portion. The backpacking route on Sat. will include crossing the Paluxy River and hiking up to 4 miles on dirt trails. We will decide how far we want to carry our packs after crossing the river since the trails are all loops that can be combined to make the hike longer or shorter. There is minimal elevation change. We will then hike out Sunday morning approximately 1-2.5 miles depending on which campsite we get. There are no restrooms or water so participants must carry water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning (minimum of 2 liters). You must contact the leader to sign-up for the trip by Nov. 1. Participants must provide their personal email address and best phone number to the leader so trip details can be provided. Leader: Carla Egyed: (214) 886-1814 or cegyed@sbcglobal.net. Trip limited to 12 participants and no pets please. The website for this park is. http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/dinosaur-valley.

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Trip to Davis Mountains State Park and the Chinati Foundation

The Fort Worth Sierra Club made its annual trip to the cool, beautiful Davis Mountains in July 2016. Besides the hiking, we visited McDonald Observatory, the Chihuahua Desert Research Station, Big Bend Museum at Sul Ross in Alpine, had dinner at the historic Paisano Hotel where the stars of Giant stayed, and viewed the mysterious lights of Marfa. We were fortunate to be in Marfa at the opening of the exhibit by artist Donald Judd, who made an impact on contemporary American art. In 1973 from New York, he made a trip to Marfa, Texas, with his family and became a part of the growing movement to environmental art. We were most fortunate to have an artist and fellow Sierran,



Preston Faggart, from Granbury to explain the importance of the work of Mr. Judd. The audience was an international group to see his work. This was really frosting on the already delicious cake!



The exhibit is part of a multiyear project...a dream of Donald Judd and Robert Irwin, as part of the development of old Fort D. A. Russell, which Judd had purchased and used to present works of his and other artists working the ideas and ideals of minimal, environmental, and experiential concepts. The 86-year-old Irwin turned in the plans last year and used the footprint of the Fort's

hospital for a walk-through structure...blurring the lines of inside/outside space. And to celebrate the new structure, a dawn to dusk opening was held with minimal guide/docent help. The two wings, the dark side to the northeast and the light side to the southwest... with scrims that reflected and transmitted sunlight and shadow, the earth on its daily spin... an impressive place for contemplation and wonder. And, of course,



it is a major statement in the progressing story of artists and their search for meaning and beauty, in this world that we Sierrans hold so dear and want to preserve.



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Tues. Sept. 13, 7:00 p.m. - Monthly Meeting of the Dallas Sierra Club. David Todd and Jonathan Ogren will introduce their environmental atlas, *The Texas Landscape Project:*Nature and People (Texas A&M Press 2016). The atlas is a five year effort that resulted in a compilation of some 40 chapters, 300 maps, and 100 images regarding the conservation history of water, land, energy, air quality, and public health in the state. They also will focus on comments about local topics of special interest to Dallas Metroplex residents. For more information about the atlas, click here. Todd has practiced as an environmental attorney, served as executive director of the Conservation History Association of Texas, and was the co-editor of The Texas Legacy Project: Stories of Courage and Conservation (Texas A&M Press 2010). Ogren, a biologist and geographer, is the founder and principal of Siglo Group, a firm that helps clients integrate natural systems into land planning and design. Everyone is welcome. FREE! You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We'd love to meet you. Our General Meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come at 6:30 for snacks, information and fellowship. Go to the General Meeting page for more information and a map.

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 $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow -$



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!



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





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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



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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint	Contribu	itions, gifts and dues to Sierra
Special Offer	C \$15			not tax deductible: they support

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	S15	
Standard	S39	□ \$49
Supporting	\$75	\$100
Contributing	\$150	\$175
Life	\$1000	\$1250
Senior	☐ \$25	□ \$35
Student/Limited Income	\$25	☐ \$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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