



## dallas sierra club news

### August, 2013: In This Issue. . .

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- [Beginner Backpacking Class](#) - Learn to backpack - you know you want to
- [Learn About Climate Change](#) - And take action
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- [Studies Show Fracking Harmful](#) - Don't frack Dallas
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- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

### General Meeting Program - August 13, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Our August General Meeting topics are Inner City Highways and Controlling Pests with Birds.

#### Inner City Highway Tear-outs

Cities around the country and the world are systematically removing highway infrastructure from their urban core, and they're doing so to improve local economy and livability. This discussion will create a distinction between types of highway infrastructure, the helpful and necessary from the wasteful and destructive, and illustrate how behavior patterns like transportation and real estate markets are a by-product of infrastructure policy and design. Ultimately, it will explore the possibility of highway removal in Dallas and its effect on transportation patterns and economic development for Dallas.



Patrick Kennedy is an urban planner who has lived in Dallas for the past 11 years. He is a founding partner of Space Between Design Studio, an occasional columnist for D Magazine on issues of urbanism, is President of the North Texas Chapter for the Congress of New Urbanism, the Founder and creator of ANewDallas.com, and is on the board of Friends of Fair Park. His interest and work focus centers on the nexus between design, infrastructure networks, and real estate value.

#### Swifts, Swallows & Owls: Nature's Best Pest Control

Learn how to solve rodent and insect problems by attracting barn owls, chimney swifts, purple martins and barn swallows. Discover the fascinating secret lives and unusual parenting styles of these amazing birds. Find out why they have become completely dependent on human structures for nesting sites. Learn what to do and who to call if you find an orphaned or injured bird. Presented by Bonnie Bradshaw, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas Master Naturalist, and president of 911 Wildlife.



**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.

### **Learn Backing the Fun Way at Our Beginner Backpacking Class**

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 designed specifically for those in the class. 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 10:15 AM to register and get settled. The class will begin promptly at 10:30 AM and end about 4:45 PM.

### **Learn About Climate Change**

Volunteers interested in activism related to climate change are invited to a meeting in Dallas to learn more of the facts and issues. Mary Warren, who was trained by Al Gore at the Climate Reality Project, will share her insights with some actions that are planned in the DFW area on August 13. RSVP's required for meeting location and more information. For more information: Molly Rooke [Send Email](#)

### **Clean Air Meetup**

Interested in the environment? Come learn about every environmental issue that Sierra Club and lots of groups around the metroplex are working on at the Clean Air Meetup. It will be held Thursday, August 29th at Picasso's Pizza at 12300 Inwood, Dallas 75244 ([map](#)), just north of Forest Lane across from Jesuit soccer fields. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing the latest on the proposed fracking in Dallas, the Seaway tar sands pipeline, the Keystone XL pipeline, the latest with climate change events around Dallas and more. This meeting is open to the public. For more information: Rita Beving [Send Email](#) 214-557-2271

### **Studies Show Harmful Effects of Fracking**

Two new studies show harmful effects of fracking.

1. UT Arlington has found high levels of arsenic and other contaminants in private water wells near gas operations.  
<http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2013/08/05/uta-study-finds-contaminants-in-ground-water-near-gas-wells/>
2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Colorado report alarmingly high level of methane emissions in Utah — 6.2 to 11.7 percent of total production for an area about 1,000 square miles.  
<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2013/08/05/new-warnings-about-methane-emissions/>  
This is greatly concerning because methane is 72 times worse than CO2 in contributing to global warming.

Sierra Club members are encouraged to email the Dallas City Planning Commission and the Dallas City Council to ask that they do not allow any fracking or compressor stations in Dallas. [Click here for a list](#) of Planning Commission and City Council members and their email addresses.

### Labor Day Bus Trip to the San Juan Wilderness in Colorado

Plan your Labor Day weekend for backpacking in southwest Colorado. After our first trip here in 2011, participants requested a return to the green, serene and relatively undiscovered South San Juan Wilderness, a part of Rio Grande National Forest, southwest of Alamosa, Colorado and north of Chama, New



Mexico. Featured destinations will include the Continental Divide Trail, Valle Victoria, Conejos Falls, Blue Lake, Green Lake, Canon Verde, Conejos Peak, Glacier Lake, Ruybalid Lake, Rough Creek Falls and great campsites without names. A previous overnight backpacking trip will be required. Departure from Dallas will be at 7:00 pm on August 28. We'll return by 6:00 am on September 3. Full details about the trip, including costs and how to sign up are in [this PDF file](#).

### Calendar

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



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



### **Aug 13 (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.



### **Aug 17 (Sat) Beginner Backpacking Class - Join us one and all !**

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 designed specifically for those in the class. 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



### **Aug 28-Sep 3 (Wed-Tue) South San Juan Wilderness Area**

Plan your Labor Day weekend for backpacking in southwest Colorado. After our first trip here in 2011, participants requested a return to the green, serene and relatively undiscovered South San Juan Wilderness, a part of Rio Grande National Forest, southwest of Alamosa, Colorado and north of Chama, New Mexico. Featured destinations will include the Continental Divide Trail, Valle Victoria, Conejos Falls, Blue Lake, Green Lake, Canon Verde, Conejos Peak, Glacier Lake, Ruybalid Lake, Rough Creek Falls and great campsites without names. A previous overnight backpacking trip is advisable. Departure from Dallas will be at 7 PM on August 28. We'll return by 6 AM on September 3. Full details about the trip, including costs and how to sign up are in [this PDF file](#). Coordinator: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



### **Aug 29 (Thu) Clean Air Meetup**

Interested in the environment. Come learn about every environmental issue that Sierra Club and lots of groups around the metroplex are working on at the Clean Air Meetup. It will be held Thursday, August 29th at Picasso's Pizza at 12300 Inwood ([map](#)), just north of Forest Lane across from Jesuit soccer fields. We will be discussing the latest on the proposed fracking in Dallas, the Seaway tar sands pipeline, the Keystone XL pipeline, the latest with climate change events around Dallas and more. This meeting is open to the public. For more information: Rita Beving [Send Email](#) 214-557-2271



### **Sep 4 (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.



### **Sep 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Two topics for our September meeting: (1) September is the start of the tree planting season. Understanding the importance of proper tree selection and placement can make the difference between if your tree thrives or dies. The Texas Tree Foundation will discuss key points that will ensure the next tree you plant is a success. (2) The City of Dallas' cogeneration project uses a previously unused renewable resource (biogas) to generate electricity at cheaper costs than the City was paying, while reducing area-wide emissions and the City's carbon

footprint. Hear about this and other sustainability efforts. Everyone is invited. Full details will be on our [home page](#) on August 14.



### **Sep 11 (Wed) Advanced Backpacking Class - Explore farther, hike longer!**

Great - you have a few weekend backpacks under your belt; now you want to do more challenging backpacking to explore even more special places: 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, equipment, bear barrel packing and week+ long trekking. Location: Guadalupe Peak clinic room (2nd floor) 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 finish about 8:45 PM. The fee for the class is \$15 for Sierra Club members and \$20 for non-members. Handout provided. Please bring water bottle and writing utensil if you want to take notes. No reservations are necessary; just show up. Contact: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



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

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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