



dallas sierra club news

August, 2011: In This Issue. . .

- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, August 9
- [Clean Air Meeting](#) - Monthly informative meeting
- [Beginner Backpack Class](#) - Learn how to backpack
- [Picnic](#) - We're having a picnic in September - don't miss it
- [Outings Highlights](#) - Our Last Bus Trip of the Summer
- [The Outings Corner](#) - Our Backpack Trip Rating System
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

General Meeting Program - August 9, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Improving Home Energy Efficiency

Learn how you can improve home energy efficiency—reducing energy costs and improving your health, environment, and your home's market value. Robin Sowton, our Conservation Co-Chair, will speak about this and more. Then we'll hear from an ONCOR representative who will talk about ONCOR's energy efficiency programs. And Kirk Miller, our Program Chair, will talk about his home energy audit experience.

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.

Clean Air Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm - Location: Picassos at Inwood and Forest

Last time we had 30 people...how exciting.

Let's get caught up on clean air....

TAR SANDS pipeline update - Exciting News...One of our E. Texas cities HAS established a 391 Commission which can ask TransCanada/Keystone to make provisions if their pipeline is approved.

The House of Representatives passed a bill trying to make the Obama Administration set a deadline on the approval of the pipeline, but it was declared DEAD on arrival at the Senate.

TCEQ Air Hearing- At least 110 people went to the TCEQ Air SIP Hearing to testify or be there in support of the effort. The media did show for the evening press conference of Downwinders. I know there was only a handful of people in the am, and some of you who went later that morning were shut out, but THANK YOU for coming and making the effort whether you got to speak or not.

Beginner Backpack Class

This class is an ideal way to learn all about backpacking and for those who want to refresh your backpacking knowledge and skills. Topics include: wilderness ethics, outdoor clothing, boots, backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, preparing for a trip and even a short, late afternoon breakout session to discuss men's and women's outdoor 'issues'. Instructors are experienced Dallas Sierra Club leaders. There will be time for questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear. You will also have the opportunity to learn about, and sign up for, several beginner backpacking trips. Lunch of backpacking food is included. (Feel free to bring anything else you prefer to eat.) The fee is \$20 for Sierra Club members and \$30 for non-members (CASH or CHECK ONLY). You can sign up to be a Sierra Club member at the class. No reservations are necessary, just show up. The class will be held at the Dallas REI store, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Welch and Midway). Please arrive at 10:15am to register. The class will start promptly at 10:30 AM and end about 5:00 PM. PLEASE BRING a writing utensil and your water bottle. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306

Sierra Club Picnic - September 24

Join the Sierra Club of Dallas for an afternoon of fun and food and fellowship at our annual picnic and party celebration. Its at Churchill Park in Dallas on a Saturday in September, the 24th to be exact. From 2 to 6 PM to be even exacter. Churchill Park is at 7025 Churchill Way, Dallas TX 75230. [Here is a Google map.](#)

This event is a casual community picnic, with an ecology "Green" theme, and we welcome all groups and individuals to attend, and find out what the Sierra club is all about, among other things.

We will have lots of fun stuff to do, including face-painting and horseshoes, and there are basketball courts and tennis courts at the park as well. Please bring some picnic food, a cooler with your favorite beverages, and whatever munchies you want for your afternoon. We welcome all kids and all dogs, but they must be on a leash! (not the kids). We'll be under the pavillion, so its rain or shine, charcoal grills are and allowed, just no gas grills. Bring some lawn chairs, blankets and outdoor entertainment if you want, and bring your musical instruments as well! We'll have a great time and get to talk about the environment, and how we can improve our excellent surrounding in and around Dallas.

See you all there. You can contact Ginger for more info if you want, her cell is 469-223-7902.

Outings Highlight

Aug 13 (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

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)

Sep 24 (Sat) Sierra Club Picnic and Party for New Members and Volunteers and Everyone!

Join the Sierra Club of Dallas for an afternoon of fun and food and fellowship at our annual picnic and party celebration. Its at Churchill Park in Dallas on a Saturday in September, the 24th to be exact. From 2 to 6 PM to be even exacter. Its a casual event to welcome new members, and appreciate volunteers and the whole group. There will be something for everyone. Invite your friends and family, and dogs and kids are welcome. The park is at 7025 Churchill Way, Dallas TX 75230. More info [above](#).

Oct 21-23 (Fri-Sun) Beavers Bend Fall Campout - Save the date!

Our spring campout at Colorado Bend was so much fun we decided to do it again. This time we'll enjoy the scenic beauty and fall woods of Beavers Bend State Park in southeast Oklahoma. Our group camp area offers your choice of shared cabins or tent camping (same price). The site also includes a dining hall with fire place so we can have s'mores rain or shine and yes, even a bath house with hot showers. Activity options will include various hikes with our group or you can be on your own and enjoy a number of options including horseback riding, renting a boat or just relaxing by the river. Complete details and reservation information will be posted soon. (Pre-registration and payment will be required.) If you want to be notified when reservations open, please send an email message to Liz Wheelan. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306

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

The Outings Corner

Dallas Sierra Club Backpack Trip Rating System

We are in the process of updating our Outings List so that when you look at a backpack trip you will find a difficulty rating for each trip. In the past our leaders have used an informal description of how hard they thought the hike would be. We want to bring a little more consistency to our ratings and help give you an idea of the difficulty of a trip compared to other hikes that you may have done. We have developed our own rating system that we think will be easy for trip leaders and participants to use.

Read the complete rating system [here](#).

Calendar

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



Aug 9 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Attend our August General Meeting and find out how to make your house more environmentally friendly. 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.



Aug 13 (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



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Aug 17 (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



Aug 23 (Tue) Inner City Outings Meeting

Come at 6:30 for New Volunteer Orientation. The 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. To receive future announcements and meeting information you may sign up for our [email list](#). For more information: [Liz Wheelan](#)



Aug 25 (Thu) Clean Air Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm - Location: Picassos at Inwood and Forest

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Sep 7 (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.



Sep 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](#) 214-824-0244



Sep 13 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Attend our September General Meeting as we welcome back one of our favorite presenters, Dan Leffel with Bold Light Photography. Dan will show us scenic landscape and wildlife images from trips to Japan in winter of 2011 and Alaska in summer of 2011. 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.



Sep 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



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Sep 27 (Tue) Inner City Outings Meeting

Come at 6:30 for New Volunteer Orientation. The 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. To receive future announcements and meeting information you may sign up for our [email list](#). For more information: [Liz Wheelan](#)



Sep 29 (Thu) Advanced Backpacking

You've got a few local weekend backpacks under your belt; so you want to do more: a fly-drive or multi-night outing, or even try a cold weather trip. This class will cover advanced backpacking tips and skills including winter camping, fly-drive planning and equipment, bear barrel packing, and week-long trekking. Location: upstairs clinic room at Dallas REI, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch). This class will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 8:45 PM. The fee for the class is \$15 for Sierra Club members and \$20 for non-members (cash or check). No reservations are necessary; just show up. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306

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. Visit us at www.DallasSierraClub.org.
[Join the Sierra Club](#)