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Dallas Sierra Club  
Lone Star Chapter

## Dallas Sierra Club News - August 2014

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- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, August 12
- [Earth, Wind, & Fire Energy Summit](#) - Learn about your energy future
- [Learn How to Backpack](#) - At our Beginner Backpacking Class
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### General Meeting Program - August 12 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

#### Raptors of Texas

See live raptors -- hawks, owls, falcons -- up close and personal. Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will bring live birds of prey to our meeting, show their unique capabilities, and discuss the importance to our environment. You will learn about their unique adaptations to hunting and surviving in woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. **This is a family-friendly event. Bring a camera to get pictures of yourself with raptors.**



The topic of our September General Meeting is **Effects of Global Climate Change on Artic Plants and North American Prairies**. Visit our [website](#) for details.

**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.

### Register Now for Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit - October 4-5

Time is running out to get the early registration price of only \$55 for the Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit before Sept. 2nd. The event will be held at the Addison Conference Centre off Belt Line and Addison Road in North Dallas.

Earth, Wind, & Fire  
ENERGY SUMMIT

Confirmed speakers include academics and experts from around the country including those professionals from New York, Washington DC, Seattle, and Minneapolis.

Do you want to know if fracking and disposal wells cause earthquakes? Do you want to find out what the latest is in onshore and offshore wind development? Will the new carbon rules force old coal plants to retire? Can you afford solar panels on your house? Are there any nuclear power plants being built? Learn about all these topics and more at this weekend event.

This weekend event promises to provide attendees with a global view of America's energy portfolio and then turn to specific energy topics, discussing not only traditional and renewable forms of energy but also new, emerging energy technologies. Discussion will also focus on the environmental and human impacts associated with these forms of energy and probe into some of the challenges and compelling questions facing these sources.

This is a conference is designed for the the public with clear, nontechnical discussion. Our mission is to educate the public and those who work to influence policy on the public's behalf regarding environmental issues associated with energy. Our aim is to answer some of today's pressing questions raised by the public and in the media surrounding energy issues.

Space is limited-- so make your reservations now to attend this exciting event. Early Registration: \$55 (before August 15). Late Registration: \$75. Your reservation includes two lunches for both days. Visit [earthwindfiresummit.org](http://earthwindfiresummit.org) for more info or to register online via PayPal or EventBrite. For questions concerning this event, email [rita@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:rita@dallassierraclub.org).

### **Beginner Backpacking Class - Make It Safe, Make it Easy, Make It Fun - August 16**

Come for a fun day of learning so you'll be ready to explore new special places this fall. This comprehensive class is ideal for learning all about backpacking or for refreshing old knowledge and skills. We'll cover backpacks, boots, clothing, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, water treatments, wilderness ethics and even short sessions to discuss men's and women's outdoor "issues". Instructors are experienced Dallas Sierra Club leaders who can relate "wish someone had told me that before" tips from years of trail and camp experiences. We encourage questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear and food items. Participants get priority for weekend beginner backpacking trips designed specifically for those in the class. A class booklet and lunch of backpacking food are included. Bring your refillable water bottle and any snacks you'd like. The class fee is \$25 for Sierra Club members, \$35 for non-members. No reservations - just show up. Payment by cash or check is preferred. The class meets in the Guadalupe Peak Room, 2nd floor of the Dallas REI store, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Dallas 75244 (north side of LBJ between Welch and Midway). Arrive around 10:15 AM to register and get settled. The class will begin at 10:30 and end about 4:45.

### **Fall Fun for All at Beavers Bend State Park, October 17-19**

Looking for a relaxing and inexpensive fall getaway with family or friends? This outing is great for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and stages. Sign up now for our annual weekend among the scenic beauty and tall pines of Southeast Oklahoma. Our group compound offers your choice of rustic cabin or tent camping on the grassy lawn or by the river and a dining hall with kitchen, showers and flush toilets. Enjoy a hike with our group (various lengths and levels), mini-clinics or on your own for the many options offered by the park - hikes, new nature center,



local history museum, horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking (rentals available), even a train ride through the forest for those wanting to see it the easy way! Special Saturday night performance by actor Lee Stetson portraying John Muir. Optional catered dinner. Reservation deadline Oct. 14. For complete trip information and sign-up forms, [click here](#). Questions – contact Lizwico@aol.com or call 214.368.2306.

### John Muir Live On Stage - Sunday, October 19

In *The Spirit of John Muir*, renowned actor Lee Stetson will showcase Muir's dedication to wilderness protection and search for adventure in Yosemite National Park and other wild places. Stetson portrays Muir every summer for thousands of people in Yosemite National Park's Theater, and he will be in Dallas for one night only.



Some of Muir's grand, thrilling adventures are in this show: "The Perilous Night on Mount Shasta" with Muir freezing in the midst of a howling blizzard while simultaneously being boiled and blistered in hot springs; his astonishing ride down a Yosemite Valley canyon wall on a snow avalanche; climbing the 500 foot wall of the winter ice cone beneath Yosemite Falls; Muir's encounter with a mighty Yosemite earthquake; dangerous Alaskan ice crevasses; snow blindness; and much more -- all liberally salted with Muir's wilderness philosophy. This show's theme revolves around the health and invigoration one acquires when one fully and joyfully engages wildness.

\$10. 7:00 p.m., Addison Conference Centre Studio Theater, 16560 Addison Road, Addison, TX. Buy tickets at the door or at the September 9 or October 14 Sierra Club General Meeting. Seating is limited, so advanced purchase is advised. Click [here](#) for a map of the venue's location.

**Everyone is welcome.** You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to attend this special event.

### Calendar

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



**Aug 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**  
See **live raptors** -- hawks, owls, falcons -- up close and personal. This is a **FREE** family-friendly event. Bring a camera to get pictures of yourself with raptors. Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



### **Aug 16 (Sat) Beginner Backpacking Class - Make It Safe, Make it Easy, Make It Fun**

Come for a fun day of learning so you'll be ready to explore new special places this fall. This comprehensive class is ideal for learning all about backpacking or for refreshing old knowledge and skills. We'll cover backpacks, boots, clothing, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, food, water treatments, wilderness ethics and even short sessions to discuss men's and women's outdoor "issues". Instructors are experienced Dallas Sierra Club leaders who can relate "wish someone had told me that before" tips from years of trail and camp experiences. We encourage questions and a hands-on look at outdoor gear and food items.

Participants get priority for weekend beginner backpacking trips designed specifically for those in the class. A class booklet and lunch of backpacking food are included. Bring your refillable water bottle and any snacks you'd like. The class fee is \$25 for Sierra Club members, \$35 for non-members. No reservations - just show up. Payment by CASH or CHECK is preferred. The class meets in the Guadalupe Peak Room, 2nd floor of the Dallas REI store, 4515 LBJ Freeway, Dallas 75244 (north side of LBJ between Welch and Midway). Arrive around 10:15 AM to register and get settled. The class will begin at 10:30 and end about 4:45. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



### **Aug 20 (Wed) No Outings Committee Meeting**

There's no Outings Committee meeting tonight. The Outings Committee will meet next on September 17. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



### **Sep 3 (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 9 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Dr. Laura Gough will review how soils, plants, and consumers are responding to climate change in northern Alaska, and will connect these results to implications for North Texas ecosystems. 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.



### **Sep 17 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting**

Tonight is an important meeting for the Outings Committee. We will review the Weminuche trip and discuss destinations and dates for all major trips in 2015. Bring your ideas, maps and calendars. Meet upstairs at the Dallas REI store on the north side of LBJ Freeway between Midway and Welch at 6:30 PM. 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



### **Sep 30 (Tue) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 1 (aka Learn to Explore!)**

Most walks in the woods are pretty easy but journeys of all lengths can turn from amazing to catastrophic if you can't find your way. Please join us to learn the fundamentals of navigating your way in the wilderness in this comprehensive two night class. Among the subjects covered are: looking for and purchasing different type maps, how to read maps, how not to get lost, map use if

you do get lost, and different kinds of compasses and how to use your compass. There will be some discussion about GPSs, but our main focus is learning how to use a map and compass so you're not trusting your navigation (and life) to something that takes batteries. If you have a compass, bring it to the class. If you don't have one, we will have an extra you can use and will show you what to look for when you purchase your own. The class will be held at the Dallas REI store (Guadalupe Peak room, 2nd floor), 4515 LBJ Freeway, north side, between Midway and Welch. This two-night class (second night



Thur., October 2) will begin at 6:30 PM and finish about 8:45 PM. The class fee is \$25 for Sierra Club members and \$35 for non-members. Cost covers both nights and handout materials. Bring a water bottle and pen or pencil for taking notes and writing navigation practice exercises. No reservations - just show up. A half day hike the following weekend with the class instructor will be offered to class participants who want to practice their new skills. Contact: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446

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). [Join the Sierra Club](#)