



BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 1

February-March, 2014

houston.sierraclub.org — facebook.com/HSCenvironment — www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings

WARNING!!

by George Batten, Editor

Many of you readers get the *Bayou Banner* as a mailed paper copy; others read it via the Internet. This notice is for both, but it is especially important for mailed-copy readers.

The *Bayou Banner* has always been mailed free to members and some others (supporters, libraries, political office holders, etc.). The cost of printing and mailing is substantial — almost \$7,000 in 2013. All of this came out of locally-acquired funds; the Houston Sierra Club gets *nothing* from annual dues that members pay to

See **WARNING!** on *Page 4*

See our Meetup page (web address under *Bayou Banner* above) for our activity schedule.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING (FEBRUARY 13, 2013)

ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

If the crazy on-again off-again winter we've had in Houston has given you "cabin fever," you will enjoy this meeting as we celebrate one of the great passages of spring: the colorful return of the migratory birds of the Texas gulf coast. Located 90 minutes from Houston, the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is 34,000 acres of prime birding territory; and one of the best times to

visit is during the spring migration. To help you plan for the spring birding season at Anahuac, David Sarkozi with Friends of Anahuac will present to the Sierra Club. David has worked on important birding books, as well as with the Texas Ornithological Society and the Houston Ornithology Group. It should be a colorful and beautiful way to welcome the spring. 🌍

MARCH GENERAL MEETING (MARCH 13, 2013)

WHERE TO HIKE IN HOUSTON

Do you long for a shady trail to walk, but hate to spend a long time in your car to get there? Have you lived in Houston for years, but never really learned much about the trails right here in our own backyard? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, we have got a meeting

for you! This program is all about where to hike in Houston! Laurie Roddy, author of the book *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Houston*, will give her personal insights into the very best of local foot trails. From suggestions like "best hikes for

See **WHERE TO HIKE** on *Page 4*

Annual Yard Sale
Your Help Needed!
See Page 3

10% VS. 75%

by George Batten

I'll tell you about the title in a minute, but first a couple of observations. Someone once said of the Internet: "It changes everything!"

Well, maybe not *everything*, but when you think about it, maybe *almost everything*. We used to mail letters, now we send email. We used to look for information in encyclopedias; now we use Wikipedia. We used to use the Yellow Pages to find sources of supplies; now we use Google. We used to rent or buy DVDs (or tapes); now we get movies from Netflix. We used to call long distance, even internationally for business purposes; now we send email or Skype. We used to go to bookstores to get new books; now we go to Amazon; only one bookstore chain remains in Houston. Want something to eat? Get on the Internet and order pizza. The list seems endless.

That is pretty exciting, so let me change the subject and talk about something that is trouble,

See **10% VS 75%** on *Page 9*

St. Stephens Episcopal Church
1805 West Alabama

Enter one parking lot from Woodhead, the other from Sul Ross. Before 7:00 PM, left turns to Woodhead are not allowed. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAYS,

7:30 PM

February 13, 2014

March 13, 2014

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Join us prior to the meeting for refreshments at the hospitality table and to visit the information tables for Forestry, Outings, and Inner City Outings. Find out how you can volunteer with us.

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The Sierra Club — Houston Group
P.O. Box 3021
Houston, TX 77253-3021

TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

Forest Walk

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE Sunday, February 16, 2014

Visit the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR). Some of the best bottomland hardwood forests left in East Texas are found in the TRNWR. Spring will be just around the corner and we may get a glimpse of early wildflowers. Birds will be coming out of winter and thinking of migration. It should be a lovely day to walk.

Bring your daypack, hat, water, lunch, binoculars, hiking shoes, camera, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a Silver Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers.

If you would like to come call Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or email him at brandtshnbt@juno.com and leave your name, address, phone number, and email. In case of trip cancellation Brandt will email or call you. ☺

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK Saturday, February 22, 2014

This is a unique opportunity to visit Davis Hill State Park, an undeveloped unit of the state park system located approximately 20 miles east of Cleveland Texas, and near units of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Due to limited state park funding allocations over the years, Davis Hill SP has not been open to the public except for very infrequent special tours. Service work at the park will likely involve clearing yaupon from the pocket prairies on top of Davis Hill (a salt dome). We'll work with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff, who will guide our work party.

Further details will be posted to the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website, including start time, rendezvous point, etc. Or contact Evelyn Merz at elmerz@hal-pc.org or 713-644-8228 for complete information. ☺

Forest Walk

GRIMES COUNTY SIERRANS Saturday, March 15, 2014

Visit two of our wonderful rural Houston Sierra Club members. We will learn what Regina Levoy

and Sue and Walt Gregory have done to attract and keep wildlife on their properties in Grimes County. This will be a great time of year with spring bursting forth green and wildflowers blooming.

Bring your daypack, water, lunch, hiking shoes, cameras, bug repellent, sunscreen, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. Long pants are highly recommended!

We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:20 am. We will leave by 7:30 a.m. We will meet in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver-gray Honda Civic with a lot of bumper-stickers on the back. We will get back about 5:30 or 6:00 pm.

Contact Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnbt@juno.com and leave your name, phone number, and email. This information will be used if there is any change in plans or if the Forest Walk is canceled due to inclement weather. ☺

Beach Cleanup

NORTH JETTY BEACH CLEAN UP Saturday, March 22, 2014 10:00am-1:00pm

The Houston Group has adopted this stretch of beach as part of the Texas "Adopt-A-Beach Program". The North Jetty is a popular fishing, crabbing, and birding spot on the Bolivar Peninsula just south of the Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats Sanctuary. Because this site is heavily used, trash and litter have been a problem. Much of the trash, such as discarded fishing line and plastics, are hazards to area wildlife.

From Galveston we will take the ferry to Bolivar, watching for birds and dolphins on the way. It is interesting to visit the jetty in different seasons. In winter there is usually a flock of white pelicans close by. After the clean up, those interested can visit the Bolivar Flats Audubon Sanctuary or Anahuac NWR depending on the route taken back to Houston. We plan to return to Houston by late afternoon.

We may have a rendezvous point for those wishing to carpool from central Houston. For meet up times and complete details, contact Frank Blake, frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. ☺

Trail Work

LONE STAR HIKING TRAIL Saturday, March 22, 2014

Enjoy a trail maintenance hike on the Lone Star Hiking Trail in the Sam Houston National Forest.

The part of the trail to be maintained will be chosen depending on which sections are still closed due to salvage logging. Bring your daypack, two quarts of water, lunch, hiking shoes, hat, insect repellent, and clothes to fit the weather. And don't forget to bring your sense of camaraderie, humor, and adventure!

We will meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot behind the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at I-45 North and Greens Road. Look for a maroon and silver F-150 truck. To reach the parking lot, enter the feeder off I-45 North, via the Greens Road exit, and then pass through the traffic signal at Greens Rd. Turn right into the first strip center you come to (look for Brown Sugar's Barbecue) and drive to the end of the strip center. The parking lot behind IHOP is on the right.

Contact Darrell Matula at 281-667-7024 or drmatula@verizon.net for additional details. Please supply your name and contact information in case we need to contact you. One can also check the Houston Sierra Club Meetup site on the web for possible updates and sign up there. ☺

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK Saturday, March 29, 2014

This is another opportunity to visit Davis Hill State Park, an undeveloped unit of the state park system located approximately 20 miles east of Cleveland Texas, and near units of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Due to limited state park funding allocations over the years, Davis Hill SP has not been open to the public except for very infrequent special tours. Service work at the park will likely be clearing invasive tallow trees in an area that we have not yet worked in. The work will be with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff, who will guide our work party.

Further details will be posted to the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website, including start time, rendezvous point, etc. Or contact Evelyn Merz at elmerz@hal-pc.org or 713-644-8228 for complete information. ☺

Big Thicket

BIG THICKET WEEKEND Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, 2014

Enjoy a spring weekend in the Big Thicket. On Saturday, we will visit and do service work on Marysee Prairie, the only tall-grass prairie in the Big Thicket that has been restored. We will probably cut woody vegetation and inventory blooming wildflowers and prairie grasses. This is a good way to learn some of the grasses and wildflowers that are naturally found in the Big Thicket. After lunch

TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

we will visit one of the units of Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP).

We will then spend the night at the home of Maxine Johnston, the “Godmother of the Big Thicket,” in Batson, Texas. We will have a delicious meal, share stories about the Big Thicket and our other outdoor exploits, and engage in camaraderie with interesting folks. On Sunday we will pick a place in BTNP and enjoy a spring hike.

Come for one day or spend the entire weekend. Bring a daypack, plenty of water, hat, field guides, binoculars, and comfortable hiking shoes and warm clothes. If you stay overnight bring what you need for the evening and a sleeping bag.

We will meet to coordinate our carpool/caravan at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver-gray Honda Civic with a lot of bumperstickers on the back.

Call Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or email him at brandtshnbt@juno.com and reserve a space (leave your name, phone number, and email). 🌐

Nature Center

SHANGRI LA GARDENS IN ORANGE, TEXAS Saturday, May 10, 2014

Join us on a walking, birding, botanizing, and just plain fun trip to Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas. The 252 acre area contains a cypress swamp, bird blind, botanical gardens, nature center, and outpost tours centered on Ruby Lake and Adams Bayou. An over 1,000 year old Bald Cypress exists on the property.

Bring a daypack, hat, water, lunch/snacks, binoculars, hiking shoes, camera, bug repellent, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:30 am in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (south side of Beechnut, near the West Loop South). Look for a silver Honda Civic with lots of bumper stickers. Fee for the gardens/tour is \$10.

Call or email Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnbt@juno.com and leave your name, address, phone number, and email. In case of trip cancellation Brandt will either email or call you. 🌐

Service

DAVIS HILL STATE PARK Saturday, April 26, 2014

Yet another opportunity to visit Davis Hill State Park, an undeveloped unit of the state park system located approximately 20 miles east of Cleveland Texas, and near units of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Due to limited state park funding allocations over the years, Davis Hill SP has not been open to the public except for very infrequent special tours. Again, service work at the park will likely be clearing invasive tallow trees in an area that we have not yet worked in. The work will be with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. staff, who will guide our work party.

Further details will be posted to the Houston Sierra Club Outings Meetup website, including start time, rendezvous point, etc. Or contact Evelyn Merz at elmerz@hal-pc.org or 713-644-8228 for complete information. 🌐

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (ExCom) has changed. Mary Schultz resigned and Joe Linkfellner graciously stepped out when there was a three-way tie in the election. The ExCom now has the following members:

Art Browning (Chair), Jim Williams (Vice Chair), Lorraine Gibson (Treasurer), Page Williams (Secretary), George Batten (*Bayou Banner* Editor), Frank Blake (Outings Chair), Grace Martinez (GBASCH Director), Evelyn Merz (Conservation Committee Chair) Jen Powis (Alternate Lone Star Chapter Delegate). 🌐

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday, May 10, 2013 2318 Waugh Dr. at Fairview

Is it time for some spring cleaning? Don't forget the Sierra Club yard sale; you can 'recycle' those unneeded items. The sale will take place Saturday, May 10, from 8am-4pm at “CORAZON Fair Trade”, 2318 Waugh (at the corner with Fairview). We will gladly accept most saleable items, including clothing, knickknacks, furniture, books, etc. We also need help the day of the sale, particularly for the morning set up and the afternoon knock-down. To donate items, either bring them to the General Meeting on May 8, or you may drop off items at CORAZON (713-526-6591, call for current hours), during the week immediately prior to the sale (but NOT before Saturday, May 3). The web address for CORAZON is CorazonFairTrade.com.

Please bag or box up smaller items. Large objects such as furniture would be best delivered to the site on the morning of the sale. If you have workable appliances, electronics, etc. to donate, securely attach an index card that describes the condition of the item, and any information a potential buyer would need to know. This is important! If we don't know the workability of an item, we are forced to sell it for far less than its potential value. Please DO NOT BRING broken or obsolete computers, computer peripherals, or non-working electronics. Those items should go directly to an e-waste recycling facility.

This event is one of the Houston Group's annual fundraising efforts. All proceeds go to support the Houston Group and its local conservation and educational programs. To volunteer, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 🌐

See the outings calendar at our website

<http://houston.sierraclub.org>

for possible additions to schedule.

Click **Calendar**, then

scroll down to **Quick Links**.

Also, the calendar is available on our

Meetup site:

www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings

NOTICES

Sierra Club is a California non profit corporation, with “California Seller of Travel” registration number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>, or contact the Outings Department at the national Sierra Club office at (415)-977-5528 for a printed version. 🌐

LEADER TRAINING

For leader training, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 🌐



WARNING!

Continued from page 1

the national Sierra Club (a few years ago we got a small subvention from those funds, but that is no longer the case).

Perhaps I should remind you that the Houston Sierra Club has no paid staff. All of the management, operation, and support — including writing, editing, and layout of the *Bayou Banner* — are done by volunteers. We do pay a commercial printer and a mailing company for services necessary for printing and mailing.

Before 2011 the Bayou Banner was published in ten issues each year. In an effort to balance the budget, this was reduced to six issues each year beginning in 2011, and members were encouraged to see it online and opt-out of getting mailed paper copies (approximately half of our members have done so — if you haven't done this, just get on the listserve; see the middle of page 12).

Income from our activities has not kept up with expenses, so for 2014 the ExCom set the budgeted amount for Bayou Banner publication, including mailing, at \$4,025 — a little more than half of the cost for 2013.

In the past the Bayou Banner has been essential to operation of the Houston Sierra Club. It was the only way to inform all members of outings, trips, meetings, and special activities by the club and by other organizations. Electronic communication has changed that.

Our web site (sierraclub.houston.org) provides that for most of our members and many others. Moreover, our Meetup site (meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings) is an easy-to-use calendar of events which reaches many people who are not members, and our Facebook page (facebook.com/HSCenvironment) promotes discussion about environmental issues.

Also, the bimonthly publication schedule has created other problems. In order to allow for editing, layout, publication, and mailing, events announced in the *Bayou Banner* must be scheduled three months in advance. While this is not a great problem for many activities, it does put a strain on those leaders planning local outings.

The Executive Committee of the Houston Sierra Club has reviewed this situation and has decided to terminate large-scale free mailouts of the Bayou Banner.

General mailout of the Bayou Banner will cease after the June-July, 2014 issue.

We are investigating possibilities, and **we expect to have a subscription plan for mail delivery of paper copies**. This likely will require subscribers to pay a small fee (probably no more than \$10.00 per year). See the next issue of the *Banner* (or our web site) for details. 🌐



Zion National Park, Utah

From Wikipedia

WHERE TO HIKE IN HOUSTON

Continued from page 1

bird watching” and “best hikes for children,” to where to go to hike with your dogs, and even wheelchair accessible hikes. She will also share her favorite hiking trails for solitude, and places to see wildflowers. If you name your favorite hiking experience, she will give you suggestions on how to find it without spending all day cooped up in a car driving there. Spring is just around the corner, and so is good hiking! 🌐

AIR QUALITY ADVOCATES NEEDED

by Brandt Mannchen

Did you know that the earliest human air pollution problem was due to cooking fires? Did you know that air pollution from coal burning was so bad in 1306 that coal burning was prohibited in London? These are fascinating facts about air pollution. However, the reality in Houston is much

more significant. Our air is not clean enough to breathe or to ensure that you and your family's health are protected from disease.

What can you do? The Houston Sierra Club is seeking the participation of its members in the creation of and the active advocacy by an Air Quality Committee.

This includes a chair and members for the Air Quality Committee. Training and mentoring will be provided free! What the Houston Sierra Club expects from volunteers is a willingness to learn about air quality issues, persistence and patience, and active advocacy for clean air. The Houston Sierra Club is looking for people who are willing to:

- 1) Act as advisors to the Houston Sierra Club Executive Committee on air quality issues.
- 2) Discuss and implement issues, priorities, goals, objectives, and strategies.
- 3) Educate members and non-members and encourage their involvement in air quality issues.
- 4) Communicate and work with Sierra Club legislative, lobbying, and political efforts for air quality on the national, chapter, and group levels.

If you want to volunteer for the Houston Sierra Club Air Quality Committee contact either Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 (brandtshnbt@juno.com) or Evelyn Merz at 713-644-8228 (elmerz@hal-pc.org).



NEW HOUSTON RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

15 percent More Energy Efficient than Statewide Code

Communicated by Frank Blake

From the *City of Houston eNewsletter*.

On January 8, 2014, Houston City Council approved another five percent increase in the Houston Residential Energy Conservation Code. With this increase, the local minimum energy efficiency requirements for new construction of one and two family homes, townhouses and apartments up to three stories in height is 15 percent above what is mandated by state law. This is the third year in a row the local code has been increased by five percent.

In addition to adopting new residential building energy efficiency codes, the City itself is continuing to retrofit municipal buildings to make them more energy efficient. Since 2007, the City has seen a 26% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on the new code contact Lisa.Brown@houstontx.gov. 🌐

LOS ANGELES REVISES BUILDING CODE TO REQUIRE COOL ROOFS

Communicated by Frank Blake

In December 2013 the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed a revision to that city's building code to require all new and refurbished homes to have cool roofs, which use sunlight reflecting materials. The resolution was pushed by Climate Resolve, a local organization which works throughout Southern California to prepare the region for the impacts of climate change.

A report, titled *Bright Roofs, Big City*, which analyzed the potential benefits of widespread adoption of cool roofs in Los Angeles, found that besides reducing the heat island effect, \$30 million would be saved on energy bills and greenhouse gases would be cut by the equivalent of taking 7 million cars off the road for a year.

Cool roofs reflect so much sun that they can be 50°F cooler during the heat of summer, keeping building interiors several degrees Fahrenheit cooler.

According to Steven Chu, former Secretary of the Department of Energy, cool roofs are one of the quickest and lowest cost ways we can reduce our global carbon emissions and begin the hard work of slowing climate change. While Secretary, Chu directed his agency to install them during renovations.

Reflective surfaces do not need to be white. Materials with high solar-reflectance can come in a range of colors, including many shades of gray and red. Hence the term "cool roofs".

Los Angeles is the first major U.S. city to adopt a cool roofs requirement. New York City also has a cool roofs program, but it is not mandatory.

For more info on cool roofs check the websites of:

Global Cool Cities Alliance
Climate Resolve



RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Houston Sierra Club gets a small part of your membership renewal fee (the rest of it is used by the National Sierra Club and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club). The amount passed to the Houston Sierra Club is more if you use a credit card and renew on line through our website than if you mail a check.



ACRONYMS

Sometimes the acronyms and abbreviations appearing in the Bayou Banner seem overwhelming, so this list is included to help our readers (and the editor). -Ed.

Specific to this Issue of the Bayou Banner

NVRA National Voter Registration Act

General

BTNP	Big Thicket National Preserve
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ExCom	Executive Committee
FS	U. S. Forest Service
GBASCH	Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston
HSC	Houston Sierra Club
LSHT	Lone Star Hiking Trail
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
PDF	Portable Document Format (computer file)
SC	Sierra Club
SHNF	Sam Houston National Forest
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation

Desalination! What?

You know, removal of salt from seawater. It seems like a good way to supplement our freshwater supplies. Yes, but the costs are high, especially in the quantities needed to make a difference.

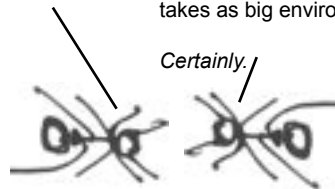
What costs? I thought they had dropped.

It's true that technologies have improved and the direct cost to convert a liter of water have been reduced, but there are other costs.

Such as?

The Lone Star Chapter has a new report; *Desalination: Is it Worth its Salt*, that identifies energy requirements, disposal of the brine produced, and intrainment of aquatic species in seawater intakes as big environmental issues.

Wow! I want to learn more about this! Can I get a copy at texas.sierraclub.org/press/Desalination.pdf?



Current numbering of Bayou Banner issues uses odd numbers to correspond, approximately, to the monthly numbering used previously.

SIERRA INFO ON LINE

by John Berlinghoff

Since paper copies of the Bayou Banner are being mailed only every other month, we now have some other options to keep you informed.

- The HSC Website at <http://houston.sierraclub.org> has our Bayou Banner pictures in color, links, etc.
- Monthly Outings Newsletter, a shortened version of the outings list that I send out monthly.
- FaceBook Page for our Group, information on activities and environmental or political news.
- FaceBook page for Houston Sierra Club Outdoors, the latest news on outings and other stuff about the outdoors. Look us up at HscOutdoors.
- Twitter @sierraouting is a work in progress.

For help in finding the Facebook pages or for any other questions contact me. John Berlinghoff: johnb@hal-pc.org, 713/644-8228.

RECYCLE ALMOST ANYTHING

New "Recycle just about anything" website: TCE Fund has re-launched its website www.TexasTakeBack.org, which is designed as a comprehensive guide to give you information for recycling almost anything. Need to recycle your electronics, pharmaceuticals or CFLs? Want to know how to reduce household plastic or paper waste? Check out the new site, and give us your feedback, please!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.
2. Practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.
3. Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
4. Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 1
houston.sierraclub.org • [facebook.com/HSCEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/HSCEnvironment) • www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings

February-March, 2014

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 6 times a year by the Houston Sierra Club. Circulation is 5,000.

EDITOR: George Batten

Email: BayouBanner@gmail.com Website: <http://houston.sierraclub.org>

Opinions stated are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Houston Sierra Club.

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Bayou Banner Advertising Information

The *Bayou Banner* is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also known as the Houston Sierra Club). It is published 6 times per year (bimonthly, starting with the February-March issue). All advertising must be compatible with the mission of the Sierra Club, and it must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. The circulation is over 4,000 per issue (including electronic deliveries).

Discounts are applied only if an order for all issues is made in advance. Back page and preferred pages may not be available in some issues.

Contact George Batten, Editor:
BayouBanner@gmail.com

Rate Schedule

Full page	\$400.00	per issue
1/3 page	\$160.00	per issue
1/4 page	\$125.00	“ “
1/8 page	\$ 75.00	“ “
1/18 page	\$ 45.00	“ “

(1/18 page is business card size)

Discounts

2 issues	3%
3 issues	5%
4 issues	6%
6 issues	10%
10 issues	15%

Additional

Back page (if available)	+50%
Preferred page (not front or back page)	+25%

Submissions should be images in TIFF, JPEG or PDF format with at least 300 dots per inch. Color shows on the Internet web site; the mailed copies are in black-and-white.

The boxes show the sizes (they are not full size when this is reduced and printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper). Full page size is 10.5" wide x 11" high, with 0.5" margins.

All advertising (except political ads) is included in the *Bayou Banner* versions which are placed on the Houston Sierra Club's website.

Those versions, which can be read and printed using the free Adobe Acrobat reader, are in color. They are open to the public.

1/8 Page
3.9 inches x 3.5 inches

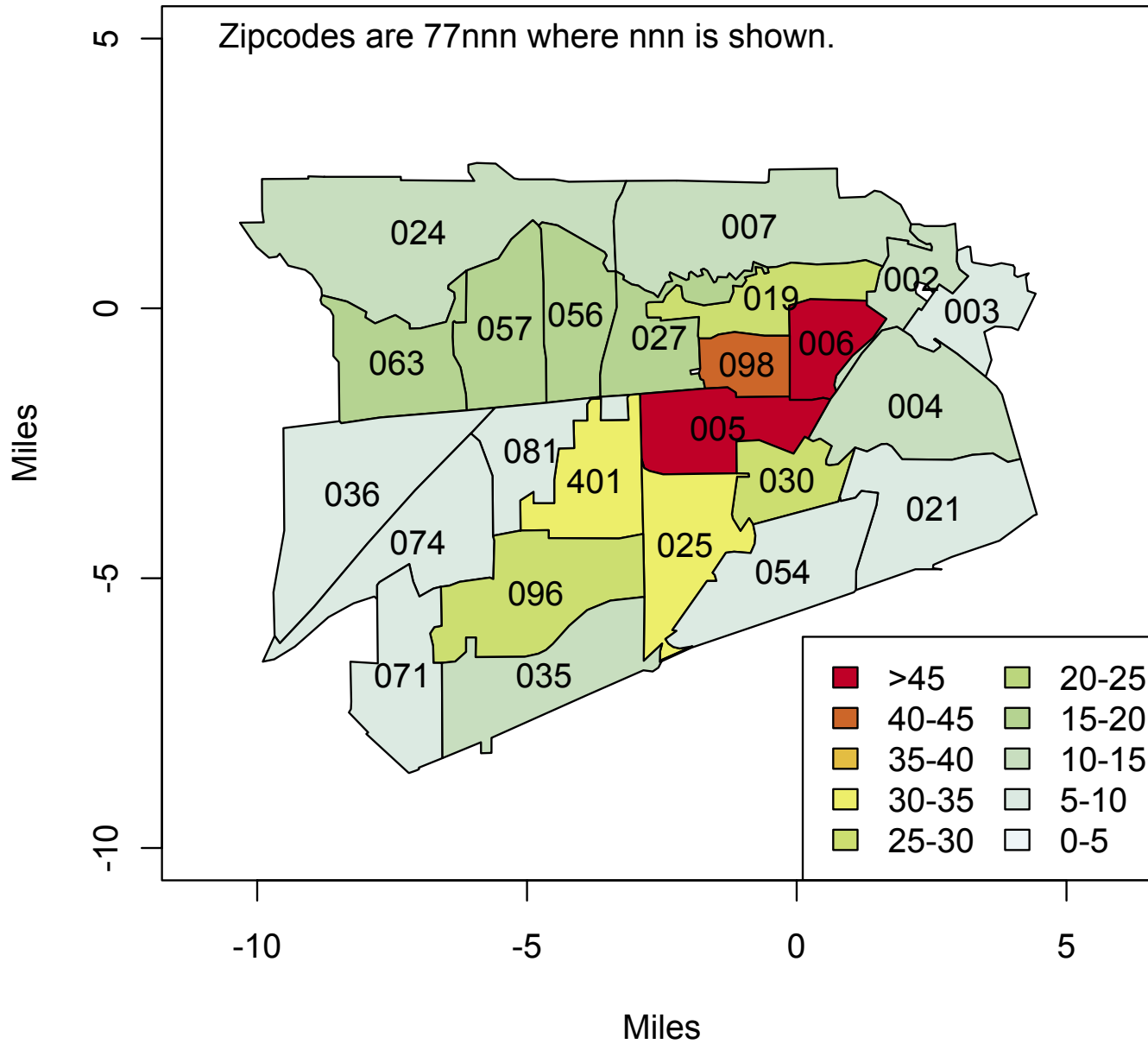
1/18 Page
3.0 inches x 2.3 inches
"Business Card Size"

1/4 Page
6.25 inches x 3.9 inches
(shown with a dotted line)

1/3 Page
3 inches x 9.29 inches

SUPPLEMENT

Houston Sierra Club Member Density (members per square mile)



Some west Houston zipcodes: member count = 1400 out of 4969 (28%).

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

From NPR, communicated by Jim Williams

The burning of fossil fuels is causing acidification of the world's oceans. Carbon dioxide plus water makes carbonic acid (H₂CO₃). Every year billions and billions of tons of carbon dioxide are produced by humanity and billions of tons are absorbed by the oceans. Oceans have grown 30% more acidic since the beginning of the industrial revolution. And it is estimated that ocean acidification will double or triple by 2100, depending on what society does to mitigate the problem.

Already billions of oysters have been lost in Washington and Oregon. This has happened 50 years (one half century) ahead of when scientist predicted that it would happen. Additionally, conditions existing in Alaskan waters have raised concerns about the future of the red king and snow crabs. Baby red king crabs died when exposed to sea chemistry conditions in the laboratory expected later this century. These conditions have already been found in Alaskan waters. Ocean acidification affects other shell fish as well.

It would appear that our food sources in the ocean are dying just like our food sources on land. Regardless, you had better eat your share of shell fish now before they are off the menu. 🌐

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Please relink your KROGER PLUS Card. Using your card helps support the Houston Sierra Club.

To link your KROGER PLUS Card:

Register online at

www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Online customer: Sign In with email & password
- OR -

Not an online Kroger customer:

YOU MUST SIGN UP in the new customer box:

- Enter required information & agree to terms
- Respond to confirmation email & link to the Kroger Community Rewards Program
- Scroll down to "Texas" & click Enroll Now
- Input your Kroger Plus card number - Update or confirm your information
- Enter NPO#: 81991 -or - select Sierra Club Foundation-Houston from list

REMEMBER - Your purchases will not count for the club until you register your card.

If you have questions, contact Lorraine Gibson: by cell phone (281-384-4104) or email raineygib@aol.com. 🌐

KEYSTONE XL

Communicated by Jim Williams

This is a statement by Houstonians Against Tar Sands (HATS) about the start of crude flowing through the Southern Leg of the Keystone XL Pipeline. For more information, contact Jim Williams, (713) 748-8133 (ezz@pdq.net), or Tara Escudero, 631 428-6794 (tescudero@betterfutureproject.org).

HOUSTON. Today January 22, TransCanada is expected to flow diluted bitumen* through the newly built southern leg of the Keystone XL Pipeline. We at Houstonians Against Tar Sands (HATS) see this as endangering communities in and surrounding Houston, Beaumont, and Port Arthur. HATS would like to see operation of the pipeline stopped until the following occurs:

1. Anomalies found by Public Citizen ([TransCanada's Keystone XL Southern Segment: Construction Problems Raise Questions About the Integrity of the Pipeline](#), November 2013) and reported by CBS News ([CBS News Report on Dents, Anomalies found on Keystone XL](#), November 13, 2013, 9:03 AM) and code violations cited by the Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) have been fully investigated and resolved.

2. The sections of the pipeline that were re-welded after previous test, be hydrostatically retested.

3. The entire southern leg be retested using the appropriate inline tools to find any new anomalies that were introduced by previous repairs.

4. Appropriate safety information be provided along the southern route to property owners and first responders. (TransCanada has told property owners that this is just "crude oil". The status of first responders is not known but they are also probably unaware of the toxic nature of diluted bitumen*.)

However, PHMSA has stated that it will not conduct any more testing to guarantee the pipeline's safety. Instead PHMSA will rely on its partial review of TransCanada's repairs and TransCanada's assurance that all problems have been fixed.

This is not acceptable because of TransCanada's and other pipeline companies' poor history of transporting diluted bitumen without spills. For instance, the Enbridge pipeline spill of tar sands sent one million gallons of toxic bitumen into the Kalamazoo River and has cost at least \$850 million, more than any other onshore spill in U.S. history. And the costs are still climbing – the spill is not been cleaned up after three years.

The completion of the Keystone XL southern leg will mean that more than 700,000 barrels of diluted bitumen will be transported to the Beaumont-Orange area per day. (Please note that TransCanada has yet to begin construction on the

section to the Houston area that will bring dilbit to Houston refineries.) The transport, processing, and refining of the bitumen derived from the tar sands puts local communities at risk. The corrosive bitumen is more prone to spill, spills are more expensive and challenging to clean, and the refining process will generate more toxic air pollution in areas already burdened by elevated rates of cancer, pollution, and economic disparity.

*(Diluted bitumen or dilbit is a highly corrosive and potentially unstable blend of viscous bitumen and volatile natural gas liquid condensate. It differs significantly from the heavy crude oils being pumped in pipelines around the United States.)

Houstonians Against Tar Sands is a newly formed Greater Houston area coalition which provides a forum for groups and communities working against tar sands transport, refining, export and works for environmental justice in affected communities. Its purpose is to promote events, facilitate ally relationships, and provide interested individuals with avenues of involvement. Community organizations include the Tar Sands Blockade, Air Alliance Houston, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.E.J.A.S), Sierra Club Houston Group, No Keystone XL (NoKXL), and others. Meetings are twice a month at East Side Social Center 4202 Canal St, Houston, TX 77003. The community is invited. Check their website (www.hatscoalition.com) for time and date. 🌐

2013 AUCTION

The Annual Auction, one of our main fundraising activities, was held at the December General Meeting. It was quite successful due to contributions of items by club members and others, work by those who managed the operation, and bidding by those who attended. Thank you contributors, workers, and participants! Special thanks to Lorraine Gibson, who oversaw the auction, acquired contributed items, prepared lists for and arranged the silent auction, and managed the financial part of the auction; to Madeleine Crozat Williams, who worked with Lorraine in planning the live auction, and who was the auctioneer; and to Carol Lee who, as usual, did a great job of preparing and operating the hospitality table. 🌐



2013 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

As you probably know, the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club — informally called the Houston Sierra Club — has no paid staff, so it relies entirely on volunteers for management, operation, promotion, support, and anything else that needs to be done. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we recognize certain individuals who have made significant contributions by their volunteer work.

For the year 2013, the following four volunteers were recognized at the December General Meeting:

- **Joe Lengfellner** for his work as program chair.
- **Michael Beck** for great service as webmaster.
- **Joann Jackson** for years of work on the yard sale.
- **Page Williams** for outings work on beach cleanup.
- **Frank Blake** for serving as Chair of the Executive Committee for five years.

The award descriptions do not do full justice to the contributions of these volunteers. They have done much more over the years. 🌐

DID YOU KNOW...

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which was enacted 20 years ago with strong bipartisan support, requires certain governmental agencies, including state agencies, to offer voter registration help when interacting with citizens. Many agencies have fallen out of compliance with the NVRA.

In particular, the NVRA requires the federally facilitated Health Benefits Exchanges (FFE) to

- distribute a voter registration application form (unless an individual declines in writing) via a method that can actually be accessed by all potential FFE clients;
- ask the applicant, in writing, whether he or she would like to register to vote or update his or her voter registration address;
- inform the applicant, in writing, that no one may interfere with his or her right to register to vote or not, right to privacy while registering, and right to choose a political party; and
- help applicants complete the voter registration application form, to the same degree as is provided in completing the health benefits application form.

A letter to President Obama has requested that he insure that this is done. See “Voting Rights Groups Call on Obama...” at projectvote.org. 🌐

10% VS 75%

Continued from page 1

and boring, but also changes almost everything: **voting**. “OMG,” you say, “do I have to hear about voting again?”

Well, yes, because only 10% of you vote — actually, considerably less than 10% in primary elections in Texas. Now think about it: if, say, 8% of the voting population is poorly informed, but highly influenced by a single issue (take your pick: gun rights, right-to-life, conservative, etc.), and say, 75% of those voters actually vote, then their 6% wins the day.

Does this really happen? Of course it does. In the election cycle two years ago, the Democratic candidate position for Harris County District Attorney was won by a lawyer who entered the campaign only to promote his law business, so the choice in the general election was him or the Republican party candidate (plus others, such as Green Party and Libertarian Party candidates, which were highly unlikely to win).

This is only one illustration; the problem goes far beyond the District Attorney’s office. Good people are driven away from running for offices because they believe they have no chance of getting past the primary elections. In Texas, historically the primary election is the only election — general elections have usually been won by Republican candidates (and Republicans in the Legislature have guaranteed much of that by gerrymandering). Maybe that is starting to change, but it won’t change until good people vote in large numbers in the primary election (and, of course, in the general election).

So here is the message (I’ll repeat it again in a minute): **Vote in the primary** (March 4; early voting begins February 18). **Vote early, and often.**

In case you think voting is pointless, let me tell you another 75% story. For three decades or so the world has been gripped by an ideological conflict between Iran and much of the West (which, in the following can be thought of as the so-called P5+1 nations: United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany), much of which centered on Israel. We have heard Iranian leaders denounce the U. S. as “The Great Satan.” There is evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons. Last year a stunning change occurred: the people of Iran saw what it was costing them, so 75% of them voted, and the result was the election of President Hassan Rouhani, who got a majority in a field of six candidates. Rouhani (a cleric, senior member of the ruling circle, and a friend for the Supreme Leader) campaigned on “greater moderation in government”,

and end of extremism, and nuclear accommodation with the rest of the world. There was a three hour, nationally televised debate. He has followed through on much of that and negotiations with the P5+1 nations reached a positive state on November 24, and it is now possible that the Iranian nuclear weapons program will be closed down (if the U. S. Senate does not wipe out the agreement). This is not the place to discuss details of this, but those of you who are interested should see the article “Iran: a good deal now in danger,” by Jessica T. Mathews in the February 20, 2014 issue of *The New York Review of Books*, which will likely be on line at nybooks.org in a few days (see, the Internet changes *almost* everything).

The point of this story is this: well informed voters who actually vote can change anything, *if they vote*. So, once again:

**Vote in the primary
March 4
Early voting starts
Feb. 18
Vote early,
and often!**



OH, BY THE WAY...

Are you registered to vote? Alas, February 3 was the last day to register for the primary. However, it is likely that there will be runoff elections in another month, so if you are not registered at this time

Register to vote!

Also, if you residential address changes, reregister with the new address so you will be able to vote in your new precinct.

Easy registration: Google “Register to vote in Texas” then click on either www.projectvote.org, or the link to the Texas Secretary of State. Otherwise, check with the county clerk’s office for your county. 🌐

CLEAR LAKE WALKERS

Every Saturday morning at 7:30, rain or shine

Some Bay Area Sierra Club members and friends meet weekly for a three-mile walk, conversation and breakfast. Much of the walk is along the water and we often see a variety of shore birds.

Where: Nassau Bay, meeting in the Dollar Store parking lot across from the Post Office.

Contact: Betty Armstrong at 281-333-5693.

Editor's note: The Clear Lake Walkers have been active for 21 years. 🌐

GBASCH OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING (FEBRUARY 19, 2014) OYSTER HABITAT AND REEFS

GBASCH NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING (MARCH 19, 2014) WHOOPING CRANES

NOTICE

Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston (acronym GBASCH) is part of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also called the Houston Sierra Club — acronym HSC). HSC is so large - over 100 miles in diameter - that it is useful to provide local organization of activities for members in outlying areas. GBASCH does that by planning activities and holding general meetings in the Galveston Bay area. These are open to all HSC members. 🌐

BIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE

A bike trails committee was started to explore enhanced hike and bike trail connectivity in the Bay Area. Initially three folks doing this are Debra Goode, Richard Lee, and Doug Peterson. They are brainstorming and investigating breaks in existing trails and systems where it is hazardous to travel by bike, and identifying some of the variables for implementation, other interested parties, local government, sources of funding, etc). Contact Debra Goode at 281-280-9944 if you are interested in participating. 🌐

SCHEDULED FOR GALVESTON BAY AREA SIERRA CLUB HOUSTON

by Grace Martinez

Hi Guys, hope everyone is staying cozy warm during this crazy "frigid" weather. Some of our plants have started to bud and then stopped and then started again. We'll see spring when we see it! So, here is a schedule thru May.:

1. February 19: Bill Rodney of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Oyster habitat and reefs. Idea for this speaker came as a result of visiting Sea Center Texas. Such an incredible place. And such a project done with so many entities (including Dow Chemical, TPWD, fishermen, etc). So, Bill Rodney just from down the road in Dickinson will be our speaker.

2. March 19: Galveston Bay Foundation, "Habitat Restoration" and an "Overview of the Conservation Work" that they do in the Bay Area. GBF is very active in this arena including being selected to do the conservation easement on the Parkland that is being developed at the old Clear Lake Golf course.

3. April 16: (tentatively set) Whooping Cranes. Working with Mary Carter to give us an update on the work being done to protect the whooping cranes' habitat at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This topic was suggested by our January speaker Peg Hill. And, I as a native of Corpus Christi, have followed the plight of the whooping cranes since the 1970's, am grateful that whooping cranes are being protected yet once again.

4. May 21: Popcorn/Movie Night. Need your suggestions. One movie that I'd like to see is "Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk" for two reasons. First, the movie is about the role of a riverkeeper. As we are getting to appreciate

**Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston
GENERAL MEETINGS: 3RD WEDNESDAYS**
Clear Lake Park - 5002 NASA Parkway
Bay Area Community Center (Blue Roof)

February 19, 2014
March 19, 2014
6:30 -9:00 PM

our role of protecting our wetlands it becomes more clear that a many people are passionately involved in protecting our waterways. Secondly, our Bay Keeper, John Jacob, makes the point that we need to protect our "local nature jewels." Like the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Big Bend which are all important, but WETLANDS is where we live, what we have to protect. Let's watch this movie or another one you suggest and let's get even more inspired.

I have other announcements that I'll forward this evening. Please give me a holler or shoot me an email if you have a question.

Our meetings are open to everyone. I send monthly fliers with information. Please contact me and I will add you to my distribution list. Hoping to see you soon. Contact me at gracemartinez7@earthlink.net. 🌐

WANT BREAKING NEWS?

Check our website:

<http://houston.sierraclub.org/>.

Since the print copy of the *Banner* takes several weeks from editorial deadline to members' mail boxes, some late-planned activities appear only on the web site. 🌐

Houston Sierra Club

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Air Quality Advocates

The Houston Sierra Club is seeking members to serve on the new Air Quality Committee. Training and mentoring will be provided free! The Club expects from volunteers: a willingness to learn about air quality issues, persistence and patience, and active advocacy for clean air. See page 9 for more information.

Website Help:

We need a couple of people to assist the webmaster with posting material to the Houston Group website. This normally requires a few hours per month. For more information, contact the webmaster at houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org

Renew your membership on line to help:

If you renew your membership on line at our web site (<http://Houston.sierraclub.org/>), then click on Join or Give/Membership Benefits), part of your payment comes back to support the Houston Sierra Club.

CEC ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT 2014

Thursday, February 13, 2014

12:30 PM to 6:00 PM

At United Way Community Resource Center
50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77007

Join the Houston region's environmental community in a participative, collaborative process, through a series of working sessions, in a group effort to envision the year ahead.

Here are a few of the offerings that will be available:

- Keynote Speaker – Luke Metzger, Environment Texas
- Live birds of prey presentation by Mary Anne Weber of Houston Audubon
- Energy & the local carbon credit market: Gavin Dillingham of HARC and Randall Lack of Element Markets
- Water quality & bayou greenways: Todd Running of H-GAC and Jennifer Powis of the Houston Parks Board
- Galveston Bay oysters and environmental flows: Lance Robinson of TPWD and John Bartos, attorney and community volunteer
- The press: bridging the gap between what reporters see as critical environmental issues and what the environmental community sees (speakers TBA)
- Transportation planning: Long-range transportation opportunities (Christof Spieler of Houston Metro's board and Pat Henry of TxDOT's Houston Office)
- Our Great Region 2040: A plan for sustainability for the Houston Galveston region (Meredith Dang of H-GAC and Marc Reid of Houston Wilderness)
- What is Urban Wilderness (Frank Salzhandler of Endangered Species Media Project and TBA)
- Speed networking session
- Catered snacks and dinner by Pat Greer's Kitchen
- Special surprises!

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact rachel@cechouston.org for more information.

Parking is available at no charge in the parking garage behind the United Way Community Resource Center.

Busses 34, 36, 85, and 50 are all in the area. Nearby bike trails go along Heights Blvd., Washington Ave, and Buffalo Bayou. There is a B-Cycle station at Spotts Park, on the other side of Heights Blvd.

Please feel free to call or email Rachel with any concerns or questions: rachel@cechouston.org or 713-524-4232. 🌐

KPFT 90.1 FM

The station with much for Sierrans:

Explorations, Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 PM

Eco-Ology, Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 AM

The New Capital Show,

Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 PM

Democracy Now (with Amy Goodman),

8-9 AM and 5-6 PM, weekdays.

Progressive Forum (with Wally James)

Thursdays, 8-9 PM

Of course there is news:

BBC News, 5-5:30 AM

Free Speech Radio News,

weekdays, 4-4:30 PM

KPFT local news, weekdays, 4:30-5 PM

And lots of music, especially on the weekends.

You can see the program schedule at

www.kpft.org

HOW TO PRINT THE BAYOU BANNER IN COLOR

The web version of the *Bayou Banner* (which is a PDF file; see News at our web site) has some color pictures. You can print it on letter-size paper using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. After you click "Print", select "Reduce to Printer Margins" from the "Page Scaling" window. Make sure the printer Properties page is set for color. 🌐



MAP: GETTING TO THE GENERAL MEETING

CREDITS

Some photos in the *Bayou Banner* are public domain photos provided by the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The clip-art canoe is from 1st Lancaster Baptist Scouts, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada (<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/3246/index.html>). All photos are used by permission. 🌐

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB

Just go to our web site
<http://Houston.sierraclub.org/>

and click on

Join or Give/Membership Benefits

For a limited time:

Only \$15

Get a FREE rucksack

See it online

Part of your payment
comes back to support the
Houston Sierra Club

Some activities shown on the Announcements pages are not managed by the Houston Sierra Club.

TRASH BASH RIVERS, LAKES, BAYS & BAYOUS

Saturday, March 29

Communicated by Frank Blake

Once a year thousands of volunteers gather along Texas waterways to help clean up the environment, and help educate the public about the importance of our water resources.

If you would like to help with a clean up close to where you live, visit the website www.trashbash.org for a list of the specific sites in the Houston and Galveston region that will participate this year (17 different locations). Each clean up site has its own schedule, location details, and contact persons, and this is all provided at the website. Generally clean up activities take place between 9am and 12noon, with registration taking place at 8 to 9 am, and a lunch afterward. 🌐



The ant seen on these pages is the fictitious *Sieromeymex houstonensis*, drawn for and named after the Houston Sierra Club by world-famous biologist E. O. Wilson.

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING:

Second Thursday monthly in Pecore Hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama. Enter parking lot from Woodhead. The meeting opens at 7:00 PM, and the program starts at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Before 7:00 PM, left turns are not allowed at Woodhead. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

CONSERVATION:

Second Tuesday monthly, 7:00 PM. Meet in the H-E-B food court at West Alabama and Dunlavy. Contact Evelyn Merz, 713-644-8228, elmerz@hal-pc.org. Come early (6:30) and grab a bite to eat.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Fourth Thursday monthly, 7:00 PM.
Contact Frank Blake frankblake@juno.com.

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO):

Normally the third Tuesday every month, 7:00 PM, at the Whole Foods store at 701 Waugh Dr. Please contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-384-4104 or raineygib@aol.com for more information.

OUTINGS:

Usually the third Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Whole Foods store on Bellaire near Wesleyan. Help us plan regional day outings, weekend trips, and air/bus trips to exciting outdoor destinations across the country. Please call to confirm meeting date. Frank Blake, 713-528-2896, frankblake@juno.com.

RECYCLING RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON RECYCLING

The City of Houston has several drop off sites (note: some are specialized for certain items), and provides curbside recycling in many neighborhoods. Principal drop off locations are the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark, and the self serve site at 3602 Center Street in the Heights. For other locations and a complete list of recyclable items, consult the City's recycling web page. One can also phone the City's 311 hotline with recycling questions, or connect to

www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html

BELLAIRE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

This group has a useful website, with a variety of info on recycling activities in the Houston area. Committee phone line is 713-662-8173. bellairerecycles.org/index.html.

HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's recycling facility — north of town on the I-45 access road — takes cardboard, paper, tin and aluminum cans, glass, used oil, plastics, and has a warehouse for reusable donated construction materials (doors, windows, tile, wood etc). One employee is available Monday-Friday to help you unload; it is self-service on Saturday. The web site is

http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/residents/trash_and_recycling/recycling.asp.

PEARLAND RECYCLING CENTER

5800 Magnolia Road in Pearland, Texas, 77584, 281-489-2795. Takes most recyclable wastes: PC's, TV's, plastics, bottles, cans, paper, etc.

WEST UNIVERSITY RECYCLING CENTER

This facility has closed.

More available at <http://www.h-gac.com/>, especially at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/waste/resources/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2014

13 General Meeting - TBD

March 2014

13 General Meeting - TBD

April 2014

10 General Meeting - TBD

May 2014

8 General Meeting - TBD

Houston Sierra Club E-MAIL ALERT LIST

Subscribe to the Houston Sierra Club's E-mail alert list to get timely alerts on Houston area conservation issues, and occasional announcements of interest to Houston Sierra Club members. *(Whenever you want to drop from the list it is easy to unsubscribe yourself—those instructions will be included.)*

INSTRUCTIONS:

Send FROM the E-mail address to which you want to direct the messages. Subscribe by sending TO:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Subject: [this line may be left blank]

Message Body:

SUBSCRIBE LONESTAR-HOUSTON-ANNOUNCE FirstName LastName

(Insert YOUR name in place of "FirstName LastName")

That's it. You will receive confirmation messages. from the listserve. Thanks for your interest. If you have any difficulty, contact frankblake@juno.com.

The *Bayou Banner* is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 6 times a year, in odd-numbered months. Circulation is 5500 issues sent to members and distributed through various outlets.

EDITOR: George Batten
email: BayouBanner@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline to submit articles is the fifth day of the month before the date of the issue in which the articles are to run (for example, articles for the September issue must be submitted by August 5). All submissions must have the author's name, and contact information (including phone number) even though it will not be printed. Articles may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and space considerations. Opinions stated are those of the author and not necessarily that of the Houston Sierra Club. Get instructions for submitting material, including pictures, by sending a email with the subject line

[BB?]

(capital letters; brackets are required) to the address above. The instructions will be in an automatically-generated email reply. Usually the reply is done in 15 minutes, but it may take longer. Text articles must be in RTF (-.rtf) files. Pictures must be at 300 dpi or greater resolution JPEG (-.jpg) files, except that by special request other file formats (PDF (-.pdf), or TIFF (-.tif) files) may be accepted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Telephone 415-977-5633 or send address changes to Sierra Club Membership, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322, or via email to address.changes@sierraclub.org.

Include both old and new addresses and allow 6 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Please **DO NOT CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

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<http://houston.sierraclub.org/news/index.htm#banner>