



SIERRA CLUB
DALLAS GROUP

EXPLORE, ENJOY, **PROTECT THE EARTH.**

NEWSLETTER SEPT & OCT 2023

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George Zimmerman - Life Well Lived

We're sad to announce longtime Dallas Sierra Club member George Zimmerman has passed away. George was a life member of the Sierra Club and someone who enjoyed life to the fullest. George loved the outdoors and many of his adventures where outings with the Dallas Sierra Club and with Sierra Club friends. He enjoyed a variety of trips over the years, hiking in the mountains, snowshoeing in Taos, biking in Colorado, canoeing the Red River on Bastille Day and possibly his favorite sport - fly fishing! He was an avid hunter, for game to eat and for southwest art while visiting galleries in New Mexico. George had a generous spirit and was always willing to volunteer his time and share his good fortune by donations to our ICO program helping underserved youth get outdoors, and to help support our Club's local and

statewide political and environmental efforts. He savored good food whether at a nice restaurant or from a street vendor. In that spirit, friends gathered last month at Tolbert's, one of his favorite eateries, to celebrate his life with a toast and some good Texas grub.

Happy trails, friend.



Plastic Reduction Project

with Sean Winn



GENERAL MEETING

Please join the Dallas Sierra Club as we welcome Sean Wiin, co-founder of the **Plastic Reduction Project**. Sean will share with us how his organization got started as an outgrowth of Sierra Club Austin and will walk us through their programs aimed at converting single-use foodware and food packaging models into reuse models with supportive outreach roles such as:

- Volunteers using an app to crowdsource data on the sustainability of local restaurants.
- Free consultations offered to restaurants on how to profitably go green.
- New initiatives underway for senior living facilities and for high schools.

FREE → Tuesday, October 10 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](#).

OCTOBER EVENTS

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

- OCTOBER 4 → Executive Committee Meeting
- OCTOBER 10 → General Meeting

- OCTOBER 14 → [White Rock Lake Clean Up](#)
 - 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Please bring drinking water!
- OCTOBER 14 → Day Hike at Dinosaur Valley State Park
- OCTOBER 15 → Annual Dallas Sierra Club Picnic
- OCTOBER 19 - 22 → Camp and Hike at Colorado Bend
- NOVEMBER 3 - 5 → Backpacking at Ouachita Trail in eastern Oklahoma

FALL CAMPOUT at COLORADO BEND SP - OCT 19-22!



Make reservations **by Oct 16th** for our outing at this gem of a state park located in the northern part of the Texas Hill Country. Arrive Thu, Fri or Sat and stay through Sun (Oct 19-22). Set up your tent and chair on the beautiful large grassy group campsite

along the Colorado River. Join leaders on your choice of hikes of various lengths and difficulties, splash in the natural springs, visit a waterfall, go bird watching, or just relax on your own. Gather your family, friends and neighbors--**this outing is perfect for campers of ALL ages and abilities.** Details and pre-reservation (required) information are posted on the Club's Calendar and Outings list. Questions? Email Liz@dallassierraclub.org

Check [HERE](#) for future outings.



PEPSICO

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Dan Moulton, the Dallas Sierra Club's coordinator, gave a talk at the Pepsico plant in Arlington on August 23rd. The talk was on "Water: A Limited Resource". The talk had great reception with over 100 attending the talk! Thank you to Dan for presenting on behalf of the Dallas Sierra Club. If you would like to schedule a talk from our Outreach Speakers Program, please click [HERE](#).



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

DSC Backpackers Celebrate Trek in New Mexico

Hikers enjoyed their August week of backpacking in the New Mexico mountains. Our happy hikers trekked from the north edge of the Pecos Wilderness to a camp at elevation 12,100 feet near Truchas Lake. In the scenic West Fork Rio Santa Barbara valley, the group shooed cows from their meadow campsite and approached a Mountain Sheep ram on a switchback above the tree line. The hike distance was

thirty miles in four and a half days with more than 3,500 feet of elevation change. We then celebrated the trek at a Las Vegas, NM taco café. The Pecos Wilderness in the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests is one of Dallas Sierra Club's perennial favorite destinations!

Dallas Sierra Club has some great upcoming outings for hikes. You're invited and encouraged to participate. Read descriptions of upcoming outings by clicking [HERE](#).





EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WESLEY-RANKIN explores with ICO!

Never mind that the heat index was 108 degrees! In June volunteers from our Dallas ICO outreach program took a group of wonderful young women from Wesley-Rankin Community Center to Purtis Creek State Park for a day in nature. As we hiked along the path the kiddos were delighted to find several baby frogs hopping along the trail, a variety of flowers and bugs, even a large owl which peered down on them from a tree. (Truth be told, it was probably eyeing a nearby carcass, but it was fun to see.) After lunch they were able to splash and play in the lake to cool off, before a few Oreos and the ride back to Dallas. If you're interested in volunteering with this valuable program that gets underserved kids into nature, please let us know. Since we provide these outings at no charge to the kids, donations are also greatly appreciated. Contact Liz at Liz@dallassierraclub.org.

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

September

Fall is so close I can taste it! One of my favorite seasons is almost upon us, and after a summer that has left most of North Texas brown and crispy, I'm excited by the potential for rain and some cooler temps (plus all the autumnal decorations I'm itching to put out).

Another reason to cheer in anticipation is the annual **North Texas Giving Day** event which is an 18-hour online giving event designed to give back to our communities by supporting local nonprofits on one easy-to-use platform. Early giving has already started (September 1st - September 20th) leading up to the official day itself, September 21st. For those not familiar with North Texas Giving Day, click [here](#) for more information and how to donate. As many of you know, the Dallas Sierra Club exists solely because of the generosity of others. Without the consistent support of members, like you, we would cease to exist. No donation is too small, and every penny is greatly appreciated.

Alternatively, if you would rather donate time, we can always use your help! Despite trying to keep our fingers on the pulse of all things environmental in North Texas, there is an ever-expanding need for citizen involvement and action in our cities. Please feel free to reach out to me (victoria@dallassierraclub.org) or any of our Chairs with questions or ideas!

Cheers,

Victoria

October

Now that autumn is officially upon us, the temperatures are cooling down, and the rain is increasing, it's time to celebrate! Please join The Dallas Sierra Club for our **"Happy Fall Potluck Picnic"** on Sunday, October, 15th from 4:00-6:00 pm. Not only will we have tasty treats to share, but there will also be guest performances by Kent Multer's Drum Circle.



We look forward to visiting with you face-to-face, hearing about you and your environmental journey, and enjoying the outdoors together. So please bring a chair, a dish to share, and enjoy the cool, crisp air with us on October 15th at Churchill Park (7025 Churchill Way, Dallas)

Cheers,

Victoria

ARTICLES

[Summer of Record Heat Deals Costly Damage to Texas Water Systems](#) by Dylan Baddour

✍️ "As dry soils contract, underground pipes rupture and cities contend with thousands of costly water leaks, frustrating conservation efforts and highlighting the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to a warming climate."

Photo by [Paul Wolke](#) on [Unsplash](#)



ARTICLES

['We are at Dangerous Levels.' Water restrictions take hold as North Texas reservoirs dry up](#) by Elizabeth Campbell

📷 "When Rhome Mayor Patricia Mitchell looks at her yard and others' throughout the growing city of almost 2,000 people, she sees parched grass and trees that are losing their leaves."

Photo by [Arun Clarke](#) on [Unsplash](#)



RECOMMENDATIONS

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

VIDEOS

[Crash Course Climate Change](#) on YouTube

[Texas's power disaster is a warning sign for the US](#) on YouTube

BOOKS

[The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming](#) by David Wallace-Wells

[The West Texas Power Plant That Saved the World: Energy, Capitalism, and](#)

[Climate Change](#) by Andy Bowman

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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