



SIERRA CLUB

DALLAS GROUP

NEWSLETTER March 2024

Musings From The Chair...

Spring has Sprung early in North Texas this year, and with the warmer temperatures and budding foliage, it has got some of us here at the Dallas Sierra Club itching to get out and about! With that in mind, please consider joining us at one of our favorite watering holes to imbibe, visit, celebrate, and kvetch! We will be meeting at the historic **Texas Theatre bar in Oak Cliff on Thursday, March 28th, 2024, at 7:30 pm.** For those unfamiliar with the location, [here are reviews, details, and directions.](#)

If your schedule finds you too busy to join us on March 28th, please consider hosting a happy hour at a location and date that works for you! Every neighborhood has its own charms, and we would love an excuse to come and check out yours! Please email me with ideas and dates, and I will gladly create a digital flier and promote it!

Cheers,
Victoria

Our **beautiful new website** will appear in mid-March at our same url, dallassierraclub.org. Links to special pages such as the Outings List may change. You can still navigate to them in the drop-down menus at the top of each page.

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom

Susan Alvarez will be providing an overview of North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) efforts to develop a regional **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) on behalf of the 16-county area** comprising the NCTCOG.

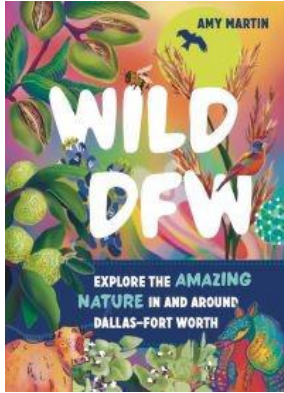
7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 12 via Zoom

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. you can log in to the meeting, chat, and ask questions. The meeting will begin at 7:00 with announcements, followed by our speaker's presentation.

[Register here for the meeting via Zoom.](#)

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member.

For more information, contact Victoria Howard, Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org.



Hike at Lewisville Lake with Amy Martin

Dallas Sierra Club is teaming with Master Naturalist and author Amy Martin to present a day hike at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Center (LLELA, “lee-lah”) on **Saturday, April 27**. Amy made an outstanding presentation of the amazing nature in and around Dallas-Fort Worth at the DSC’s December meeting. In her 2023 book, *Wild DFW*, she details what to see at twenty-five local nature destinations. She makes a point that we don’t have to travel far to experience wild and wonderful nature.

The April hike will start at **9:30 AM and last until roughly 2:00 PM**, allowing for a comfortable pace to cover about six miles with pauses to explain what we’ll see.

A hike description appears on [DSC’s Outings List](#). Spots on the hike with Amy at Lewisville Lake are limited, so signups for the hike are required in advance. [Request your spot for the hike here](#). Amy will be happy to autograph your copy of Wild DFW and she’ll have a stash of books in her trunk on April 27.



(photo by Daniel Vasquez)

COLORADO BEND STATE PARK CAMPOUT

- Make Reservations Now!

Escape city life and relax camping under the stars near bluebonnets and the Colorado River. Join us at this premier state park known for its beauty, scenic hiking trails, natural springs, swimming hole, birding, and even a waterfall! Our campout **April 12-14** is for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Enjoy a hike, relax in our large, grassy campsite, even an optional stop in Bend for a hot meal, cold beer or ice cream, and live music on the outdoor patio. Our campsite has plenty of room for any size tent, camp chairs, even lawn games. Colorado Bend is a true Texas gem, nestled in the north end of the hill country about 3 to 3 1/2-hour drive southwest of Dallas. This outing is perfect for beginner and experienced campers alike, singles, families, friends, anyone wanting to try out new gear, everyone will enjoy Colorado Bend! Pre-registration is required. [Complete details and trip reservation forms are in the pdf here](#). Trip Coordinator: Liz Wheelan, Liz@dallassierraclub.org

Q: Why do mummies never go camping? A: They're afraid to unwind and relax!



Big Bend National Park Trip Report

The Dallas Sierra Club completed another great trip to Big Bend National Park in mid-February. The Dallas Group has been leading trips to Big Bend for 50 years! This year we had two trip options. You could stay in the group campground and day hike for 3 days or you could go on a fantastic backpacking trip on the Outer Mountain Look – one of the best hikes in Texas.

The day hiking group visited diverse areas of the park. On the first day, they hiked to the historic Hot Springs in the far eastern part of the park near Rio Grande Village. On the second day, hikes to the Window and the South Rim in the Chisos Mountains in the center of the park provided an opportunity to visit the higher elevations of the mountains. And, on the last day, the group hiked the Top of Burro Mesa Trail, visited historic Castolon and hiked into the mouth of Santa Elena Canyon in the western end of the park.

The backpacking group got to experience several of the ecozones in the park as they hiked up into the high country on the Pinnacles Trail, then down to the high desert on the Juniper Canyon and Dodson Trails. They completed their long hike by trekking back to the high country on the Blue Creek Trail and Laguna Meadow Trail.

We are already working on next year's trip to Big Bend. By mid-year, we'll have it on the calendar so you can plan your 2025 Big Bend adventure.

DSC Speaks

In February Dan Moulton spoke about water pollution to sixty attendees at a sustainable gardening and landscaping workshop hosted by the City of Carrollton.

Chris Guldi spoke on a panel on the ethics of caring for the Earth at Shelton School's ethics seminar for juniors and seniors.

Want a Sierra Club speaker? Contact dan@dallassierraclub.org.

Environmental and Climate Action...

contribute to the City of Dallas' economic vitality. Learn how your business can take part and benefit, at <https://www.dallasecodelv.org/613/Environmental-CECAP>



Community Lead Awareness Sessions

Free EPA training is offered April 2 or April 3 in West Dallas or The Cedars, for the public and for community leaders who want to learn how to teach their neighbors about lead's presence, danger, and mitigation. Training in Spanish is available. Register early to make sure you have a seat.

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/community-lead-awareness-sessions>



Air Monitors

Dallas Sierra Club members and others attended the **Air Sensor Summit at UTDallas' IQ-HQ in Richardson, March 5**. Dr. David Lary of UTD spoke about the development and usefulness of inexpensive, non-regulatory air monitors such as one he wore around his neck and another mounted on the back of a robot dog. He emphasized the highly local variability of air quality, that can differ from minute to minute within an area the size of three football fields. Jenny Narvaez of North Central Texas Council of Governments noted the \$45,000,000 in fees that are likely to kick in, in a couple of years, for pollution-generating businesses and municipal operations because of our region's "severe" non-attainment of EPA clean air standards. Medical

doctors Barry Lachman and Folashade Afolabi described the impact of particulates and other air pollution on health outcomes, from asthma to some types of schizophrenia.

Another Air Sensor Summit will be scheduled by the City of Dallas and UTD in the Fall.



Inaugural Coppell Sustainability Summit

On February 28 the Coppell Eco Club hosted its first Sustainability Summit at Coppell High School. Dallas Sierra Club and Meaningful Movies Project sponsored the event. The summit was organized and led by Coppell High School junior Ashia Agarwal, who is also a DSC executive committee member. Agarwal hoped to galvanize community action to reduce plastic usage.

Over a hundred and fifty people attended, including members of the Coppell City Council, Coppell ISD Board of Trustees, and the adult community. They viewed ***The Story of Plastic***, an Emmy-winning film directed by Deia Scholsberg and produced by StoryOfPlastic.org. Different from every other plastic documentary you've seen, *The Story of Plastic* presents a cohesive timeline of how we got to our current global plastic pollution crisis and how the oil and gas industry has successfully manipulated the narrative around it.

A panel discussion followed. The panel included Summit K-12 professional developmental strategy consultant Dr. Linda Cook, Biodiversity Education Center

recreation supervisor Jonathan Ward, and Eco Club officers Ashia Agarwal and Tanya Nikam. The panel invited everyone at the summit to reduce their consumption and utilize sustainably developed and sourced items, providing a [curated list of items utilized everyday that can be replaced with sustainable alternatives](#).

Two additional Eco Club projects described were the Cafeteria Plastic Reduction Project, which could save the school over \$65000 a year if fully implemented, and Trash Collection Optimization using an app Agarwal developed to optimize Coppell trash collection routes.

[Read a more **complete report** on the summit and associated **projects**.](#)

EXPLORE. ENJOY. PROTECT.



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