



dallas sierra club news

January, 2012: In This Issue. . .

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General Meeting Program - January 10, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Climate Engineering

Geoengineering, also called climate engineering, is the term used to describe activities designed to intentionally alter the earth's natural environment to counteract the effects of climate change. Almost everyone agrees that use of geoengineering methods would be very risky and quite likely to have significant unintended consequences. Should research be undertaken? Is geoengineering the Plan B in the event that current efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are unsuccessful? Sierra Club member Paul Heller will discuss this controversial subject. Paul Heller was trained as an electrical engineer at Purdue with an MBA from Wharton.

Native Plants of North Texas

Are you aware that North Central Texas is one of the largest residential water users in the world? The national average residential water use is 69.3 gallons per capita, and the DFW area uses as much as three times more. By eliminating massive lawns and exotic plants from other continents and replacing with native plants, we can conserve water, give Texas a sense of place; and equally important, create biodiversity that protects our pollinators which is our food supply.

Gailon Hardin will explain why we need to use native plants and their benefits to our environment. She is the past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We'd love to meet you.

Our General Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. but come at 6:30 for snacks, information and fellowship. We'll also have a quick Sierra Club orientation (Sierra Club 101) for new members and visitors. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) of our website for more information and a map.

Outings Highlight

Feb 16-20 (Thu-Mon) Annual Taos Bus Trip

It's time to sign up for our very popular annual trip to enjoy the winter beauty of northern New Mexico. We'll leave Dallas on our sleeper bus around dinner time on Thursday, February 16 and return early morning on Monday, February 20. The trip is very economical and offers your choice

of a great hotel in Taos with hot tub or backpacking/yurt accommodations. Activity options include alpine snowshoeing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and even new hike options in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area (weather permitting). You can also just relax and enjoy the galleries, museums, shops, food and beauty of this scenic and historical town. Activity ratings range from easy to moderately strenuous. Trip includes transportation to/from Taos, Taos Ski Valley, trailheads and destinations to activities included in the trip. Complete details, including all costs and sign-up information are in [this PDF document](#). This trip usually sells out so make your plans and sign up now! Bus trip leader: [Liz Wheelan](#) 214-368-2306

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

Recycling Roundup - by Rita Raccoon

Recent Recycling News - January 2012

Leaders of the five major battery manufacturers – Duracell, Rayovac, Energizer, Kodak and Panasonic - have agreed to work towards the launch of a nationwide system that maximizes reuse of spent battery materials with a goal of zero waste. This will be the first large scale, industry sponsored, voluntary program for the collection and recycling of primary batteries anywhere in the world.

They agreed to form the Corporation for Battery Recycling and to fund foundation programs in several states to design a program that is environmentally responsible and consumer friendly.

Read their press release [here](#).

Calendar

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



Jan 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

We have two great programs this month. First we'll take a look at Climate Engineering. Our main program will explore Native Plants of Texas. Full details are on our [Home Page](#).



Jan 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



Jan 19 (Thu) Clean Air Meeting

It's time to look at the New Year and the new (and old) clean air issues we are facing.

Join us at Picasso's Pizza, 12300 Inwood Road (east side of Inwood, about 1/2 miles north of the intersection of Inwood Road and Forest Lane) at 6:30 pm.

The Clean Air meetup is a monthly meeting where local activists from various environmental groups--such as Sierra Club, Public Citizen, Downwinders, and others--meet to share information about clean air concerns, announce upcoming events/actions where volunteers and other citizens are needed (such as to attend public hearings, contact representatives, etc.), and plan additional events. If you are interested in becoming active in campaigning for clean air or would just like to know more about clean air issues in our area, you're very welcome to attend.



Jan 21 (Sat) Trail Maintenance and Walk at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Ready to help out this year? It's 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 12 or so, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Bring some water for sure. Its on Saturday the 21st of January 2012, and please see their website at www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html for directions and info. Their number is 972-709-7784 See you then! If you wish to carpool, then let me know, and we'll arrange a meeting spot. Come on out and stay green, people! Contact: [Ginger Bradley](mailto:GingerBradley@audubondallas.org) 469-223-7902



Feb 1 (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](mailto:DallasGroupChair@audubondallas.org) for more information.



Feb 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](mailto:BillGreer@audubondallas.org) 972-247-0446



Feb 16-20 (Thu-Mon) BUS TRIP to TAOS, NM

The snow covered mountains are calling! It's time to sign up for our very popular annual trip to enjoy the winter beauty of northern New Mexico. We'll leave Dallas on our sleeper bus the evening of Thursday, February 16 and return early morning on Monday, February 20. The trip is very economical and offers your choice of accommodations including a great hotel in Taos with hot tub, backpacking to stay in a yurt or snow camping!

We offer an array of options so you can design your own combination of activities including alpine snowshoeing (trips for beginners and those more experienced), downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing (it's a blast!) and two new hikes (shorter and longer) in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area. You can also join the group to tour a few local historical sites or spend all or part of your trip being on your own to experience the galleries, museums, shops, food and beauty of this scenic and historical town. Saturday we will have a wine and cheese social for trip participants staying in Taos.

Activity ratings range from easy to strenuous. Rental snowshoes and ski equipment are available.

Trip includes transportation to/from Taos, Taos Ski Valley, trailheads and destinations to activities included in the trip. Complete details including all costs and reservation information are in [this PDF document](#). Click here to see pictures from some of our past trips to Taos. This trip usually sells out so make your plans and send in your reservations now. COST DISCOUNTED FOR RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BY JANUARY 20! Bus trip leader: [Liz Wheelan](mailto:LizWheelan@audubondallas.org) 214-368-2306



Feb 25 (Sat) Beginner Backpacking Class

This class ideal for those who want 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). 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 by 10:15am to register and get settled. The class will begin promptly at 10:30 AM and end about 4:45pm PM. Handouts will be provided. PLEASE BRING a writing utensil and your water bottle. Coordinator: [Liz Wheelan](mailto:Liz.Wheelan@sierraclub.org) 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.
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