



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET
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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - December 2013

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

Solar Power for Homeowners



Do you think it's finally time to go solar at your house? Are your neighbors jealous of the sleek new solar system on your roof and constantly pestering you with questions about how they can get one too?

Chris Guldi will share the results of leasing a solar power system on her house. And Plano Solar Advocates (www.planosolar.org) will tell us about their Solarize Plano Project, a pilot program that aims to demystify the process for homeowners of getting a PV system installed on their roof. After

holding information sessions this summer and signing up Plano homeowners ready to install solar, the group selected a qualified installer, negotiated a group deal, and are moving into the installation phase for participants.

Let's make the DFW area a leader in solar power in Texas! Bring a friend and learn how to organize a group to Solarize your city! Plano Solar Advocates is a volunteer grass roots group with the mission to increase awareness and use of solar energy for electricity generation in Plano. [Here](#) is a link to a July 21, 2013, Dallas Morning News article about Plano Solar Advocates.

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 pm 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 Annual Holiday Party - Sunday, December 15



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 15 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 2014 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!!

Join Us for Our Annual Bus Trip to Taos, New Mexico



Mark your calendar now for our annual trip to the winter beauty of northern New Mexico. Leave Dallas on our sleeper bus in the evening of Thursday, Feb. 27 and return early on Monday, March 3, staying two nights at the wonderful El Pueblo Lodge, near the Taos Plaza. Activity options include snowshoeing (for beginners and those more experienced), downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing (it's a blast!), hikes (shorter and longer) in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area and - new this year – plans for hiking the Orilla Verde section of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. You can join the group to tour historical sites or spend time on your own to experience the galleries, museums, shops, food and beauty of this scenic and historical town. A Saturday wine and cheese social is included. Activity ratings range from easy to strenuous. Rental snowshoes and skis are available. Trip includes transportation to/from Taos, Taos Ski Valley and trailheads. Details and cost will be posted in December. To be notified when the trip write-up becomes available and reservations open, send an email to the trip coordinator. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306

Outings Highlights

Please take a few hours out of your busy holiday schedule to help clean up one of our favorite parks. Our White Rock Lake cleanup weekends need your help.

Dec 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

Dec 14 (Sat) Birding Trip to Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

What is a NARD? Come find out! Fall and winter are great times of the year to see birds migrating through areas providing stopover habitat. With the recent rains, the ponds and wetlands at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge should be full, providing essential stopover habitat for not only waterfowl and wetland birds, but various raptors and songbirds alike. Things you might see include: large flocks of snow geese and several other species of waterfowl and wetland birds along with a smattering of raptors. Some of the waterfowl seen on our last trip included NARDS-North American Ruddy Ducks, American Wigeon, Common Shovellers, Gadwall, and Northern Pintail ducks. Sign-up required, cost and other details to follow. Transportation from the Dallas area provided. Limited to 9 people, so sign up early to save a spot! Leaving early morning. For only \$25 you can enjoy transportation and a guided tour of this unique area. Full details on how to sign up are in [this pdf](#). Leaders: Sue Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446 and Bill Greer [Send Email](#)

Calendar

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



Dec 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Solar Power for Homeowners Learn about adding a solar energy power system to your home. Plano Solar Advocates will demystify getting a PV system installed on a homeowner's roof. Chris Galdi will share the results of leasing a solar power system for her house. Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Dec 12-15 (Thu-Sun) Backpack the Buffalo River Trail 25 Miles from Ponca to Pruitt

We will meet Thursday morning at the Gordon Motel in Jasper Arkansas at 8:30 AM. We will shuttle cars to the trailheads and start hiking by 11:00. Our route will take us thru many lovely hollows and up across high bluffs. Along the route we will visit several homesteads and other historical sights. Weather this time of year can range from highs in the 50s to snow and freezing temperatures. However, with the leaves off the trees, the vistas are unique. I plan to drive up the day before and spent the night in Jasper. Carpooling is encouraged. Leader approval in advance of the rendezvous date is required. Leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



Dec 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



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Dec 15 (Sun) Sierra Club Holiday Party

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Dec 21 (Sat) Upgrading Trails at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Its fun and its helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve 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 earlier, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Its on Saturday the 21st of December, 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 [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



Jan 8 (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.



Jan 11 (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 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Movie Night! John Muir movie Watch a movie about John Muir, the legendary explorer and writer who inspired people to protect wilderness areas and helped establish national parks. 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.



Jan 15 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Meet upstairs at REI (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch), at 6:30 PM. Bring your ideas for future outings. We'll be planning local outings and bus trips. Outings leaders, future leaders, and people interested in outings are welcome. Ask Mark to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Jan 18 (Sat) Trails Upgrading at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Happy New Year everyone! Its fun and its helpful to get out to the Cedar Ridge Preserve 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 earlier, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Bring a friend or two. Its on Saturday the 18th of January, 2014, 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! 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.
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