



dallas group  
lone star chapter

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## dallas sierra club news

### July, 2010: In This Issue. . .

- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, July 13
- [Conservation News](#) - TXI Shuts Down Its Wet Kilns
- [Outings Highlights](#) - It's Summer, but We Still Have Outings
- [Outings Corner](#) - Water Containers
- [Recycling Roundup](#) - by Rita Raccoon
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club



### General Meeting Program - July 13, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

#### Habitat for Humanity

Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity, since its incorporation in 1986, and its contributors have built over 750 homes and served as a catalyst for the revitalization of more than 20 communities. Habitat's mission results in hope, dignity and self worth for families in Dallas County. Each year Habitat partners with hardworking families and the community to build 70+ homes, making Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity the largest nonprofit homebuilder, the second largest homebuilder overall in the City of Dallas, and the fourth largest Habitat affiliate in the United States. Beverly Stibbens, Manager of In Kind Giving, will present an overview of the organization's work, its ReStores and how we can become involved.

#### Urban Forestry and Tree Preservation

As a Sierra Club member, don't you often feel like only a handful of people in Dallas care about trees? It seems that most people don't think about trees except when they see a favorite green space being clear cut, or their electricity goes out because of a fallen limb, or they read about the City's struggle to handle the brush cleanup after a major storm. The public's perception of trees needs to change! In this presentation, Robert Curry will review the importance of trees, the many gifts they give us, and how they positively impact our quality of life here in Dallas. He will outline the urgent measures designed to protect and preserve trees that will soon be coming before the Dallas City Council.

Mr. Curry is a seasoned veteran of both business and city government. Currently, he is the Northeast District Manager of Code Compliance for the City of Dallas. He serves as the Chairman of the Mayor's Urban Forest Advisory Committee. He is the president of Save Open Space, an organization which works fervently to preserve green space, and is on the board of the Casa View Haven neighborhood association. He is a proponent and organizer of neighborhood activism in East Dallas. His other interests include urban design, community gardens, and historic preservation. He lives in Casa View with his wife, Jeanette Prasifka, and rescue dog Emily.

[Visit our website](#) for complete information about our General Meeting, including a map.

## Conservation News

Good news!!! Effective immediately, TXI is permanently shutting down its 4 oldest and worst-polluting wet kilns in Midlothian. They are also returning their hazardous waste permit for "wet" kilns to the state. As you know, these kilns have created an enormous amount of pollution and illness since their beginnings. From the [Austin American Statesman](#): "According to the most recent EPA statistics, the plants in 2007 emitted about 300 tons of sulfuric acid, nearly 20 tons of benzene, and smaller amounts of mercury, chromium, manganese and other chemicals." These kilns have heavily contributed to Dallas's continual failure to meet clean air attainment standards set by the EPA.

TXI will continue using the newest kiln, which began operating in 2001, but it uses a cleaner process. Additionally, Holcim will continue to operate its 2 dry-process kilns and Ash Grove Cement will continue to operate 3 wet-process kilns.

This victory marks a 15-year fight for the Dallas Sierra Club. Downwinders at Risk, and others--and was largely made possible through the donations of Sierrans and others--donations which totaled almost a quarter of million dollars. One of the longest legal permit battles in Texas history has come to a close.

You can read more of this here at the [Dallas Morning News](#). Please consider posting a comment there, as we need to encourage the Dallas Morning News to report on more issues like this.

## Outings Highlights

### **Twentieth Annual Bastille Day Canoe Trip, July 17-18**

Celebrate this French national holiday marking the beginning of the French revolution with our annual canoe trip on the Red River. We'll put-in on Saturday under the Interstate 35 bridge (north of Gainesville). The rest of the day will be spent swimming and relaxing as we paddle down to our campsite on a large sandbar. Sunday we'll canoe on down to the takeout with a few swim stops on the way. This is a very nice section of the Red River, with very little development along the banks. Some canoeing experience is required and you must furnish your own canoe and camping equipment. Also, you must bring something French, or you will be guillotined at dawn. Leader: Arthur Kuehne 214-608-3210(H)

### **Night Hike on the Chisolm Trail in Plano, July 20**

Meet at 7:00 PM in front of the Starbucks/Barnes & Noble (north side of 15th just west of US 75). We will walk 5 miles on a paved path. Bring water. No reservations, just show up. Optional ice cream afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

### **Becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader, August 11**

Have you ever thought about becoming an outings leader for the Sierra Club? Come to this introductory seminar and we'll tell you how to get started. We'll go over the types of outings the Club does, what we expect from our leaders, what training is required, and what services the Club provides. We'll look at the schedule of additional training for those of you who want to start leading outings. The seminar will be held at REI (Cross Timbers Room), 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch) from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. You don't need to sign up, just show up. Organizer: Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260(H)

## **Labor Day Bus Trip to the Weminuche Wilderness, September 2-7**

Would you like to cap your summer with a backpacking trip in one of the most spectacular Wilderness areas in the United States? We have the perfect opportunity. Spend the Labor Day holiday in the Weminuche Wilderness in Southwest Colorado. Our chartered sleeper bus departs Dallas on September 2 for four days of unforgettable hiking. You won't find a better way to end your summer. Complete trip details and reservation information, along with pictures of the area, are posted at [www.dallassierraclub.org/outings](http://www.dallassierraclub.org/outings).

For a complete list of our outings, [visit our outings page](#).

## **The The Outings Corner**

### **Sip or Gulp, Bag or Bottle – Which Water Containers are Best for You?**

by Liz Wheelan

You would think choosing how to carry your water during a hike would be simple. It used to be you just filled the old canteen and hung it from your external pack. Now you have several other options. A recent comment by someone in a beginning backpack class highlighted the need for a refresher article on the important issues you should consider when deciding how to haul your most precious outdoor equipment – your water.

Let's begin by saying which container to use is a matter of personal preference. You should use whichever one is going to work best for you to drink as much water as needed while on trail. Generally, the lighter the container the better as long as it's reliable enough to do its job. Product names referred to in this article are for comparison or informational purposes. If you're on an outing with the Dallas Sierra Club we do not require, disallow or endorse any particular type or brand of container. We just require that you have a sufficient supply of water appropriate for the activity.

There are generally four types of water containers most popular for hiking:

- Collapsible – made of soft, bendable BPA free plastic by Nalgene, Platypus and others
- Hard Plastic – such as Nalgene which are BPA free, dependable and leak proof, also Gatorade bottles.
- Reservoir – such as a Camelbak. For many outdoor enthusiasts this is the easiest way to access water while on trail. Just be aware of potential need for replacement/extra parts such as the bite valve, how best to keep it clean, water treatment and if needed, prepare for effects of outdoor temperatures on the hose.
- Stainless Steel (food-grade) – for those not wanting anything plastic these are durable, lightweight and leak proof (if not a flip top), made by REI, Kleen Kanteen and many others.

So, with those choices in mind, here is a condensed version of thoughts offered by many of your outings leaders after years of trial and error:

A few TIPS about carrying water:

- Use whichever container is easiest for you – then you'll be likely to drink more.
- Hydrate well beginning a few days before your hike.
- Start simple – it's perfectly OK to save money by using a few Gatorade or similar type bottles (hard plastic/secure lid). Then as you hike more often you'll get a better idea of any other containers you may want to purchase.
- Always take more water than you think you'll need, especially on hot days and if you're unsure if there will be any places to get more along the way.
- Different containers work better for different activities (day hiking, backpacking, paddling, etc).
- A combination of different types of containers often works best for multi-day trips.
- Take at least one extra container (unbreakable and leak proof is best) so you always have a backup (of container and of water).
- Multiple smaller containers are usually better than one large one, both for ease of use, in case of a leak and also for weight distribution in a backpack. Don't rely on all your water in one container!
- When possible confirm if and where there may be water sources available during your hike, and know whether or not that water is potable.
- Always be aware of the amount and frequency of your water consumption and that of anyone you're responsible for while on trail. You can do this visually if using a bottle, or if using a reservoir we suggest adding a liter or other set amount at planned intervals so you have a way to monitor the consumption and supply).
- Be aware of any foods you're taking that are higher in sodium. They may make you thirstier and wanting to drink more water than usual.

A few considerations when deciding which containers are right for you:

**Accessibility** – the easier your water is to reach, the more often you'll take time to drink. Many newer packs are designed for use with reservoir systems which are very easy but the outside pockets can be hard to reach and may need the help of a trail buddy to use. If available, side pouch attachments made to hold water bottles can work well.

**Durability** – any bag/pouch type container (soft sided) is more vulnerable to leaking. If using pouch style, be sure to bring duct tape or Platypus band aid (yes, they make them for these "critters"). We'd recommend always taking at least one durable plastic bottle.

**Ease of use** – while drinking on trail, for cooking in camp, to filter and if needed, in various first aid situations.

**Expense** – bottles and pouches are a lesser, one time cost compared to a reservoir system that costs more upfront and has parts that need to be maintained and/or replaced.

**Length of trip** – how much water do you need to haul, weight distribution in pack

**Mouth of container** – do you need a certain mouth size (of container, not yours!) for compatibility w/ water filter if needed.

**Sanitation** – BPA free bottles can be washed on trail or go in a dishwasher. Soft sided and reservoir style containers (and their parts) are a bit harder to wash because there are more parts and they are harder to dry. Be sure to read and follow the instructions for care and use of reservoir and its parts so it is sure to be completely clean and free of deposits.

**Timing** - do you prefer brief trail stops and drinking more at a time from a bottle, or would you rather sip more frequently less at a time but more frequently from a hose?

So next time you're enjoying the outdoors, watch what water containers others use and ask them what they think. There are always new, better, lighter options popping up on the market. Or you may just decide to pull that Gatorade bottle from your recycling after all. However you carry it – just remember to drink!!!

## Recycling Round-Up

by Rita Raccoon

### Recent Recycling News - July 2010

**As we head into the furnace days of summer, Neil Sperry has some comments about grass clippings and water usage.**

**Utilization of grass clippings.** We used to bag grass clippings and send them to the landfill. By Saturday evening, after everyone had finished mowing their lawns, bags lined the streets and alleys. In the mid-'90s, however, cities began to refuse to pick up the clippings. (And, people began to hire mowing services.) Now, clippings are composted, either in traditional piles with other organic debris or in large commercial recycling facilities. The nutrients we used to send to the landfill are being returned to the soil. *(Rita comments that when she had a house with a lovely St. Augustine lawn, she left the clippings on the lawn as nutritious mulch.)*

**Watering restrictions.** Over the past 15 years, we've encountered droughts lasting two to three years, and that has brought many cities to enforce mandatory watering restrictions during midday hours. However, this is much more than a rules-and-regulations issue. We need to be good stewards of our water reserves. If you have a sprinkler system, run it responsibly. Be sure that all of its parts are functioning properly. Don't abuse our natural resource. Account for every drop that you use.

**Smart controllers.** This is the natural next step in water management. These irrigation controllers monitor weather conditions and factor in existing soil conditions, temperatures and even the plants growing within the various stations served. Computer systems determine when and for how long the water should run. They can save as much as half of the water you might have used, which saves you money.

### **Austin Company Receives TxDOT Approval for Recycled e-Waste Plastic Signs**

On May 19th, Austin e-waste recycling and recycling products manufacturer, Image Microsystems, announced they had received approval from the Texas Department of Transportation for a product made from their proprietary MicroStrate material.

MicroStrate (patent pending), made from 100% post-consumer e-waste plastic, received approval as a "Type C" traffic delineator. Type C signs are those you see on concrete barriers with yellow or white reflectors. Approval for fine substrate traffic delineators (most other traffic signs) is pending.

Image Microsystems' manufacturing process combines "dirty" plastic found in spent printer cartridges and computer or printer housings and converts it into resilient, cost-effective, and eco-friendly products. Dirty plastic is generally considered valueless in the recycling supply chain and

as a result frequently ends up in landfills. Notably, the new signs are completely recyclable (unlike another aluminum sign alternative, fiberglass) and are less theft-prone than aluminum.

Image Microsystems is also known for developing programs to employ deaf and special needs workers. Through the company's ongoing partnership with the Texas School for the Deaf, Image Microsystems offers paid internships to their students. Upon graduation, the students apply for full time employment. As a result of this effort, over 40% of Image Microsystems' workforce is comprised of deaf and other special needs employees.

For more information, visit the company's Web site at [www.imagemicro.com](http://www.imagemicro.com).

## Calendar

Here is our calendar for the next two months. For complete listings, visit us at [www.dallassierraclub.org](http://www.dallassierraclub.org).



**JUL 10 (SAT) SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** Outdoors at the Samuel-Grand Ampitheatre we will watch Cymbeline, an excellent Shakespeare play that will be highly entertaining. The address is 1500 Tenison Parkway, Dallas, TX. We will meet at the front ticket office at 7:30 PM, and grab some choice lawn spots. The play starts at 8:15 PM. Bring a chair if you like, or a blanket to sit on. Bring your coldest Beer or Wine or other Beverage, (just no hard stuff) cause its gonna be hot! It will be a great evening of entertainment all around. The tickets are \$10, and if we get 10 people to come out, then the tickets will be only \$8. Call me if you want to meet me at the front, or you want to carpool. Otherwise, just show up, and look for Ginger in her Green Bandana. Hope to see you all there! Organizer: [Ginger Bradley](mailto:Ginger.Bradley@sierraclub.org) 469-223-7902(C)



**JUL 10 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP.** Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd. and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards. Leader: [Carol Nash](mailto:Carol.Nash@sierraclub.org) 214-824-0244(H)



**JUL 12 (MON) SIERRA SINGLES MONTHLY DINNER AT CAFE BRAZIL** Greetings all you wonderful people! Are you hot enough yet? Just want to invite you out to the Cafe Brazil in Richardson on July 12th. Its not the 5th, like it normally would've been, cause some folks will be out of town still. So yah, the address is 2071 N Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080. Join us at 6:30 PM for some cold drinks and great conversations. Dinner is at about 7 PM. Their phone number is 972 783-9011 if you need directions. Check out their website at [CafeBrazil.com](http://CafeBrazil.com) in Richardson TX. See you there! Leaders: [Ginger Bradley](mailto:Ginger.Bradley@sierraclub.org) 469-223-7902(C) and [Brian C Shade](mailto:Brian.C.Shade@sierraclub.org) 972-467-7049(H)




**JUL 13 (TUE) DALLAS SIERRA CLUB GENERAL MEETING** Everyone is invited to the General Meeting of the Dallas Sierra Club. See [above](#) for details.





**JUL 17-18 (SAT-SUN) TWENTIETH ANNUAL BASTILLE DAY CANOE TRIP.** Celebrate this French national holiday marking the beginning of the French revolution with our annual canoe trip on the Red River. We'll put-in on Saturday under the Interstate 35 bridge (north of Gainesville). The rest of the day will be spent swimming and relaxing as we paddle down to our campsite on a large sandbar. Sunday we'll canoe on down to the takeout with a few swim stops on


the way. This is a very nice section of the Red River, with very little development along the banks. Some canoeing experience is required and you must furnish your own canoe and camping equipment. Also, you must bring something French, or you will be guillotined at dawn. Leader: [Arthur Kuehne](#) 214-608-3210(H)


 **JUL 20 (TUE) NIGHT HIKE ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL IN PLANO** Meet at 7:00PM in front of the Starbucks/Barnes & Noble (north side of 15th just west of US 75). We will walk 5 miles on a paved path. Bring water. No reservations, just show up. Optional ice cream afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)


 **JUL 21 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 6:30 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Ask Bill to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Contact: [Bill Greer](#) 972-247-0446(H)


 **JUL 24 (SAT) ANSEL ADAMS EXHIBIT AT THE AMON CARTER, NOON** Join the Fort Worth Group of Sierra Club for a tour of the exhibit "[Ansel Adams: Eloquent Light](#)". Adams was a prominent member of the Sierra Club as well as being one of the greatest photographers of all time. We will meet in the photography galleries. RSVP's are appreciated, but not required. RSVP or contact Leader: [Dewayne Quertermous](#)

 **JUL 27 (TUE) NIGHT HIKE ON THE WHITE ROCK CREEK TRAIL** Meet at 7:00PM at Moss Park on the SE corner of Greenville and Royal. We will walk 5 miles on a paved path. Bring water and bug repellent. No reservations, just show up. Optional ice cream afterwards Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

 **AUG 3 (TUE) NIGHT HIKE AT ARBOR HILLS NATURE PRESERVE** Meet at 7:00PM near the pavilions. Arbor Hills is located at 6701 W. Parker Rd. in Plano just west of Midway Rd. We will walk 5 miles mainly on a paved path. No reservations, just show up. Optional frozen yogurt afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

 **AUG 11 (WED) INTRO TO BECOMING A SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS LEADER.** Want a rewarding way to help the club, meet great people and also have fun? Have you ever thought about becoming an outings leader for the Sierra Club? Come to this introductory seminar and we'll tell you how to get started. We'll go over the types of outings the Club does, what we expect from our leaders, what training is required, and what services the Club provides. We'll look at the schedule of additional training for those of you who want to start leading outings. The seminar will be held at REI (Cross Timbers Room), 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch) from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Organizer: [Arthur Kuehne](#) 1-972-635-9774(H)

 **AUG 12 (THU) ANSEL ADAMS EXHIBIT AT THE AMON CARTER, 6:30PM** Join the Fort Worth Group of Sierra Club for an evening tour of the exhibit "[Ansel Adams: Eloquent Light](#)". Adams was a prominent member of the Sierra Club as well as being one of the greatest photographers of all time. We will meet in the photography galleries. RSVP's are appreciated, but not required. RSVP or contact Leader: [Dewayne Quertermous](#)

 **AUG 14 (SAT) WHITE ROCK LAKE CLEANUP.** Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM at the Love of the Lake office on the Northeast corner of Garland Rd. and Buckner Blvd. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always

birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. Brunch afterwards. Leader: [Carol Nash](#) 214-824-0244(H)



**AUG 18 (WED) OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Meet in the upstairs program room at REI (on north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 6:30 PM. Bring your ideas for the Dallas Sierra Club Outings program. We will be planning local outings and bus trips. All outings leaders, future outings leaders, and interested Sierrans welcome. Ask Bill to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Contact: [Bill Greer](#) 972-247-0446(H)



**AUG 24 (TUE) INNER CITY OUTINGS MEETING** Snacks and social starts at 6:45 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Inner City Outings ("ICO") is an outreach program of the Sierra Club comprised of volunteers who provide wilderness experiences such as day hikes and camping for disadvantaged youth. ICO meets on the fourth Tuesdays at REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch). All volunteers and those considering becoming an ICO volunteer are welcome. Contact the [ICO Chair](#) for more information. To receive future announcements and meeting information you may sign up for our [email list](#).

The Dallas Sierra Club News e-newsletter, sent monthly (and occasional for late-breaking news or events), keeps you up-to-date on meetings, activities, issues and special events.

[Join the Sierra Club](#)