



**GENERAL MEETINGS: 2ND THURSDAYS**

**7:30 PM**

August 14, 2014

September 11, 2014

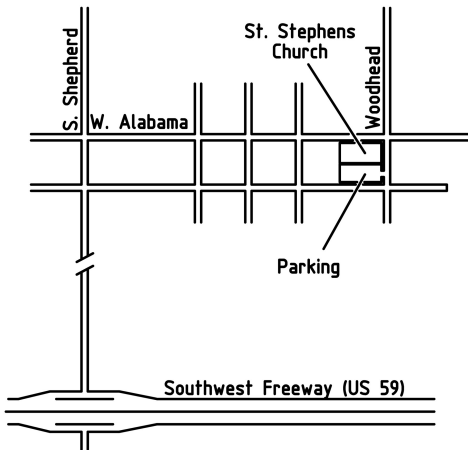
Doors open at 7:00 PM

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.

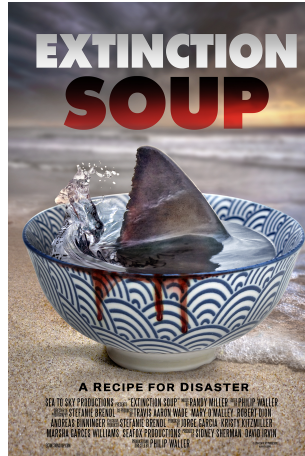
Join us prior to the meeting for refreshments at the hospitality table and to visit the information tables for Forestry, Outings, and Inner City Outings. Find out how you can volunteer with us.



Map: Getting to the General Meeting

**GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST 14, 2014**

**SHARK STEWARDS AND THE WORK TO PROTECT OUR SHARKS**



Today, many shark species are threatened with extinction. Overfishing and shark finning, used for shark fin soup, is killing tens of millions of sharks per year.

Fortunately, help is on the way. Shark Stewards is working to protect our sharks. They are part of a movement to ban the shark fin trade, stop illegal shark finning, and establish shark sanctuaries.

To explain the dangerous waters faced by sharks, Katie Jarl, Texas State Director of the Humane Society of the US, will discuss the shark's

plight in the Gulf, and what is happening in Austin to help address the problem.

Come out August 14 to learn what Texans can do to show sharks a little love.

See SHARK STEWARDS AND THE WORK TO PROTECT OUR SHARKS on Page 3

**GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2014**

**ELEPHANT AND RHINOCEROS CONSERVATION**

Special Guest: Rick Barongi

In September, the Sierra Club takes an in-depth look at the conservation efforts for some of the world's most amazing creatures: elephants and rhinoceros.

Renown zoologist Rick Barongi, Executive Vice President of Conservation at the Houston Zoo, has spent countless hours in Africa studying these magnificent creatures, and is an expert in their conservation. When he was the Director of the Houston Zoo and designer of Disney's Animal Kingdom, he was well known for his knowledge in zoological park management and exhibit design, but his passion is conservation of the world's great creatures. Come visit with us on September 11 at 7:30 PM and see that passion. From working in zoos from coast-to-coast, to extensive travels in Africa and South America, Rick has unique experience and insight to share. Best of all, he will share his insight in a special presentation free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 PM.

**NEW BAYOU BANNER EDITOR**

by Carol Woronow

I'm baaaack--as your "new" Bayou Banner Editor.

Not a poltergeist, but real flesh and blood, although much, much older now.

As a long-time Sierra Club member, and Bayou Banner Editor in the early 1990s, I finally responded to George Batten's See NEW BAYOU BANNER EDITOR on Page 3

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>Trips and Local Outings</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Environmental Justice Summit</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>New Sierra Club Award</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Zero Waste or One Bin</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Fundraising Event Sept 17</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>National Drive Electric Week</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Clear Lake and Galveston Bay</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Elections</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Bayou Banner Not Printed</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Volunteer Needs</b>	<b>Page 11</b>

# TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

## Trail Work

### Marysee Prairie Work Days

**Saturday, 9:30 AM**  
**August 2, 2014**  
**September 6, 2014**  
**October 4, 2014**  
**November 1, 2014**

**220 County Road 2077, Hull, Texas**  
**Marysee Prairie is on the right at the end of**  
**County Road 2077.**

The Marysee Prairie is one of the last remnants of tallgrass prairie in the Big Thicket region.

Come assist the Texas Land Conservancy in this ongoing effort to revive and maintain the native grasses and wildflowers on this site near Batson, Texas. Work tasks vary by month, but involve controlling the regrowth of woody species and keeping the prairie clear for mowing. Tools provided. Option to carpool from central Houston for those interested. The prairie is located at the end of County Road 2077, which is about 4 miles west of Batson on State Highway 105. This is approximately 65 miles northeast of central Houston. 🌍



Bluebonnets on the Faulkey Gulley trail, by Carol Woronow.

#### 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.

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](http://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)

## Trail Work

### Shoreacres' Heron Park Work Day

**Saturday, August 9, 2014, 7:30 A.M.**  
**Carpool, meet at Starbucks, 300 Meyerland Plaza**  
**Mall, Houston, TX**

On Saturday, August 9, 2014, the Houston Sierra Club will visit Heron Park in Shoreacres, next to Taylor Bayou, and a few miles from West Galveston Bay. We will arrive at Heron Park at approximately 8:30 a.m. We will spend about two to three hours cutting vegetation which will allow prairie and wetland plants to compete better with woody and non-native plants.

This is a great local trip to an area that many of Houstonians are not familiar with. The West Galveston Bay/Houston Ship Channel area is fascinating and there is a lot going on.

After we finish our service work we will visit a local restaurant to cool down and enjoy good food, good talk, and good companionship.

Bring your daypack with plenty of water (three quarts), snacks, hat, field guides, binoculars, cameras, bug repellent, and comfortable hiking shoes and clothes. Long pants are recommended. It will be hot, so plan accordingly. If you have a lopper or pruning shear, bring it. If you do not, there will be several available for use.

We will meet to carpool/caravan at 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.



Pond at Meyer Park, near Cypress Creek, by Carol Woronow.

## SHARK STEWARDS AND THE WORK TO PROTECT OUR SHARKS

Continued from Page 1



Sharks have been swimming the oceans and helping to maintain the ecosystems for more than 400 MILLION years. Sharks have survived numerous extinction events, including the last which caused the dinosaurs to go extinct. For all this time, sharks were the top predators in the ocean.

Sharks help maintain the health of the ocean, especially around coral reefs. A decline in the number of sharks cascades down the food chain, resulting in more algae growing on degraded coral reefs in the Caribbean.

Shark Stewards protects sharks and critical marine habitat for the health and future of our oceans. You can adopt a live shark that is tagged and released back into the ocean. Read about the difficulty in classification of species of caught sharks from piles of their fins. Advocate for sharks at events and by writing letters. In San Francisco, 2000 pounds of fins were confiscated and the Chinese merchants dropped their lawsuit; Shark Stewards were on KCBS television supporting the shark fin bust.

Learn about Shark Stewards at  
<http://sharkstewards.org/>

The Texas Chapter of Shark Stewards is dedicated to protecting sharks through fisheries policy, education and advocacy. The Texas Chapter is looking for volunteers to help protect sharks off the Texas coast.

Learn about the Texas Chapter at  
<https://www.facebook.com/texassharkstewards>

The new movie *Extinction Soup* shows, in graphic detail, the harm caused by shark finning. Screenings of this film are shown around the world, in Israel, Hawaii, Spain, and Palm Springs, California. The film premiered at the 11th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival, where it won the Conservation Award. Thanks to the people at the *Extinction Soup* web site for our *Bayou Banner* graphic on page 1.



Shark at the Art Car Parade, Houston, 2011, by Carol Woronow

## NEW BAYOU BANNER EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

plea for a successor.

A bit about my history:

In the 1960s, I lived in League City and then Pasadena, finished a Masters Degree in English at the University of Houston, and taught Freshman English. Then I spent some time in Tucson where I completed a Masters Degree in Computer Science.

In the 1980s, I lived in Spring Branch, working for computer companies (Control Data and then Cray Research).

In the early 1990s, I was Editor of the *Bayou Banner*, and active in hiking. My favorite hike was in the San Juan Wilderness, two trips in July of two different years, the first a Houston Sierra Club trip, with snow so deep we had to give up and camp in the valley. The Conejos River was waist-deep and dangerous to cross. On the second trip (solo this time), I hiked up to Lake Ann and the Continental Divide (above the clouds). The Conejos River was barely knee-deep on this trip.

Moving to the Atlanta area, I hiked the lower part of the Appalachian trail.

Across the country to California, I worked at Silicon Graphics when the whole industry was booming. In the downturn in 2002, I went back to college to study Journalism, and loved it, but when the economy rebounded, I returned to my computer background. Journalism is great fun, but not enough to pay the mortgage.

For a time, I worked on 2nd street in San Francisco, just one block from Sierra Club headquarters. On a national outing, I slept in the Claire Tappan Lodge, a wonderful landmark.

Now I'm retired from Symantec (where I learned a lot about computer security), back to Houston for a little over a year, live up near the old Compaq headquarters, and am active in volunteer work.

So I'm both a old-timer to Houston, and also a newcomer. Today, as your "new" editor, I'm thankful for the depth of knowledge in the Houston Sierra Club, and for the helpfulness of everyone in getting me up to speed.



At Lake Tahoe on National Sierra Club trip.

# FEATURES

---

## WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY SUMMIT

All interested in recycling, waste reduction, and environmental justice should come!

Date: Saturday, August 2, 2014, 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Where: Texas Southern University, Public Affairs Building, McCoy Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

Advance registration is not required.

Further details at Houston Sierra Club Meetup site:

<http://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings/events/195427092/>

Houston Sierra Club is a co-sponsor of this event.

The Policy Summit will focus on:

- How we manage (and waste) resources affects the climate and all of our lives. To some it can cause great injustice: illegal dumping, pollution and siting concerns damage health and safety in communities without adequate protection.
- Learn from national experts and brainstorm with local advocates about ways we can improve recycling and waste reduction through policies that are already working in many parts of the world.
- Understand the City of Houston's controversial "One Bin for All" plan that threatens to bring a new type of trash incinerator to Houston.
- Take action with your community members: create a comprehensive plan to achieve what some are calling "Zero Waste."
- Keynote Speakers: Dr. Robert Bullard, Lois Gibbs, and Bradley Angel (see details below).  
Panelists include Monica Wilson with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

About the Speakers:

### LOIS GIBBS

In the spring of 1978, a 27-year-old housewife, Lois Marie Gibbs, discovered that her child was attending an elementary school built next to a 20,000-ton, toxic-chemical dump in Niagara Falls, New York. Desperate to do something about it, she organized her neighbors into the Love Canal Homeowners Association. Opposing the group's efforts, Occidental Petroleum, as well as local, state and federal government officials all insisted that the leaking toxic chemicals, including dioxin, the most toxic chemical known to man, were not the cause of the health problems experienced by residents, which included high rates of birth defects, miscarriages, cancers and other maladies.

Read more about Lois Marie Gibbs here: <http://chej.org/about/our-story/about-lois/>

### DR. ROBERT BULLARD, PHD

Robert D. Bullard is often described as the father of environmental justice. Professor Bullard received his Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University. He is the author of eighteen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, emergency response, smart growth, and regional equity.

Read more about Dr. Bullard's here: <http://drrobertbullard.com/biography/>

### BRADLEY ANGEL

In 1997, Bradley joined with grassroots community environmental justice activists from California and Arizona to form Greenaction. He is a national leader in the environmental health and justice movement, working with communities to stop pollution threats to health, promote pollution prevention, renewable energy and safe technologies, and to ensure that people affected by pollution problems have the right to participate in government and industry decisions that affect their lives. Prior to co-founding Greenaction, Bradley was the Southwest Toxics Campaigner for Greenpeace USA for eleven years from 1986 through 1997. Bradley was Co-Director of the San Francisco Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign in 1985, and has been active in many social justice issues since a teenager. Bradley serves on the steering committee of the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative and the San Joaquin Valley Cumulative Health Impacts Project, and helps coordinate the Environmental Justice Air Quality Coalition. In 2008, he was awarded the prestigious Lannan Foundation's Cultural Freedom Award, in recognition of his work over more than two decades with hundreds of diverse low-income and working class communities and Native Nations impacted and threatened by pollution.

Read more about Bradley and GreenAction here: <http://greenaction.org/>

# FEATURES

## SIERRA CLUB NAMES NEW AWARD AFTER DR. ROBERT BULLARD DEAN OF THE BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY IN HOUSTON

(Sierra Club, San Francisco, July 29, 2014)

The Sierra Club has created a new national award that bears the name of Dr. Robert Bullard, one of the founders of the environmental justice movement. The new award will be given annually to an individual or group that has done outstanding work in the area of environmental justice. The first Robert Bullard Environmental Justice Award will be presented Nov. 21 along with the Sierra Club's other 2014 awards. "The Sierra Club has long recognized the rightness and necessity of environmental justice work, and we couldn't be more proud of having Dr. Bullard's name on our new award honoring those who have followed in his footsteps," said Sierra Club President David Scott. Bullard said he was delighted to have the new award named after him. "I must say that I am humbled, honored, and at the same time excited to have the Sierra Club name its Environmental Justice Award after me," he said. "For someone who has spent most of his adult life teaching, writing and lecturing, I am speechless." Bullard currently serves as dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston. Shortly after receiving his Ph.D. in sociology from Iowa State University, he and his wife, Linda McKeever Bullard, became involved in a lawsuit against the siting of a landfill in a Houston neighborhood that was 82 percent black. In doing research for the lawsuit, Dr. Bullard and his researchers found that African-American neighborhoods in Houston were often disproportionately chosen for the city's solid waste sites, even though blacks made up only 25 percent of the city's population. This was the first study to document environmental discrimination under the Civil Rights Act. Bullard went on to become a leading scholar and advocate for environmental justice. He helped organize the first National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991 which produced the landmark "Principles of Environmental Justice" manifesto. He was a leader in lobbying the federal government to establish the Office of Environmental Justice within the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Justice Executive Order issued by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

Bullard has written 18 books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, emergency response, smart growth, and regional equity.

His book *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* is a standard text in the environmental justice field. He has two Sierra Club Books to his name: his 1994 book, *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice and Communities of Color* and his 2005 book, *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*. His latest books include *Race, Place and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina: Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast* and *The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities*. In 2008, Newsweek named Dr. Bullard one of 13 Environmental Leaders of the Century. And in 2012, he was featured in Welcomebooks *Everyday Heroes: 50 Americans Changing the World One Nonprofit at a Time*. He received the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Award in 1990. In 2013, Bullard received the Sierra Club's top award, the John Muir Award. The award recognizes individuals with a distinguished record of achievement in national or international conservation causes.

For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit [www.sierraclub.org/awards](http://www.sierraclub.org/awards).



Bullard accepting the Sierra Club 2013 John Muir Award in San Francisco, courtesy of Dr. Bullard's press web page ([drobertbullard.com](http://drobertbullard.com))

August 2, 2014, 3:00 PM

Robert D. Bullard is Keynote Speaker at Houston Waste and Environmental Justice Policy Summit.

At Texas Southern University, School of Public Affairs Building, McCoy Auditorium.

August 8, 2014, 12:10 PM

Robert D. Bullard is Keynote Speaker at the U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Training Workshop.

At the Houston Marriott Hotel.

## ZERO WASTE OR ONE BIN?

By Melanie Scruggs

On July 10, the City of Houston accepted proposals from five companies for the “One Bin for All” trash proposal and stated that a contract decision would be proposed by the end of this year. At the same time, the Zero Waste Houston coalition released a report that is available on [zerowastehouston.org](http://zerowastehouston.org) entitled, “It’s Smarter to Separate: How Houston’s Trash Proposal Would Waste Our Resources, Pollute Our Air and Harm Our Community’s Health.”

As the City of Houston struggles to close a projected \$150 million budget gap next year, our report suggests that “One Bin for All” would be a financial burden for the City of Houston and an abuse of our limited funds for public services. And it wouldn’t even work: our report shows that no “mixed waste processing facility” of this kind has ever achieved anything close to what our recycling goals are here in Houston—to the contrary, most have been outright disasters. Not only that, but it is now abundantly clear that whatever materials cannot be recycled through such a plan would end up in a dirty, polluting trash incineration facility of some kind—in the misleading name of “renewable energy.”

Fortunately, the Solid Waste Management Department under the direction of Harry Hayes has been doing amazing work expanding the big, green recycling bins to more neighborhoods in the City. In June they announced another expansion to 62,000 homes. Director Hayes has done such a good job increasing the efficiencies of our trash and recycling services that he has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

We applaud and praise the Mayor for her commitment to expand single-stream recycling to every home in the City by the end of her term. But with all the amazing progress we are making in recycling, why throw it away on unproven technologies like “one bin for all” systems and trash gasification that would pollute our air and waste our resources?

The City has appointed an advisory committee to review the five proposals that were submitted. As our report shows, these proposals will likely be bad for recycling, for the environment, for public health and workers’ rights. We hope the advisory committee will be able to examine alternative programs that other cities are currently using to reduce waste, fight pollution and create more jobs in the recycling industry.

The City of Austin, for example, recently won \$1 million grant to build an Eco-Industrial park to attract small businesses that manufacture recycled products. While the Eco-Industrial Park is expected to create thousands of jobs in new, sustainable industries, Houston’s \$1 million grant for “One Bin for All” would be expected to create only 100 jobs, many of these consisting of picking through trash and recycling by hand. This isn’t “innovative” or a “technological breakthrough.”

Environmental justice groups and recycling advocates from across the country are watching Houston very closely to see how this bad proposal plays out. I recommend visiting Dr. Robert Bullard’s blog at [drrobertbullard.com](http://drrobertbullard.com) for his views on the environmental justice concerns many have with “One Bin for All,” which have been covered also by national media outlets such as [Grist.org](http://Grist.org), [Triple Pundit](http://TriplePundit) and the [City Lab](http://CityLab) blog from [The Atlantic](http://TheAtlantic) (these articles are reachable from [ZeroWasteHouston.org](http://ZeroWasteHouston.org)).

This month, Dr. Bullard and environmental icon Lois Gibbs were keynote speakers at the August 2nd “Waste and



Environmental Justice” summit sponsored by the Zero Waste Houston coalition and Texas Southern University. Bradley Angel, executive director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice in San Francisco, also spoke about the dangers of trash gasification and the proliferation of incineration proposals selling themselves as “renewable energy projects.” Monica Wilson with the Global Alliance of Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) sent a video presentation for the event about Zero Waste Solutions and all of these presentations will be viewable online.

The City is expected to decide on one of the five bids by the end of the year and come to a decision whether or not to vote on a long-term contract. Our hope is that there will not be a vote, and if there is, that the City Council will stand up to Mayor Parker and vote against this wrong-headed plan. The Zero Waste Houston coalition is working to build on our existing recycling programs instead and continue expanding the “big, green bins.” Zero Waste means achieving the highest and best use for materials, reducing waste and committing to environmental justice. Houston ought to write a long-term resource recovery plan that seeks to achieve these goals, including comprehensive recycling and composting for every residence and business, with genuine public input from diverse groups throughout the community.

# FEATURES

## ARBORETUM EVENING BENEFIT SUPPORT BOTH THE LONE STAR CHAPTER AND OUR HOUSTON GROUP

**September 17, 2014, 6:30 P.M.**  
**At the Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway**

Meet the new Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Director, Scheleen Walker (former Legislative Director to Representative Donna Howard).

Hear about plans for the 2015 Legislative Session and the Sierra Club's leadership in Austin on environmental policy.

Hikes and refreshments.



Scheleen Walker

## NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2014

Join us for National Drive Electric Week celebrations September 15-21, 2014.

We celebrate the growing availability of plug-in vehicles, and the benefits of all-electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, including cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

As electric vehicle drivers have already noticed, electric vehicles are:

- Fun to drive
- Cheaper to fuel
- Cheaper to maintain
- Cleaner
- Growing in the marketplace
- Creating good American jobs

This celebration of electric vehicles started in 2011 as National Plug In Day nationwide. Now it has evolved to an entire week of events in more cities, with more happy drivers celebrating their electric vehicles.

Each local event is led by local drivers of electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, with parades, rides, tailgate parties, award ceremonies, information booths, and other events.

For more information and local events, see

<https://driveelectricweek.org/>

The Sierra Club is one of the sponsors of National Drive Electric Week.



Electric Vehicle charging station at the Whole Foods store at Louetta and Cutten Road in Houston, by Carol Woronow

## ONLINE ELECTRIC VEHICLE GUIDE

The Sierra Club has an online Electric Vehicle Guide:

<http://content.sierraclub.org/evguide/>

The Guide offers a lot in one place, including information specific to your location when you type in your zip code. You can compare EV models, discover state-by-state EV incentives (tax credits, carpool lane access, discount electricity rates for EV drivers, etc.), and compare region-specific emissions among EVs, plug-in hybrids, and conventional gas guzzlers. There are even listings of plug-in cars for sale in your area through eBay.

The site also includes recent EV-related blog posts, an EV fact sheet, and Sierra Magazine's annual EV Buyers Guide and articles.



Charge up your car, by Carol Woronow

# CLEAR LAKE AND GALVESTON BAY

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

August 20, 2014  
September 17, 2014  
6:30 -9:00 PM

## 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. 🌍

## CLEAR LAKE AREA MONTHLY MEETING WHOOPING CRANES AND FRESH WATER INFLOWS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014

At the Clear Lake Area Monthly Meeting on August 20, 2014, attorney Mary Carter of Blackburn & Carter will discuss Whooping Cranes and the effort to protect freshwater inflows for wildlife in Texas bays

Mary Carter represents the Aransas Project, a non-profit group formed to protect San Antonio and Aransas Bays in an attempt to secure freshwater inflows for the survival of the endangered whooping crane. This is a decisive case which is now at the 5th Circuit Court in New Orleans.

## 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. 🌍



Sunset along a Houston trail, by Carol Woronow.

## 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. 🌍



Birds following boat wake on Clear Lake, by Carol Woronow.



# RECYCLING

## RECYCLE THOSE FLIP-FLOPS

By Mary Schultz

How many pairs of flip-flops have you worn out in a Houston summer or two?

There is a handy way to recycle those flip-flops, and to earn back-to-school clothes coupons at the same time. The Houston Sierra Club is conducting a flip-flop collection drive from August 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014.

All appropriate items will be packed and sent to Terracycle®, whose joint project with Old Navy® offers Old Navy coupons in return for at least 8 lb. of flip-flops.

See the web site

[www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/oldnavy.html](http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/oldnavy.html)

The Houston Sierra Club will donate any earned coupons to the YMCA or other back-to-school drives for low-income students.

Flip-flops to be donated can be brought to the Houston Sierra Club General Meeting on August 14 or Sept 11, 2014, or to any planned Houston Sierra Club Meet-Up or Outing. Look for the flip-flop collection box or meet-up leader.

Contact Mary Schultz [schultzie08@gmail.com](mailto:schultzie08@gmail.com) for more information.



Old flip-flops by Carol Woronow



## 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](http://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](http://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](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.

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

October 6, 2014 - Last day to register to vote

## EXCOM ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

Although paper copies of the Bayou Banner will no longer be mailed bimonthly to members, club bylaws require ballots to be mailed in December. Therefore, it is likely that a paper version of the December-January issue of the *Bayou Banner* will be mailed to members.

That issue will have ballots for election of members of the Executive Committee of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Candidates can be suggested by any member of the club. Until a Nominating Committee Chair has been established, you can submit suggestions for candidates and petitions to Art Browning (art.browning@gmail.com, phone 281-728-6327). Petitions for candidacy must be received in time for publishing in the *Bayou Banner* December issue. 🌐

The station with much for Sierrans:

Explorations, Tuesdays, 5:00 AM  
Eco-Ology, Wednesdays, 3:00 PM  
Democracy Now (with Amy Goodman),  
7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, weekdays.  
Progressive Forum (with Wally James)  
Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM

Of course there is news:  
BBC News, 6:00-7:00 AM and 8:00-9:00 AM  
KPFT local news, weekdays, 4:00-5:30 PM  
Bird Note, 9:58 AM... at the end of  
Open Journal, 9:00-10:00 AM

And lots of music, especially on the weekends.

You can see the program schedule at

**www.kpft.org**

RSS and ATOM web feeds, and  
PODCASTS are available.

Revised March 31, 2014

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

## 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.

## THE BAYOU BANNER IS ENDING...

...distribution by conventional mail. The issue of June-July, 2014 was the last issue for which paper copies will regularly be mailed to members.

A PDF copy of the newsletter, letter-sized, suitable for printing yourself, is available at the website of the Houston Sierra Club

<http://lonestar.sierraclub.org/news/>

Also, outings, trips, and other activities are posted on our Meet Up site

[meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)

and we have a facebook page for discussion of environmental issues

[facebook.com/HSCenvironment](http://facebook.com/HSCenvironment)

The primary reason for abandoning mailed paper copies is the cost. For the last few months the cost of printing, addressing, and mailing paper copies to about half of our members (the others get it on the Internet) is over \$1,000 per issue. Since the Houston Sierra Club gets nothing (that's "zero") from dues paid to the National Sierra Club, all funds supporting local operations must be raised by local activities (outings, trips, the yard sale, the auction, etc.), but the amount these activities bring in has fallen in recent years, so it seems best to cut expenses such as mailing paper copies of the *Bayou Banner*.

If you do not receive email notices of the availability of the *Bayou Banner* on line, you should sign up on the Email Alert/Announcement List. See page 11 for information about this list. 🌐



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

# BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 7

August-September, 2014

[houston.sierraclub.org](http://houston.sierraclub.org) • [facebook.com/HSCenvironment](https://www.facebook.com/HSCenvironment) • [www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings](http://www.meetup.com/Houston-Sierra-Club-Outings)

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 copies: about 2,500 are mailed, and 2,500 are delivered electronically to members; some are distributed through other outlets.

EDITOR: Carol Woronow

Email: [BayouBanner@gmail.com](mailto:BayouBanner@gmail.com) Website: <http://houston.sierraclub.org>

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

Copyright © 2014, Houston Sierra Club. All rights reserved.

Reprinting in whole or part is expressly forbidden, except by written permission of the publisher.

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

# 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 @ junio.com.

### INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO):

Meeting times and place to be determined. 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@ junio.com.

## WANTED - YOUR STORIES

Have a story about a great outing?

Want to promote an environmental issue close to your heart?

Did you take some spectacular photographs during your hike last month? Do you hate the filler photos in this issue?

Have you discovered a great place to recycle your trash or treasures?

Send your stories, photos, and links to local issues to the Bayou Banner editor at HSCBanner@gmail.com.

## 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

## 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.

## 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@ junio.com.

## Houston Sierra Club

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

### 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](mailto:houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org).



The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It has been published 6 times a year, in odd-numbered months, but that is changing. See the Group's web site for the latest information (<http://houston.sierraclub.org>). Current circulation is 5500 issues sent to members and distributed through various outlets.

**CURRENT EDITOR:** Carol Woronow.

**SUBMISSIONS:** The deadline to submit articles has been 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) — but articles and information is welcome at any time.

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.

**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](mailto: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.**

# VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

## HOUSTON SIERRA CLUB EMAIL

### ALERT/ANNOUNCEMENT LIST

Since the Houston Group will not be mailing out the *Bayou Banner* on a regular basis, one option for getting information on Club activities is the Houston Group EMAIL ALERT LIST. We use this list to send out periodic announcements on Group activities and to post conservation action alerts. Instructions for subscribing to this list are located on this page of the *Bayou Banner*, and on the homepage of the Houston Group website under the "Get Involved" heading. If you should want to drop from the list at any time it is easy to unsubscribe yourself—those instructions are included at the bottom of each message sent out on the list. If you need assistance in locating the instructions or in signing up for the email list, please contact Frank Blake at

frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896.

Note: There is the possibility that we may produce some sort of periodic newsletter in the future that could be mailed out to those members specifically interested in subscribing.

The November/December issue may be mailed because of the Executive Committee ballots.

## 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.

## HOUSTON REGIONAL GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Art Browning (Chair) (Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	art.browning@gmail.com
Jim Williams (Vice Chair)	ezz@pdq.net
Lorraine Gibson (Treasurer)	raineygib@aol.com
Page Williams (Secretary)	page.williams@gmail.com
George Batten (Bayou Banner Editor)	BayouBanner@gmail.com
Frank Blake	frankblake@juno.com
Grace Martinez (GBASCH Director)	gracemartinez7@earthlink.net
Evelyn Merz (Conservation Committee Chair)	elmerz@hal-pc.org
Jen Powis (Alternate Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	jenniferpowis@yahoo.com

## REGIONAL GROUP LEADERSHIP

Banner Editor	Carol Woronow	HSCBanner@gmail.com
Beach Cleanup	Frank Blake	frankblake@juno.com
Conservation	Evelyn Merz	elmerz@hal-pc.org 713-644-8228
Conservation Subcommittees		
Air Quality	Brandt Mannchen	brandtshnftb@juno.com 713-664-5962
Coastal Issues	Page Williams	page.williams@gmail.com
Energy and Global Warming	Jim Williams	ezz@pdq.net
Forestry and Big Thicket	Brandt Mannchen	brandtshnftb@juno.com 713-664-5962
Recycling	Frank Blake	frankblake@juno.com
Watershed	Evelyn Merz	elmerz@hal-pc.org 713-644-8228
Hospitality	Carol Lee	713-523-2294
Inner City Outings	Lorraine Gibson	raineygib@aol.com 281-384-4104
Lone Star Chapter Delegate		
	Art Browning	art.browning@gmail.com
Membership	John Berlinghoff	johnb@hal-pc.org
Outings	Frank Blake	frankblake@juno.com
Political	Doug Peterson	dougpeterson@earthlink.net
Programs	Joe Lengfellner	thatsjoesmail@yahoo.com
Webmaster	houston.webmaster@lonestar.sierraclub.org	
Galveston Bay Area Sierra Club Houston	Grace Martinez	gracemartinez7@earthlink.net

## 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.