



## dallas sierra club news

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### Sierra Club Annual Holiday Party - Sunday, December 9



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 9 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. [Here is a Google map.](#)

Club members and guests will share the holiday spirit, some great Mexican food, and the company of others at this annual event. Join us for some camaraderie, door prizes, silent auction, and perhaps some surprise speakers, you never know. We'll celebrate some of our outstanding volunteers and have plenty of time to mingle. There's bound to be talk about issues of the day -- air, water, veganism, fracking, coal, nuclear, whatever strikes your green fancy. The entire menu will be available so you can order whatever you want to eat or drink, including liquid spirits. We'll provide a free round of margaritas. Invite your family and friends. So come on out for a great party, low price, no clean up, and lots of like minded people. What could be better? See you there, and bring your appetite. Happy Holidays!!

### General Meeting Program - December 11 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

We have two great programs for our last General Meeting of 2012. We know this is a busy time of year, but we hope you will make time to join us for this important meeting.

#### **Protecting Texas by Moving Toward Safer, Cleaner Energy - and Away from Nuclear Power**

Karen Hadden will discuss nuclear energy and waste. Her talk will include discussion of Comanche Peak safety issues and how we can collectively address the issue of transport of radioactive waste through the D/FW area. Nuclear reactor waste is now being shipped to the Waste Control Specialists (WCS) radioactive waste dump in Andrews County in West Texas for burial.

Karen Hadden is a founder of Solar Austin and long-time solar advocate who advocates for energy efficiency and renewable energy, such as solar, geothermal, and wind power, as affordable energy choices that are available today. She is the executive director for Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition, and has been working for clean air and clean energy with the organization since 2000. Her organizing with friends and allies in San Antonio helped lead to CPS Energy halting their push for more nuclear reactors. Instead, they are pursuing 400 MW of solar power and showing the rest of the state how to go solar. Karen helped develop the Solar Si, Nuclear No campaign and continues to lead legal efforts to defeat four nuclear reactors proposed for the Comanche Peak and South Texas Project sites. She was deeply involved in the effort to defeat eight TXU coal plants in Texas and has helped create public awareness about the health effects of mercury and coal plant pollutants. She organized the Moms Against Mercury rally outside the Dallas EPA offices and the related public hearing, since EPA refused to hold one in Texas.

### **Water Conservation And Alternate Water Sources**

The 2011 record drought exposed the weaknesses in water supply management in Texas. The large population growth and urbanization in North Central Texas exacerbated the problem for this area. Long term planning to avoid the recurrence of water shortages in this area requires a combination of water conservation practices and the seeking of new alternative sources of water supply. Alternative water supply options include rainwater harvesting, greywater, and air conditioner condensate reuse. Dr. Fouad Jaber will discuss conservation and design of alternative water sources.

Dr. Fouad Jaber is an assistant professor and integrated water resources management extension specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension located at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas. Dr. Jaber received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Purdue University with emphasis in Natural and Environmental Resources Engineering. He also holds an M.S. degree in Irrigation, and a B.S. in agriculture from the American University of Beirut. His focus at the Dallas Center is that of conducting research and extension programs related to storm water management, stream restoration, non-point source pollution management from the urban environment, and water quality studies.

**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. Our meeting takes place at REI, 4515 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway, Dallas, TX 75244. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) of our website for more information and a map.

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### **Town Hall Meeting Concerning the Texas Railroad Commission and the Public Utility Commission**

Mark your calendar for this important town hall meeting concerning the future of the Texas Railroad Commission (who governs oil and gas) and the Public Utility Commission (everything power). This event is your opportunity to express your concerns about both these agencies before the 2013 legislative session.

**Date:** Monday, December 10

**Location:** Sheraton Hotel, 1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, 76011 (next to the ballpark)

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Legislators Confirmed:** Rep. Jim Keffer, Chair of the Energy Resources Committee (Eastland) and Rep. Rafael Anchia (Dallas), Sunset Committee

[Visit our website for more information.](#)

### Sierra Club Calendars for Sale

Get your award winning 2013 Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar or 2013 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar at the December and January General Meetings. Both calendars have been nation-wide best sellers for 30 years. They come in mailing boxes and make perfect gifts. Both calendars are \$12 each.

### Buying Stuff from Amazon.com?

Do you buy stuff from Amazon.com? If you do, you should use the link below. The Dallas Sierra Club makes 5% on every purchase you make and it doesn't cost you a cent. Just click the link (the Amazon.com logo) and bookmark it on your favorite browser and you'll help the Sierra Club with it's goal to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet" every time you shop.



### Valentine's / President's Day Weekend in Taos!

Make your reservations now to spend a memorable weekend enjoying the beauty of northern New Mexico! Fun activity options for outdoor enthusiasts of all levels, including hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, snow tubing, shopping... your choice! [Click here for complete trip details](#) and reservation information. The trip usually sells out so send in your reservation soon. Don't get left out in the cold with nothing fun to do - get a seat on this year's "love bus to Taos"!



### Looking for Fun Activities This Spring?

Us too, and we need more volunteer leaders to make them happen. Your interest may be walking a few hours looking for that unique bird or flower, hiking a new area while learning about nature photography or local history, a weekend camping near your car, paddling, backpacking, teaching others about a conservation issue important to you or a simple stroll with ice cream at the end of the trail ... the sky is the limit when it comes to outing ideas! Leading an outing is a great way to meet others and give back to the Club, plus they're fun! Leader trainings are usually only half or one day long and are now being scheduled for January and early spring. If interested or for more information, please contact Liz Wheelan, Training Coordinator, [Lizwico@aol.com](mailto:Lizwico@aol.com) or 214-368-2306

### Calendar

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



### **Dec 8 (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 [Send Email](#) 214-824-0244



### **Dec 9 (Sun) Sierra Club Holiday Party**

Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 9 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. [Here is a Google map](#). Club members and guests will share the holiday spirit, some great Mexican food, and the company of others at this annual event. Join us for some camaraderie, door prizes, silent auction, and perhaps some surprise speakers, you never know. We'll celebrate some of our outstanding volunteers and have plenty of time to mingle. There's bound to be talk about issues of the day -- air, water, veganism, fracking, coal, nuclear, whatever strikes your green fancy. The entire menu will be available so you can order whatever you want to eat or drink, including liquid spirits. We'll provide a free round of margaritas. Support the Club by getting a 2013 Sierra Club Calendar or Planner!. Invite your family and friends. So come on out for a great party, low price, no clean up, and lots of like minded people. What could be better? See you there, and bring your appetite. Happy Holidays!!



### **Dec 10 (Mon) Important Town Hall Meeting Concerning the Texas Railroad Commission and the Public Utility Commission**

Mark your calendar for this important town hall meeting concerning the Texas Railroad Commission (who governs oil and gas) and the Public Utility Commission (everything power). This event is your opportunity to express your concerns about both these agencies before the 2013 legislative session.

**Date:** Monday, Dec. 10th

**Location:** Sheraton Hotel, 1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, 76011 (next to the ballpark)

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Legislators Confirmed:** Rep. Jim Keffer, Chair of the Energy Resources Committee (Eastland) and Rep. Rafael Anchia (Dallas), Sunset Committee This is your opportunity to express your concerns about fracking, tar sands pipelines, oil & gas, coal-fired power plants, renewables, common carrier/eminant domain process, environmental cleanup, inspection--how the Railroad Commission and the PUC does business in all the aforementioned. At present, please limit your comments for 2-3 minutes and feel free to hand in written comments as well. These agencies are up for Sunset Review during the next legislative session. Sunset of an agency deals with all aspects of an agency, how it does business with the public and private sector--even whether the entity as we know it should continue. This process only happens once every seven years. Don't miss this event...as it's your time to have these senior representatives' ear before the session. We are very grateful for their participation. We are inviting more area legislators, but the ones listed are confirmed. This was a very successful event at the same hotel several years ago. This event is sponsored by the Dallas and Ft. Worth Sierra Clubs, Public Citizen, and others.



### **Dec 11 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details will be on our [home page](#) about a month before the meeting.



### **Dec 15 (Sat) Trail Maintenance at Cedar Ridge Preserve**

Its fun and its helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve just south of Dallas to help upgrade some of the beautiful walking trails. 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 15th of December, and please see their website at [www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html](http://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! Coordinator: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



#### **Jan 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 [Send Email](#) 214-824-0244



#### **Jan 19 (Sat) Upgrading Trails at Cedar Ridge Preserve**

Greetings and may your new year be all that and more! 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. 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 19th of January, 2013! Please see their website at [www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html](http://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. Start your new year right and stay green, people! Organizer: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902

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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