



## dallas sierra club news

### April, 2012: In This Issue. . .

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

#### Environmental Issues Associated with Oil and Gas Development in North Texas

Michael Overbay, the EPA Region 6 Ground Water Center Coordinator, and Ruben Casso, the EPA Region 6 Air Toxics Coordinator, will present information on how large scale development of the shale gas resources in the Fort Worth Basin have been perceived as impacting environmental issues, such as water quantity, water quality, air quality, wastewater disposal, and induced seismicity. The presentation will also include a discussion of the status of EPA's proposed rules on air emissions related to oil and gas development and production.

**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. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) of our website for more information and a map.

### Earth Day - Volunteers Needed

Earth Day gives us a time to stop and think about what we can do - EVERY day - to make our world a better place. The Dallas Sierra Club is seeking volunteers to help advocate Earth Day Resolutions at any of a variety of events taking place in the Dallas area on the weekend of April 14th and 21st. If interested in participating, please [email](#) or call (214.454.6879) Peter. Volunteers will be asked to work two to three hours shifts (depending on the event), with at least two people per shift, per event. We are currently targeting a few major annual events (Plano, Dallas & Oak Cliff), and will possibly expand to other opportunities (i.e., smaller events) depending on the volume of volunteer participation. If you've never "tabled" at an Earth Day event, it's a fun and interesting way to meet and converse on a range of conservation topics with regular people trying to make a difference just like you and me. We hope you'll join us to celebrate and share your love for the planet at Earth Day 2012!

## Keystone XL Pipeline - What You Need to Know

Want to learn more about the Keystone XL pipeline and tar sand oil from Canada? The Sierra Club produced an important report detailing the true environmental costs of this flawed energy source. Read the report (PDF document) [here](#). We also have a [map](#) showing the proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline across Texas.

And we have more information on the current status of the Keystone XL pipeline and the Seaway pipeline reversal project on our [conservation page](#).

## Outings Highlight

### Apr 15 (Sun) Morning day hike at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Come walk off that Easter candy, break in your new boots, get used to carrying your backpack or just shake off those tax season blues! Join us for a pleasant hike at one of the best day hike areas within 50 miles of DFW. This 600 acre hidden jewel contains over 10 miles of trails that range from easy to moderate. Some nice elevation changes, heavy cedar cover and a view of Joe Pool Lake. We'll start from the picnic table area at 10:00 am and hike a variety of trails for about 2 1/2 hours, followed by an optional picnic lunch. Bring \$3 for admission, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes and bring a day pack, water, snacks and lunch. Hike will go on rain or shine. No reservations - just show up. Cedar Ridge Preserve is located southwest of Dallas, at 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, 75249. From I-20, exit Mountain Creek Parkway and turn south. Drive about three miles and Cedar Ridge Preserve will be on your right. For more information about the Preserve, go to <http://www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html> Leader: [Wendel Withrow](#) 214-287-1046

### Jul 3-9 (Tue-Mon) Fourth of July Bus Trip to the Pecos Wilderness in New Mexico

SIGN UP NOW for a truly memorable Fourth of July experience backpacking in the high, cool Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico. Leave Dallas at 7 PM on July 3 on our overnight sleeper bus and return by 6 AM on July 9. Choose an adventure from five trail options, including opportunities to walk up Santa Fe Baldy after adjusting to altitude, exploring the Skyline Trail, La Vega, Holy Ghost Creek or Horsethief Meadow. Our most gentle trip ends with a night in Santa Fe. Two epic hikes for agile backpackers traverse the magnificent Santa Barbara Divide from Carson National Forest into Santa Fe National Forest. Escape the summer heat into the aspens, firs and tundra wildflowers of this wilderness treasure. Experience sights you cannot possibly see from your automobile! All hike options require at least one previous overnight backpacking experience. Full details, including sign-up instructions, are in [this PDF file](#). You'll love the Pecos Wilderness! Bus trip leader: [Mark Stein](#) 214-526-3733

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

## Recycling Roundup - by Rita Raccoon

### Recent Recycling News - April 2012

#### NCTCOG Reports Recycling Rates Dallas outdoes Fort Worth

The most recent report from North Central Texas Council of Governments reveals that while both cities have recycling programs, Dallasites out-green their neighbors to the west. To its credit, Fort

Worth does lead the curbside program, tossing 18 percent more into the rolling carts than Dallas. And Fort Worth has far less access to drop-off locations than its counterpart.

The amount thrown away residentially throughout North Texas has grown since 2005, when the previous report was released; however, the amount recycled has increased as well, by about 7 percent. The report includes 71 North Texas cities and breaks recycling down into three basic categories: curbside, organic, and other.

Dallas recycles almost 80 percent more than Fort Worth: 1,161 pounds per household versus Fort Worth's 649 pounds per household.

### **The Drop-off Location Disparity**

Dallas, which is roughly the same physical size as Fort Worth, has 152 drop-off locations. Fort Worth only has three.

Dallas' drop-off locations, which look like dumpsters, are available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With this kind of accessibility, even Dallas' nearby neighbors could recycle without much hassle.

This factor deserves additional consideration, given the incredible difference in recycling participation between the two major cities.

Fort Worth's drop-off locations are only for Fort Worth homeowners and "some renters." To dispose at a drop-off location in Fort Worth, a Fort Worth resident must show either a recent water bill or current driver's license with a Fort Worth address "to prove you have an active sanitation account."

### **Curbside Characteristics**

Based on Fort Worth's curbside recycling rate, the city fares well when adequate resources are provided. Fort Worthians recycle 18 percent more than Dallasites, and both cities have a weekly curbside program. However, the City of Dallas issues standard-size carts that hold 30 to 40 gallons more than Fort Worth's carts, so in terms of this difference alone, one might expect Dallasites to toss more since they have more space.

The difference in the programs, other than cart size, is that Fort Worth has a "variable rate" program and Dallas does not. This means that in Fort Worth, a resident pays a rate that reflects the size of his or her cart. A smaller cart means a smaller bill.

NCTCG concludes that "variable rates can be an effective method to increase recyclable volumes."

Aside from what makes a drop-off or curbside program successful enough to motivate North Texas to recycle, the fact remains that only 19 percent of the more than 7 million tons disposed of in one year was recycled. North Texas residents whose recycling programs are inconvenient or non-existent are encouraged to contact city officials to voice concerns. Those with healthy recycling programs are encouraged to make a positive impact on the environment by taking advantage of the convenient and accessible options offered by the city.

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



**Apr 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Don't miss our April General Meeting. Michael Overbay, the EPA Region 6 Ground Water Center Coordinator, and Ruben Casso, the EPA Region 6 Air Toxics Coordinator, will present information on how large scale development of the shale gas resources in the Fort Worth Basin have been perceived as impacting environmental issues, such as water quantity, water quality, air quality, wastewater disposal, and induced seismicity. Full details are on our [home page](#).



**Apr 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



**Apr 14-15 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpack Trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness**

Join us for one of the Dallas Sierra Club's favorite local backpacking trips. We'll backpack in about 4 1/2 miles along Caney Creek, cross it a few times, and climb some small hills. After setting up camp near a waterfall, we'll do a short day hike as time and energy permits. For many of us this was our first Wilderness hike and it's still one of our favorites. Leader: [Bill Greer](#) 972-247-0446



**Apr 15 (Sun) Morning day hike at Cedar Ridge Preserve**

Come walk off that Easter candy, break in your new boots, get used to carrying your backpack or just shake off those tax season blues! Join us for a pleasant hike at one of the best day hike areas within 50 miles of DFW. This 600 acre hidden jewel contains over 10 miles of trails that range from easy to moderate. Some nice elevation changes, heavy cedar cover and a view of Joe Pool Lake. We'll start from the picnic table area at 10:00 am and hike a variety of trails for about 2 1/2 hours, followed by an optional picnic lunch. Bring \$3 for admission, wear comfortable, sturdy shoes and bring a day pack, water, snacks and lunch. Hike will go on rain or shine. No reservations - just show up. Cedar Ridge Preserve is located southwest of Dallas, at 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, 75249. From I-20, exit Mountain Creek Parkway and turn south. Drive about three miles and CRP will be on your right. For more information about the Preserve, go to <http://www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html> Leader: [Wendel Withrow](#) 214-287-1046



**Apr 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



**Apr 21 (Sat) Trail Maintenance at Cedar Ridge Preserve in South Dallas**

It's fun and it's helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve in Dallas to help upgrade some of the beautiful walking trails. The address is 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75249. It's 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 April, please see their website [www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html](http://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  
Contact: [Ginger Bradley](#) 469-223-7902



**Apr 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Car Camp and Rock Scrambling at Wichita Mountains in Sw Oklahoma.**

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in SW Oklahoma is a treasure of interesting hikes, pioneer history, unusual rock formations, and wildlife in a natural habitat. You are likely to come around a corner and find yourself face to face with a bison bull! We will have moderate hikes on Saturday and Sunday. The neatest parts of Wichita Mountains are off trail so be prepared for some bushwhacking and rock scrambling. You can find out more about Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge [here](#). Leader: [Bill Greer](#) 972-247-0446



**May 2 (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.



**May 5 (Sat) Cedar Ridge Preserve Hike-a-Thon**

The Hike-a-Thon is a fundraiser to raise money for improvements at Cedar Ridge Preserve. In addition to hiking, The Preserve will host several informational booths. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Of course, The Preserve will be open to non-participants, but we encourage you to help the preserve and join in the fun. Registration is \$20 per person, \$5 per child (6-12). Cash only. Full details [here](#). [\(This is not a Sierra Club sponsored event.\)](#)



**May 12 (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



**May 16 (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



**May 19 (Sat) Trail Maintenance at the Cedar Ridge Preserve near Duncanville and Dallas Texas**

Its fun and its helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve in Dallas to help upgrade some of the beautiful walking trails. The address is 7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75249. It's 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 19th of May, please see their website [www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html](http://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 Leader: [Ginger Bradley](#) 469-223-7902



**May 25-29 (Fri-Tue) Memorial Day Weekend in the WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS Wa-hoo!** This destination, near Ruidoso, New Mexico, is perfect for beginner backpackers

with at least one overnight backpacking experience who want to move up to a 3-day, 2-night trip at altitude. Veteran backpackers will love it, too. Ascend the eastern slopes of the Sierra Blanca Mountains to the Crest Trail for amazing views of White Sands National Monument and the black Malpais lava fields on the desert floor far below. Choose from four consistently popular hikes and a route never before offered. Hop on a sleeper bus Friday evening and return Tuesday morning before work. Full details are in [this PDF document](#). Bus trip leader: [Mark Stein](#) 214-526-3733

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](http://www.DallasSierraClub.org).  
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