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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - March 2014

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Chair' Column

It's almost springtime and your Dallas Sierra Club is celebrating warmer weather with BLOCKBUSTER programs in March and April.

On March 11, 2014 we start out with an update on the new Northeast Texas Trail which is close enough for a day-hike. The long program will feature a return of the incredible photos and short video by Scot Miller. He will give us great images and an update of the work being done in the Maine Woods Wilderness areas. Scot will also have copies of his latest book for sale.

In April, it's the triumphant return of 'The Dirt Doctor' - Howard Garrett. This icon of organic gardening will share his latest tips on having a great landscape without dangerous chemicals and will also be available for book signing.

These two meetings are perfect opportunities to bring you non-Sierran friends to see what we do and what we stand for.

See you there!
Your Dallas Chair, Wendel Withrow

General Meeting Program - March 11, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Northeast Texas Trail

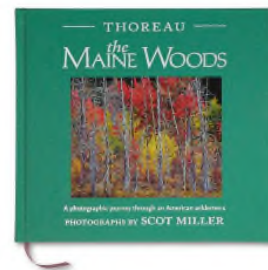
Learn about the Northeast Texas Trail (NETT), a rural and urban trail traveling through 7 counties and 19 towns. This Rails to Trails Conversion along two unused railroad right-of-way, running from Farmersville, Texas, to New Boston, Texas, one day will be the longest trail in the state at 132 miles. The NETT is for specific use as a non-motorized trail allowing Hiking, Biking, and Equestrian recreation.



This past November, Tracy Rumsey set out to hike the NETT to document current conditions and raise awareness of the project in hopes of promoting trail use and economic growth for the towns that this trail goes through. While several sections of the trail still need to be cleared in order to become fully open, the NETT provides a great experience for those wanting to find a place to hike close to home.

Maine Woods Photography

Scot Miller will discuss his seven-year effort photographing northern Maine for the new book, *Thoreau, The Maine Woods: A Photographic Journey Through an American Wilderness*, which combines contemporary imagery with text from Henry David Thoreau's classic collection of essays, *The Maine Woods* (first published 150 years ago). Miller will also screen *The Unexpected Journey*, a new short documentary about the making of the book. Book signing by the author will follow his presentation.



A highly regarded photographer, Scot Miller's work has formed the basis of numerous books, including *Walden: 150th Anniversary Illustrated Edition of the American Classic*; *Cape Cod: Illustrated Edition of the American Classic*; *First Light: Five Photographers Explore Yosemite's Wilderness*; and *My First Summer in the Sierra: 100th Anniversary Illustrated Edition*, winner of a 2011 National Outdoor Book Award. He is a contributor to the "Moment of Nature" videos, broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning CBS Sunday Morning.

Thoreau's Maine Woods: A Journey in Photographs with Scot Miller, an exhibition featuring thirty-three of Scot's large-format color prints plus specimens from Harvard's collection, opened at the Harvard Museum of Natural History in November and runs through September 1, 2014. This is Scot's second collaboration with the Harvard museum.

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.

Join the Dallas Sierra Club's Recycling Team for the St. Paddy's Day Parade

It's the St. Patrick's Day Parade time and you know what that means.... lots of bottles and cans that need recycling! The Dallas Sierra Club and Dallas Young Sierrans are teaming with the City of Dallas to provide a Recycling Team for the parade. We'll be in the parade at the end of the line gathering recyclables from parade goers. We are



looking for some energetic volunteers to join the Team. We need a minimum of 20 volunteers to make this happen.



We meet at the large parking lot at the SE corner of Park Lane and Greenville Ave right across the corner from the Park Lane DART station (take the train if you can since parking is very limited in that area). We will meet at 10 am, the parade begins at 11 am. We'll provide recycling bags to all the Team members. We also give all Team members a Dallas Sierra Club Recycling Team t-shirt. The parade is Saturday, March 15.

Every year we've gotten such a great reception from parade goers, many of them hold on to their bottles and cans to be able to hand them over to us when we come by. It's really great participation from everyone!

After the parade, stick around and have some eats and drinks with the Team and then go have some St. Paddy's Day fun along Greenville Ave. We will see you there!

To sign up, [click here](#).

Earth Day Events - Volunteers Needed

The Dallas Sierra Club will be participating in three major Earth Day events this year and we could use your help to staff our booths and tables. The job is fun and rewarding. You get to meet a bunch of great people, hand out some literature, and talk about the Sierra Club. Here is information about the events:

April 12 - Learn 2 Live Green

Plano's Learn 2 Live Green event will be at The Shops of Legacy (Legacy Dr, east of Dallas North Tollway in Plano) on Saturday, April 12, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This annual free event attracts thousands of people interested in learning about Renewable Energy, Organic Foods, Green Building/Remodeling, Water Conservation and much, much more. [More information.](#)

April 12 - Oak Cliff Earth Day - Celebrating the Planet

You are invited to the fabulous and informative Oak Cliff Earth Day Fair! It starts at noon and goes until 5:00 pm. It is located at Lake Cliff Park, near the corner of Zang and Colorado Blvds., by the Methodist Hospital. Visit OakCliffEarthDay.com for more details and directions. It will be a great chance to find out all you wanted to know about environmentalism, Art and culture, and of course, the Sierra Club. [More information.](#)

April 26-27 - Earth Day Texas

Earth Day Texas (formerly, Earth Day Dallas) is an annual, outdoor festival seeking to elevate environmental awareness and influence the way Texans think, live and work. The family-friendly and free-admission event allows leaders in the corporate, academic and non-profit worlds to unite and show Texans how green lifestyle choices can lower their cost of living, improve their health, and help save the environment. [More information.](#)

Sacramento Mountains, Cloudcroft, New Mexico Bus Trip - May 23-27

We're now accepting registrations for the Memorial Day weekend sleeper bus trip to this new destination ten miles east of Alamogordo. Our trails are in Lincoln National Forest at elevations from 7,800 to 9,500 feet, forested with fir, pine and aspen. We've reserved a group shelter for breakfast on arrival. One trip option is day hikes from this appealing base camp with vault toilets and a fire pit amphitheater. All other trips will continue after breakfast to trailheads along the Rim Trail. Thirty-one miles in all, the Rim Trail generally follows the divide between the Rio Grande and Pecos watersheds, with occasional views to White Sands and the Tularosa Valley far below. The Rim Trail was the first National Recreational Trail in New Mexico. Area history is tied to logging and the "Cloud-Climbing Railroad" that hauled out timber and brought in vacationers. Railroad grade and trestle remnants are prominent features on the day hikes. Departure is Friday evening, with return before dawn Tuesday. [Click here for complete trip details and registration application forms.](#)



Free Movie Screening

On February 17, 2013 filmmakers Elliott Gilbert, Rustin Rogers and Joseph Capps embarked on a 30-hour bus ride with the group Forward on Climate Change organized by Rita Beving of The Dallas Sierra Club, as they rally to March on Washington. The resulting documentary, *Cry Heard 'Round the World "The Journey to DC to Take a Stand for Mother Earth"*, is a film you will want to see. Along the way the viewer will explore many opinions and delve into fact and fiction in order to understand the complex battle between the Oil and Gas Industry and supporters of renewable energies. The cast of characters range from college students, a Texas Farmer, residential victims of a pipeline spill, seasoned climate change supporters, and nationally recognized leaders opposed to the Keystone XL Pipeline. By the end of the film the audience will journey through Texas, Arkansas, and Washington DC.

The film will be shown at the Angelika Film Center on Mockingbird Lane in Dallas on March 20th at 8pm. There is no admission, but seating is limited. To receive an e-vite, please email your interest to Elliott Gilbert, elliottgil@gmail.com

The film and the screening are sponsored by Dolphin Blue.

Let's Work on Some Service Projects

Spring is just around the corner, so let's roll up our sleeves and get to work with a couple of service projects. We have two projects that we work on every month, so be sure to check our calendar and make a point to help out a couple of times this year.

White Rock Lake Cleanup - March 8 and April 12 and Every Month

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. Trip rated: [Easy](#). Leader: Carol Nash [Send Email](#) 214-824-0244

Upgrading Trails at Cedar Ridge Preserve - March 15 and April 19 and Every Month

This will be a great opportunity 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 12ish, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Bring some water. There are 10 miles of trails! It's on Saturday the 15th of March, 2014, and please see the website at www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html for directions and info. The number is 972-709-7784 See you then! If you wish to carpool, let me know and we'll arrange a meeting spot. Come on out and stay green! Trip rated: [Easy](#). Leader: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902

Calendar

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



Mar 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



Mar 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Beginners Backpack Trip in Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas

We'll hike a portion of the Little Missouri River Trail and the Viles Branch Trail in the Ouachita National Forest in SW Arkansas. Camp at Shady Lake Campground Fri night. Drive to trailhead Sat morning and hike about 6 miles to camp near one of many streams in the area Saturday night. Hike out about 4 miles on Sunday morning. This hike is rated moderate with a few hills and stream crossings. Some spots will be reserved for members of the Beginner Backpacking class. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 972-658-1281



Mar 11 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting - Maine Woods Photography

(1) Learn about the Northeast Texas Trail, a non-motorized trail for Hiking, Biking, and Equestrian recreation running from Farmersville to New Boston, Texas. Maine Woods Photography (2) Scot Miller will discuss his seven-year effort photographing northern Maine for the new book, *Thoreau, The Maine Woods: A Photographic Journey Through an American Wilderness*, which combines contemporary imagery with text from Henry David Thoreau's classic collection of essays, *The Maine Woods* (first published 150 years ago). Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Mar 13 (Thu) Solar Power For Homeowners

Attend an information session to learn about installing a solar energy system on your house. Plano Solar Advocates will show how easy it is to add a solar energy power system to a home, and how much it can reduce your electricity bill. They will educate, coordinate, and provide technical support for homeowners throughout the process. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Larry Howe, Plano Solar Advocates, rlhowejr@gmail.com Bob Litwins, Plano Solar Advocates, rlitwins@gmail.com Kirk Miller, Dallas Sierra Club, kirkmiller@juno.com, phone 972 699 1687



Mar 13-16 (Thu-Sun) Paddling Trip On The Wild Neches River

It's been a while since we've had a river trip due to the ongoing drought - or is it the new climate? It's time to get those dusty boats wet. This flat water canoe/kayak trip provides an opportunity for solitude while paddling the beautiful Neches River through the heavily wooded (and still wet) Big Thicket National Preserve in southeast Texas. The Neches River is considered by experts to be one of the top 10 flat water rivers in the lower 48 states. The trip starts at highway 1013 near Spurger and ends 39 miles downstream at highway 96 near Silsbee. The exact section paddled could change depending on river flow. **This trip is now full.** Contact the trip leader if you would like to be on the short wait list. Leader: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Mar 15 (Sat) Upgrading Trails at Cedar Ridge Preserve

This will be a great opportunity 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. 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 12ish, and then walk around the preserve and admire the wildflowers and fauna! Bring some water. There are 10 miles of trails! It's on Saturday the 15th of March, 2014, and please see the website at www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html for directions and info. The number is 972-709-7784 See you then! If you wish to carpool, let me know and we'll arrange a meeting spot. Come on out and stay green! Leader: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



Mar 19 (Wed) No Outings Committee Meeting

No Outings Committee meeting this month. We did our homework and earned a pass. The Outings Committee will meet next on April 16. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Mar 20 (Thu) Free Movie Screenin at the Angelika about Climate Change March on Washington

On February 17, 2013 filmmakers Elliott Gilbert, Rustin Rogers and Joseph Capps embarked on a 30-hour bus ride with the group Forward on Climate Change organized by Rita Beving of The Dallas Sierra Club, as they rally to March on Washington. The resulting documentary, *Cry Heard 'Round the World "The Journey to DC to Take a Stand for Mother Earth"*, is a film you will want to see. Along the way the viewer will explore many opinions and delve into fact and fiction in order to understand the complex battle between the Oil and Gas Industry and supporters of renewable energies. The cast of characters range from college students, a Texas Farmer, residential victims of a pipeline spill, seasoned climate change supports, and nationally recognized leaders opposed to the Keystone XL Pipeline. By the end of the film the audience will journey through Texas, Arkansas, and Washington DC. The film will be shown at the Angelika Film Center on Mockingbird Lane in Dallas on March 20th at 8pm. There is no admission, but seating is limited. To receive an e-vite, please email your interest to Elliott Gilbert, elliottgil@gmail.com The film and the screening were sponsored by Dolphin Blue.



Mar 29-30 (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 [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Mar 29-Apr 1 (Sat-Tue) Backpack the Buffalo River Trail, 36 Miles from Boxley to Pruitt, Arkansas

We will meet Saturday at 8:30 AM at the Gordon Motel in Jasper Arkansas so we can shuttle cars to the trailheads and start hiking by 11:00. This is the longest contiguous

portion of the Buffalo River National Recreational Trail and a real treat to experience. Be prepared for waterfalls, hidden hollows, flowering plants and dramatic vistas. Also be prepared for lots of ups and downs as we go from ridge tops to hollow bottoms following the course of the Buffalo River. This time of the year, the weather should be delightful, but bring some layers for cool evenings and perhaps even some rain. This countryside has it all. Elk, turkey and eagle sightings are always a possibility. Based on the mileage, leader pre-approval is required to go on this trip. Call me early as spots are limited. Leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



Mar 30 (Sun) Annual Dallas Sierra Club Azalea Day Hike in Highland Park

Come for a leisurely walk of one and a half to two hours along Turtle Creek and to Flippen Park. Meet at 2:00 PM at the shopping strip in the 4200 Block of Oak Lawn, just north of Wycliff. This is accessible from Interstate 35E via the Oak Lawn exit or from North Central Expressway via Fitzhugh. No reservations are needed. Leader: Austin Brouns [Send Email](#) 214-528-3812



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



Apr 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Howard Garrett - Organic Gardening and Landscaping Find out how organic programs can save 50% of irrigation costs, and learn about various organic gardening techniques that benefit you and our environment. You can buy Howard's books before or after the meeting, and have them autographed. Get to the meeting early for a good seat. 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.



Apr 12 (Sat) White Rock Lake Clean-up

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, northeast corner of Garland Road and Buckner Boulevard. Look for a crowd of people drinking free juice and coffee. Gloves, trash bags, etc. will be provided. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. Brunch afterwards. Leader: Carol Nash [Send Email](#) 214-824-0244



Apr 12 (Sat) Learn 2 Live Green

Plano's Learn 2 Live Green event will be at The Shops of Legacy (Legacy Dr, east of Dallas North Tollway in Plano) on Saturday, April 12, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This annual free event attracts thousands of people interested in learning about Renewable Energy, Organic Foods, Green Building/Remodeling, Water Conservation and much, much more. Entertainment includes the Safari Show with Critterman; the TI Jazz Band; Blackland Prairie Raptor Center Birds; Michael Fitzsimmons Drums of the World and more. Your Dallas Sierra Club is participating in this free family event. Your help is needed for an hour or more to man a booth and introduce the Sierra Club to people who don't know us, yet. Email John Lingenfelder to get involved. Contact: John Lingenfelder [Send Email](#)



Apr 12 (Sat) Oak Cliff Earth Day - Celebrating the Planet

You are invited to the fabulous and informative Oak Cliff Earth Day Fair! It starts at noon and goes until 5:00 pm. It is located at Lake Cliff Park, near the corner of Zang and Colorado Blvds., by the Methodist Hospital. Visit [OakCliffEarthDay.com](#) for more details and directions. It will be a great chance to find out all you wanted to know about environmentalism, Art and culture, and of course, the Sierra Club. The Dallas Sierra Club will have a table, so please come out to support

your local community and non-profit groups. We can always use some additional volunteers, so please contact Ginger if you can help out. Contact: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#)



Apr 16 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Meet upstairs at the REI Dallas store, north side of LBJ Freeway between Midway and Welch Roads, 6:30 PM. Tonight's agenda will include reviewing progress at arranging summer 2014 bus trips and setting training programs through 2014. Outings leaders, prospective 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



Apr 16 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

The Outings Committee meets tonight at 6:30, upstairs at the REI Dallas store on LBJ Freeway, between Midway and Welch Roads. The agenda will include a review of major outings scheduled through the end of summer and setting training programs through the end of the year. Outings leaders, prospective 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



Apr 19 (Sat) Upgrading of Trails at Cedar Ridge Preserve

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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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