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DALLAS GROUP

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

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Wins, Losses, and Building Power in the Legislature

with Matthew Johnson



GENERAL MEETING

Join us as we welcome The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter's Political Director, [Matthew Johnson](#), as he talks about the outcome of major and minor bills, and what lies ahead in Sierra Club's campaign to build power to win at the Texas Capitol.

FREE → Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.

You can join us 15 minutes before to chat and ask questions. Everyone is welcome to participate!

To register for this meeting, click this [ZOOM registration link](#).

AUGUST EVENTS

Check out our events for the month! See the rest of the year [here](#).

- AUGUST 2 → Executive Committee Meeting
- AUGUST 8 → General Meeting
- AUGUST 12 → [White Rock Lake Clean Up](#)
 - 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Please bring drinking water!
- AUGUST 5 - 12 → [Pecos Wilderness Outing, New Mexico](#)

Check [here](#) for future outings.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

The Nature Symposium at the Dallas Public Library invited the Sierra Club of Dallas to present opportunities for outings to the community on July 15, 2023. The poster presentation attracted youth and adults interested in the outdoors. We loved seeing everyone at the library and hope to attend more events soon!

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

It's August. The Planet is hot. You're hot. Everything is hot. But, rest assured, there's

no global warming (according to those shrill, public voices who shall not be named).

Despite my complaints about the heat, the talking heads, and the politicians, there is some fabulous news to report that will actually help all of us to beat the heat and reduce its effects around us!

We are beyond pleased and proud to report that our dear friends and fellow advocates from the grassroots group, **The Duncanville Nature Conservancy**, have won a year-long battle to have 42 acres of untouched creek, prairie, and forested property formally declared a nature preserve, and at the July City Council Meeting, the Duncanville City Council did just that! The Council voted to create the **Charles F. Ladd Nature Preserve**. It will be the city's first nature park and an asset to all who live there. If you'd like to learn more, an excellent article about the win has been published in GreenSource DFW and can be read [here](#).

Additionally, those of us who were beyond saddened by the sale of the **Fairfield Lake State Park** to developers can take heart! The State Park (located approximately 95 miles South of downtown Dallas) which was purchased by Todd Interests (who is planning to develop the land into multi-million dollar homes) has had their plans dashed with the decision by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) who issued their decree to save the park via Eminent Domain on June 10th, 2023. In addition to the decision from the TPWD, we are cheering the work of our friends from the grassroots advocacy group, **Save Fairfield Lake State Park**, who

continue to fight like hell to keep this beautiful state park open for all to enjoy. If you'd like to learn more, you can click [here](#) and read a blog post penned by yours truly and Fairfield Lake State Park Advocate, Misti Little.

Cheers,

Victoria

ARTICLES

[Dallas developer gives more details in fight against eminent domain plan](#) for Fairfield Lake State Park by Alex Boyer

"The state is trying to take back the property, which includes Fairfield Lake State Park, through the use of eminent domain, but the Dallas-based developer isn't backing down."



ARTICLES

[Texas Legislature 2023](#) by Texas Tribune Staff

"The 88th Legislature's regular session began Jan. 10 and ran through May 29. The GOP-controlled chambers passed the state budget--and impeached the Republican attorney general..."



RECOMMENDATIONS

Want to learn more about legislature in Texas and beyond? Check out our recommendations below!

VIDEOS

[Crash Course U.S. Government and Politics](#) on YouTube

[Introduction to Local Governments in Texas](#) on YouTube

BOOKS

[Lone Star: A History Of Texas And The Texans](#) by T.R. Fehrenbach

[Empire of the Summer Moon](#) by S.C. Gwynne

OUTREACH SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Dallas Sierra Club has a new program to provide outdoor/environmental education in the form of entertaining and informative presentations by Dallas Sierra Club members with expertise in the topics offered. These presentations range in length from 30 minutes to one hour and cover a variety of topics in the general categories of outdoor adventure, environmental education, and general ecology. These talks are appropriate for a wide range of audiences including youth groups, school classes, civic and social groups, nature and gardening clubs, church groups, etc. Any group interested in an available topic is welcome to [contact us](#).

This service is offered free-of-charge by the Dallas Sierra Club.

Thanks for reading!



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