



dallas group
lone star chapter

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

dallas sierra club news

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Notes From the Chair

Summer Heat Bring Hot Issues

As most of you know, the Texas Legislature continues its conservative rip-tide through the environmental community and seems to forget that clean air, clean water and a safe place to live are non-partisan issues. The one area of real hope is our continued fight for safe drilling practices in the natural gas fields right under our North Texas feet. As we have seen before, nothing like an air polluting, ground water fouling drill rig in sight of your "ranchette" to get some action from even our usual opponents.

To continue this fight, your Dallas Executive Committee is in the process of launching a major campaign on this issue much like the ultimately successful TXI campaign of a few years ago.

So watch this newsletter and other announcements so you can get involved with protecting your own back yard ... literally! Remember our unofficial motto - "We never give up in protecting this city, this state, this nation, this planet."

Your Dallas Chair
Wendel Withrow

General Meeting Program - June 14, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Dallas Cohousing

Cohousing speaks to people who want to own a home but not feel lost in an impersonal city. That's the starting point for Dallas Cohousing. We're growing a community of like-minded folks who'd like to live cooperatively and sustainably in urban Dallas, close to a DART station. Our goal: to retrofit an existing office building or warehouse into condos, with common space for gardening, cooking & shared meals, work space, child care--whatever we all choose together.

The UT-Arlington Green at College Park and The Sustainable Sites Initiative

David Hopman will discuss sustainable landscapes and how the Sustainable Sites Initiative

(SITES™) credit rating system was applied to The University of Texas at Arlington Green at College Park. The nine acre Green at College Park at UTA is one of 150 sites from around the world testing the SITES™ rating system for sustainable landscapes, with and without buildings.

Future viable works of landscape architecture are enhancing the beauty, meaning, and performative aspects of landscapes from an ecological perspective. Professor Hopman also is the manager of the first extensive green roof constructed in North Texas.

More information about each of these programs is available on our [website](#).

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

Our General Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. but come at 6:30 for snacks, information and fellowship. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) of our website for more information and a map.

Basic First Aid and CPR Class - June 25

Here's your chance for a Saturday first aid and CPR class and at a great price. American Red Cross instructor will teach this basic first aid and CPR class using their updated class curriculum. You'll get great instruction and it won't take all day. Class is from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm and will be held at the Dallas REI store. **PRE-REGISTRATION NEEDED BY JUNE 20** for the discounted price of \$75. Class cost after June 20 is \$85 if space is available. Whether you need this class as a requirement or just want to be prepared, all are welcome. To sign up, print the [registration form](#), fill it out, and send it in with your check. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306

Outings Highlight

Jun 29-Jul 5 (Wed-Tue) Fourth of July Bus Trip to the South San Juan Wilderness, Southwest Colorado

The San Juan Mountains have been called "America's Switzerland." A segment of this link in the Continental Divide was designated "South San Juan Wilderness" in 1980. U-shaped glacial valleys, rocky rivers, high green meadows, aspens, elk herds and beaver dams make this remote and scenic wilderness a summer delight for backpackers. [Click here](#) to see a complete description of the trip with pictures, maps and registration information. Five hike options are described. This is a new destination for a Dallas Sierra Club trip; reserve early to guarantee a space. Bus trip leader: [Mark Stein](#) 214-526-3733

Jul 16-17 (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

Aug 31-Sep 6 (Wed-Tue) Labor Day Bus Trip to the Weminuche Wilderness in Colorado

Escape the Texas heat this Labor Day weekend and join us for our trip to the cool Colorado mountains of the Weminuche Wilderness. This trip has mountains, lakes, streams, and valleys. Trips will range from car camping with day hikes to strenuous long hikes. The Weminuche Wilderness offers a great diversity and all the miles you want to hike. It is a hidden jewel and one of our most popular trips. Complete information is available [here \(PDF file\)](#). To sign up, download and print the information file, fill in the forms, and send them with your check to the address provided. Bus trip leader: [Kathryn Hurn](#) 214-321-4030(c)

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

Recycling Round-Up

by Rita Raccoon

Recent Recycling News - June 2011

Electronic Recycling

With technology in the hands of more people than ever, electronic recycling is getting more attention than ever. For 19 years, HOBI International in Dallas has been recycling electronics while implementing the three R's: Reduce, re-use and recycle.

Craig Boswell, president of HOBI International, said recycling electronics is similar to what people do when they recycle plastics and paper in their home. But first, they'll see if the product can continue to be used.

"We are going to take the product and we are going to try to reuse it or get materials out of them and put them back into the recycling stream," said Boswell.

Many companies either sell their old electronics to HOBI International or pay them to safely recycle their old computer equipment, cell phones and TVs. Each year the company recycles up to 15 million pounds of IT equipment, 4 million cell phones and millions of other electronic devices.

It's Time to DOO the Right Thing

The weather is warm, the flowers are in bloom, and the grass is green in North Texas. For many pet owners, this means extended walks with their dog. While enjoying this time with your pet, it is extremely important that you clean up after them whether it's at home or on a walk. Pet waste can cause many problems. Not only is it unsightly, it can harm the environment, pollute water, and cause disease.

Pet waste that is left on the ground can be carried away by storm water runoff and deposited into nearby creeks and lakes. The water we recreate in and use as a drinking source becomes contaminated with the bacteria and any waterborne diseases the feces may harbor. These can cause illness and even death in humans and in other animals. With approximately 1.2 million dogs in the North Central Texas area, waste can quickly become a water quality and health concern.

Leaving pet waste on the ground can also affect your dog. For example, Parvovirus is a serious, highly contagious disease that affects puppies and young dogs who are not vaccinated. Adult dogs can be carriers and not show signs of being infected. It can be transmitted through infected dog waste directly or indirectly through soiled shoes, car tires, and anything else it touches. The virus can remain infectious on the ground for six months or even longer! For these reasons, it is

essential to not leave pet waste on the ground. Keep people and pets safe and healthy by picking up after your dog. Here are some simple tips:

- When walking your dog, always carry a plastic baggie to scoop up droppings
- Dispose of baggies in the trash
- Clean up droppings around your yard at least once a week, and either flush them down the toilet, or dispose of in a trash can

Pledge to DOO the Right Thing and pick up after your dog. NCTCOG and the Stormwater Public Education Task Force offer an online pledge for owners who will commit to cleaning up after their dogs. Those who take the pledge during the months of May, June, July, and August will have an opportunity to show off their dog in the online 2011 Top Dog Photo Gallery. The top 12 dogs will be featured in a 2012 one-page calendar and will be mailed a pet waste bag dispenser to attach to your dog's leash. Please go to www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste to take the pledge and learn more facts about the problems with pet waste.

For any questions about Doo the Right Thing, please contact Tracy Michel, Environment & Development Planner at 817-695-9107 or tmichel@nctcog.org.

Calendar

Here is our calendar for the next two months. For complete listings, visit us at www.dallassierraclub.org.



Jun 6 (Mon) Monthly Sierra Singles Dinner

Hello everyone. Just wanted to invite you all to the monthly Sierra Singles dinner, the first Monday night of June, which is the 6th, at about 6:30 PM. We will meet at Besa's Pizza & Pasta, at 14856 Preston Rd, Dallas TX, 75254 (east side, just south of Belt Line). Their number is 972-233-7227 if you need specifics or directions. It's a BYOB restaurant, so feel free to bring a libation or two.

Your host will be Brian Shade, and his number is 972-467-7049 if you'd like to ask him about the venue. Ginger will be co-hosting, and her number is 469-223-7902. Please feel free to bring a friend if you like. You don't have to be a member of Sierra Club to join us, just come on out and have some fun with like-minded people! It's always a good time, we guarantee. See you then, on the 6th of June, a Monday night, at 6:30 PM. Coordinators: [Ginger Bradley](mailto:ginger@sierraclub.org) 469-223-7902 and Brian Shade 972-467-7049



Jun 11 (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@sierraclub.org) 214-824-0244



Jun 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Our June General Meeting features two programs you won't want to miss. First, we'll have a program about Cohousing in Dallas. Then, we'll explore Ecological Landscapes and Green Roofs. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come early for snacks, fellowship and information

about what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club. Click over to our [home page](#) for details about our next General Meeting.



Jun 15 (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



Jun 18 (Sat) Cedar Ridge Preserve Trail Maintenance and Walk

Its fun and its helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve in Dallas to help upgrade some of the beautiful walking trails, just south of Dallas. The address is 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75249. Its a great morning workout, and the scenery is exceptional. No tools are required, (maybe gloves) just show up and be ready to lend a hand or two. We'll work from 9 AM to 11 or so, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Bring some water for sure. Its on Saturday the 18th of June, please see their website www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html for directions and info. Their number is 972-709-7784. If you wish to carpool, then let me know, and we'll arrange a meeting spot. Come on out and stay green, people! Organizer: [Ginger Bradley](#) 469-223-7902



Jun 21 (Tue) Night Hike at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

Celebrate the First Day of Summer. 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. [Visit park website here](#). Leader: [Judy Cato](#) 972-238-5738



Jun 25 (Sat) American Red Cross BASIC FIRST AID and CPR CLASS at discounted price!

Hooray! Here's your chance for a Saturday first aid and CPR class and at a great price. American Red Cross instructor will teach this basic first aid and CPR class using their updated class curriculum. You'll get great instruction and it won't take all day. Class is from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm and will be held at the Dallas REI store. **PRE-REGISTRATION NEEDED BY JUNE 20** for the discounted price of \$75. Class cost after June 20 is \$85 if space is available. Whether you need this class as a requirement or just want to be prepared, all are welcome. To sign up, print the [registration form](#), fill it out, and send it in with your check. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306



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Jul 6 (Wed) Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (or Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets at REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch). Contact the [Dallas Group Chair](#) for more information.



Jul 9 (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



Jul 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Attend our July General Meeting and take a trip to Cambodia with photos by Martha Ohlson. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come early for snacks, fellowship and information about what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club. Click over to our [home page](#) for details about our next General Meeting.



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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](#)