



dallas sierra club news

January, 2013: In This Issue. . .

- [Notes from Our Chair](#) - Top Ten "Green" Resolutions
- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, January 8
- [Sierra Club Activists Busy at Year End](#) - Sunset Hearings and Gas Drilling
- [Sierra Club Calendars for Sale](#) - Last change to get these award winning calendars
- [Annual Taos Bus Trip](#) - February 14-18
- [Outings Leaders Needed](#) - Training January 13
- [ICO \(Outreach\) Volunteer Orientation](#) - Join 2013 kick off on January 22
- [Take 'Em Back In Texas](#) - Recycle your electronics
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

Notes from Our Chair

Top Ten "Green" Resolutions

10. Take a bike or a hike to promote clean recreation.
9. Write a letter to your Dallas City officials stating your strong support of clean air, clean water and a city safe from fracking and other industrial polluters.
8. Use all available resources to recycle any glass, metal, paper or plastic products, especially for old electronics which cannot be repaired or used (see resources below).
7. Think ahead when you make any purchase. Can you buy it used or reconditioned? Will your purchase last or is it made so cheaply that it is destined for an early deposit in a landfill which may be nearer to your home than you know?
6. Always consider how far your intended purchase has traveled and how much pollution was generated to bring it to your local store.
5. Set aside a little time each month to volunteer for the environment. Outside activities like composting your organic materials, trail work at Cedar Ridge Preserve or White Rock Lake clean-ups are an easy first step.
4. Sign-up for a Sierra Club bus trip or other outing. You will be introduced to new friends and new locales which will inspire you to do more.
3. Set an environmentally conscious example for your family, your friends, and even your enemies. The 'green' movement has exploded in so many directions that even small steps by large numbers of people will make a difference.

2. Heed the voices from the campfire:

"Get out among the mountains and trees, friend, they will do more for you than either man or woman could" (Theodore Roosevelt to John Muir upon the death of Muir's wife, Louie Wanda, in August 1905).

1. Each person has a sacred duty to use their talents to make a difference. To do otherwise is to waste the very limited time on this earth. To leave a positive legacy is a goal worth pursuing. To inspire others to leave a positive legacy is a gift to the future.

Good luck on all your 2013 resolutions. See you on the trail!

Your Dallas Chair
Wendel Withrow

General Meeting Program - January 8 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Join us for our first General Meeting of the new year. We are starting 2013 with two great programs you won't want to miss.

Shark Fin Trade

Sharks have swam the oceans for over 400 million years, helping to shape and maintain the balance of ocean ecosystems. Sharks have survived the five great extinction events, including the last which caused the dinosaurs to go extinct. For all this time, sharks were the top predators in the ocean. Until Now. Today, many species are threatened with extinction within our lifetime. Overfishing and shark finning is killing tens of millions of sharks per year at an alarmingly unsustainable rate. Fortunately, global attitudes are rapidly shifting in favor of sharks. Shark Stewards is at the forefront of the global movement to protect sharks, ban the shark fin trade, stop illegal shark finning, and establish shark sanctuaries. There is lot to do to support shark populations. Shark Stewards provides the tools for activists to take action and stop shark finning and ban the shark fin trade.



Anna Clark and Kayla Ellis will talk about what Texans can do to prevent shark finning and why it matters. Anna is an author, sustainability advocate, and mother of two who regards oceanic pollution and species loss among the most critical environmental issues we face today. She also has a soft spot for sharks, which she considers the underdogs of the sea. Kayla is the student campaign organizer for Shark Stewards Texas, a non-profit dedicated to conserving our oceans through the protection of sharks. A senior at Greenhill School, Kayla is an aspiring marine biologist.

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

Come hear about the history of the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System, in general, and Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, in particular, and find out about all the wonderful outdoor activities available to you--all free of charge!

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge is in Sherman, Texas, and is located on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma. It was established in 1946--one of 21 national wildlife refuges in Texas and one of the 556 national wildlife refuges in the United States. There are five different habitats on the 11,320 acres of Hagerman NWR and it is home to over 339 species of birds.



Hagerman NWR has a very unique history. In the early 1900's, Hagerman was a small farming community near the Red River. In the 1940's, the Corp of Engineers built the Denison Dam and the town of Hagerman was flooded. Today, the remaining residents of Hagerman still get together for a yearly reunion at Hagerman NWR.

Every refuge in the NWR system has a mission and a purpose. Some are different from others, depending on location and circumstances. The mission of Hagerman NWR is to provide a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Thousands and thousands of Snow Geese and Ross Geese migrate from the north and spend the winter at Hagerman NWR.

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.

Sierra Club Conservation Activists End the Year with Flurry of Successful Activity

On November 15, Dallas Sierra Club hosted an energy conference at SMU with notable speakers including Mark Armentrout, former ERCOT chairman, and Dr. Al Armendariz, former Region 6 EPA director. The event focused on all forms of energy including geothermal, coal, solar, wind, and natural gas. There was a great crowd including Texas legislative aides in attendance. Participants were so excited about the topics covered that the event went on for an additional hour. Due to the intense interest, Sierra Club hopes to have a broader energy conference in 2013.

On December 10th, the Dallas and Ft. Worth Sierra Clubs co-hosted a town hall with Public Citizen regarding the sunset of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Railroad Commission (RRC). Sunset involves a review of a state agency every seven years as to its continuation or to possible reforms of how an agency functions within the state.

Representative Rafael Anchia of Dallas and Representative Jim Keffer of Eastland listened to citizens from around the Metroplex express concerns over a number of issues including renewable energy, hydraulic fracturing and tar sands pipelines. Other citizens noted their worry over the possibility of a spill from a proposed tar sands pipeline called Seaway near three major DFW water sources. Again, the event was quite successful as almost 100 people attended from the Metroplex.

Conservation activists concluded the year by testifying at the Capitol in Austin before the full 12-member Sunset Commission regarding the PUC and RRC on December 19th. The following day, December 20th activists gave comments at Dallas City Hall before the zoning commission regarding a permit for Trinity East to drill for natural gas (with fracking) in the Trinity River

floodplain. The zoning commission voted to deny the permit with prejudice and it is now remanded back to the Dallas City Council with a possible vote on January 23rd.

Sierra Club Calendars for Sale

Get your award winning 2013 Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar or 2013 Sierra Club Engagement Calendar at the January General Meetings. Both calendars have been nation-wide best sellers for 30 years. They come in mailing boxes and make perfect post-holiday gifts. Both calendars are \$12 each. This is your last chance to get this great calendar, so don't miss it.

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"!



Get involved in 2013 - Outing Leader Training January 13!

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, sharing 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 means you get to pick the time and place and is a great way to meet others, plus they're fun! The next leader training is scheduled for Sunday, January 13. Pre-registration is free but required by Friday, Jan. 11. A few hours of pre-training reading is required. Another training may be scheduled for March. If interested or for more information, please contact Liz Wheelan, Training Coordinator, Lizwico@aol.com or 214-368-2306

Dallas ICO (Outreach) - Join 2013 kick off January 22

If your New Year's resolution was to do volunteer work and you enjoy the outdoors and kids, this is the place for you! For over 25 years, amazing and dedicated volunteers with our Inner City Outings program have provided opportunities for underserved kids to get off the cement and explore the great outdoors. Being an ICO volunteer doesn't take much time but the impact is immeasurable. Please consider joining us the evening of Tuesday, January 22 for our quarterly New Volunteer Orientation to learn how you can be a part of this rewarding and fun Sierra Club program. No experience necessary - only your passion for



sharing the outdoors. For more information and to make a reservation, please contact Liz Wheelan, Lizwico@aol.com or 214-368-2306.

Electronic Companies... Take 'Em Back in Texas

Three Convenient ways to recycle your obsolete computers, monitors, TVs and other e-waste:

1. **Manufacturer TakeBack Programs**

Manufacturers are required to provide recycling for computers and monitors at no cost to you. The State of Texas lists all producers takeback recycling programs at TexasRecyclesComputers.org. Click on the name of the company that made your brand of equipment to see your free recycling options. Check out free TV takeback from companies such as Sony, Samsung, LG and others at TexasTakeBack.org.

2. **Goodwill Partnerships**

Through its partnership with Dell, all Goodwill locations throughout Texas will accept old computes and most will accept functioning TVs. Through programs funded by the TV makers, most Goodwill locations in Central Texas, Tarrant County and Denton also accept non-working TVs. Call your local Goodwill for more Details.

3. **Electronics Retailers**

You can recycle most electronics for free at Best Buy retail stores. Recycling a monitor or TV up to 32 inches costs \$10, but you receive a \$10 gift card in return. Staples locations recycle all Dell-branded equipment at no charge. Other equipment costs \$5 to \$10. Additional retailers also offer limited e-recycling options in Texas.

By using producer takeback recycling programs, you can help protect the environment from toxic electronic waste and save local tax dollars.

If you need to recycle an old computer or monitor, go to www.TexasRecyclesComputers.org.

if you need to recycle an old TV, find free manufacturer programs at www.TexasTakeBack.org.

For a nice PDF poster of this information, [click here](#).

Calendar

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



Jan 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting - Shark Fin Trade and Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Our two programs for January are **Shark Fin Trade** and **Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge**. Full details are on our [home page](#).



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 13 (Sun) Outings Leaders Training- Get Involved in 2013

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, sharing 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 means you get to pick the time and place and is a great way to meet others, plus they're fun! The next leader training is scheduled for Sunday, January 13. Pre-registration is free but required by Friday, Jan. 11. A few hours of pre-training reading is required. Another training may be scheduled for March. If interested or for more information, please contact the Coordinator. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



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 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



Jan 22 (Tue) Dallas ICO (Our Outreach Program) Volunteer Orientation

If your New Year's resolution was to do volunteer work and you enjoy the outdoors and kids, this is the place for you! For over 25 years, amazing and dedicated volunteers with our Inner City Outings program have provided opportunities for underserved kids to get off the cement and explore the great outdoors. Being an ICO volunteer doesn't take much time but the impact is immeasurable. Please consider joining us the evening of Tuesday, January 22 for our quarterly New Volunteer Orientation to learn how you can be a part of this rewarding and fun Sierra Club program. No experience necessary - only your passion for sharing the outdoors. For more information and to make a reservation, please contact Liz. Contact: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Jan 24 (Thu) Clean Air Meetup

Interested in DFW conservation topics? Come join like-minded people with a discussion on all the issues including water, tar sands, fracking, etc. The meeting will be at Picasso's on Inwood north of Forest ([Google map](#)) at 6:30 pm. For more information, call Rita Beving at 214.557.2271.



Feb 2 (Sat) 3rd Annual Super Weekend 10k Dayhike

Hike 10K (6 miles) on the Lake Ray Roberts Greenbelt Corridor. This is an easy trail running along side the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. No reservations required, just show up. Please, no pets. Bring water and a snack. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Hwy 380 Trailhead Park. Admission to the park is \$7.00 per person or free with a Texas State Parks Pass. There will be an optional lunch afterwards. The Park is on US Hwy 380 2.1 miles west of Hwy 377 or 2.8 miles east of Loop 288 in Denton. Hwy 380 can be reached from Central Expwy, Preston Rd., or the Tollway. Bring extra shoes in case the trail is muddy. The trip will be canceled if it is raining at the trailhead. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 972-658-1281



Feb 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) at 6:30 pm. Contact the [Dallas Group Chair](#) for more information.



Feb 12 (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.



Feb 14-18 (Thu-Mon) Bus Trip to Taos - Come Play in the Snow!

Want to make Valentine's weekend really memorable? Make your reservations now and join us on this annual trip to enjoy the winter beauty of northern New Mexico. We'll leave Dallas on our sleeper bus on Valentine's evening and return early morning on Monday, February 18 (President's Day - a day off for some). The trip is very economical and offers your choice of accommodations including a great hotel in Taos with hot tub or backpacking to stay in a yurt! The area offers a variety of fun things to do and you can design your own combination of activities including alpine snowshoeing (beginner and more advanced), downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing (it's a blast!) and hikes in the scenic 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. Participants staying at the hotel in Taos are invited to enjoy a wine and cheese social Saturday before dinner. Activity ratings range from easy to strenuous. Rental snowshoes, ski equipment, snow boots, snow pants and jackets are available. The 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 file](#). Bus trip leader: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Feb 20 (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 [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Feb 23 (Sat) Beginner Backpacking Class - Get set for spring exploring!

This comprehensive class is ideal for those who want to learn all about backpacking and those wanting to refresh your backpacking knowledge and skills. Topics include: outdoor clothing, boots, backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, wilderness ethics, 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 weekend trips. Lunch of backpacking food is included. (Feel free to bring anything else you prefer to eat.) Handouts will be provided. PLEASE BRING a writing utensil and your water bottle. The fee is \$20 for Sierra Club members and \$30 for non-members. No reservations are necessary, just show up. The class meets in the Guadalupe Peak clinic room, 2nd floor of 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. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 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](#)