



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET
EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET
EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - September 2014

In This Issue. . .

- [Chair's Column](#) - Big Events and Big Changes
- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, September 9
- [Earth, Wind, & Fire Energy Summit](#) - Learn about your energy future
- [Annual Dallas Group Campout](#) - Join us at Beavers Bend State Park in Oklahoma
- [John Muir](#) - Live on stage
- [Wilderness Navigation](#) - Don't get lost!
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

Chair's Column - Big Events and Big Changes

As many of you have already heard, there are Big Events and Big Changes ahead. Along with our usual incredible outings, the Dallas Sierra Club needs your support for the following major events:

1. Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit is a two day conference which will bring in nationally known experts on the full array of energy resources and current hot issues such as fracking and earthquakes. October 4-5,2014 Addison Conference Center
2. Beaver's Bend State Park (Oklahoma) will host our Fourth Annual Family Camp Out with a most special guest. Lee Stetson will be arriving from Yosemite National Park for a special performance of "John Muir among the Animals." Saturday night, October 18,2014 @ 7:00 p.m.
3. The very next night will see Lee Stetson appear at the Addison Conference Centre Studio Theatre in "The Spirit of John Muir." Those who saw Lee the last time he was here will know his performance is inspiring and can be a life changing experience for the new and veteran conservationist. Sunday, October 19,2014 at 7:00 p.m. (Get your tickets at the general meetings or arrive early to get a seat)
4. Political - While this political season may not have a Presidential election, it will have plenty of fireworks in the State of Texas. Watch for a fund-raiser in October with a major state-wide candidate as our guest.
5. ICO Expansion - As usual, our outreach program continues to grow and shine as we all share the gift of nature with those whose opportunities are not as great as the rest of us.
6. And the final big announcement, The Dallas Sierra Club is moving our General Meeting place starting January 2015 to Brookhaven College. We'll have full details on our website next month.

If you are interested in participating in any of the above, check our website for full details and contact persons.

If you wish to financially support these new endeavors, please send your check to:

Dallas Sierra Club
P. O. Box 800365
Dallas, TX 75380-0365

Thanks to all of you who make the Dallas Sierra Club the active and awesome group it is.

Wendel Withrow
Your Dallas Chair

General Meeting Program - September 9, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Effects of Global Change on Arctic Plants and North Texas Prairies

Research on the effects of climate change in Alaska revealed how warming is changing the tundra vegetation and soils with feedbacks to associated fauna. Warmer soils support greater rates of decomposition, causing more carbon dioxide and methane to enter Earth's atmosphere. Dr. Laura Gough will review how soils, plants, and consumers are responding to such changes in northern Alaska. And she will connect these results to implications for North Texas ecosystems.

Laura Gough has been a faculty member in Biology at UT Arlington since 2002. Her research expertise is in plant ecology, exploring how plants of tundra, wetlands, and prairies interact with other organisms (particularly herbivores) in the context of a rapidly changing environment. Her students conduct research in northern Alaska and remnant prairies in north Texas.

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.

NEW! One-Day Rate and Early Registration Now Through September 12 Dallas Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit - October 4-5

Early registration has been extended through Sept. 12 with a new One-Day Rate for the "Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit," an exciting educational event providing insights on traditional, renewable, and emerging forms of energy. Presentations by academics, policymakers and association professionals from around the country will focus on energy sources from both a national and regional perspective plus the environmental and human impacts from development to transport.



Earth, Wind, & Fire
ENERGY SUMMIT

The conference will be held at the Addison Conference Centre the weekend of October 4-5, 2014 in North Dallas. Register via PayPal, Eventbrite or check (preferred) before Sept. 12 at earthwindfiresummit.org

COMMUNICATIONS WOSRKSHOPS: The conference also features a two-part Communications workshop with print/TV/radio journalists including Jeff Crilley on how to get "Free Media with No Money." Journalists Randy Lee Loftis, Shelley Kofler, and Paul Adrian will also give their perspectives of media today in a digital world in a second media workshop discussion.

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.

Wilderness Navigation Class - Tuesday & Thursday, September 30 and October 2- Learn How to Find Your Way in the Wilderness

Learn the fundamentals of finding 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,

different kinds of compasses and how to use your compass, how not to get lost and what to do if you do get lost, 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. For more details please see the calendar entry below.

Calendar

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



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 are on our [home page](#) now.



Sep 17 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Tonight is an important meeting for the Outings Committee. We will discuss destinations and dates for 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



Oct 1 (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.



Oct 2 (Thu) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 2

This is the second night of our two part class. See the class listing above (Tuesday, Sept 30) for details. Contact: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Oct 4 (Sat) D/FW Solar Home Tour

Talk with homeowners who use solar energy, solar hot water, wind energy, and other energy-efficient measures for their homes. Click [here](#) for details about home locations, information about each home, and other information about the tour.



Oct 4-5 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpacking Trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness

Join us for one of the Dallas Sierra Club's favorite local backpacking trips. We'll hike about 4 1/2 miles and camp near a waterfall. The round-trip distance is about 9 miles. We will be hiking along a stream and there will be a few small hills to climb. After setting up camp, we'll do a short day hike as time permits. This trip is relatively easy and is suitable for beginners. Priority sign-ups will be given to those who have taken the beginner backpacking class. Please contact the leader to sign up. Leader: Marcos Jorge [Send Email](#) 214-682-6555



Oct 4-5 (Sat-Sun) Earth, Wind, & Fire Energy Summit

The Dallas Sierra Club and other organizations are sponsoring an exciting, two-day energy conference the weekend of Oct 4-5 at the Addison Conference Center in North Dallas. The Earth, Wind and Fire Energy Summit is the first energy conference of its kind in Texas. While most conferences focus on a single form or a narrow selection of energy sources, this weekend event promises to provide attendees a global view of America's energy portfolio and then turn to energy issues in Texas, 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. Topics include geothermal, wind, solar, waste-to-energy, coal, nuclear, natural gas, and oil. Confirmed speakers from across the country will include academics, policymakers, and professional representatives from associations that focus on energy issues. 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. Visit earthwindfiresummit.org for more information and to register. Contact: Rita Beving [Send Email](#)



Oct 11 (Sat) Day Hike the Trinity River Greenbelt

Hike 10K (6 miles) on the Lake Ray Roberts Greenbelt Corridor. This is an easy trail running alongside the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. No reservations required, just show up. Well behaved pets on a leash are allowed. Bring water and a snack as we will be hiking all morning. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Highway 380 Trailhead Park. Admission to the park is \$5.00 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. Highway 380 can be reached from Central Expwy, Preston Rd., or the Tollway. Bring extra shoes in case the trail is muddy. This hike will be canceled if it is raining at the trailhead. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 972-658-1281



Oct 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Eli Baron will share pictures and experiences of his bike rides around the world, and David Griggs will talk about the upcoming fall elections and candidates friendly to the environment. 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.



Oct 15 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Meet upstairs at the REI Dallas store on the north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch at 6:30 PM. The agenda will include final planning for the Beavers Bend trip and the Big Bend trip. We will confirm destinations dates and coordinators for major trips of 2015. 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



Oct 17-19 (Fri-Sun) FALL FUN at Beavers Bend State Park

Join us one and all for this annual event among the scenic beauty and fall colors of Beavers Bend State Park in southeast Oklahoma. Our group complex offers **your choice of rustic cabin or tent camping** on the grassy lawn or by the river. Amenities include a dining hall so we have space rain or shine, kitchen and stone fireplace, hot showers and flush toilets. Activity options will include group hikes in a variety of lengths, special interest hikes plus outdoor related mini-clinics for those interested. You're also



welcome to be on your own to enjoy the many options offered by the park including hikes, great biking, 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! Saturday night offers a catered dinner (optional) and a **special performance by actor Lee Stetson portraying John Muir**. Reservation deadline October 14. [For complete trip information, including costs and sign-up forms, click here.](#) Do a lot or just sit back in your camp chair and watch the horseshoe game. Gather your family and friends - this outings is great for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and stages! Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Oct 18 (Sat) An Evening with John Muir!

OK, not John Muir, but the next best thing - renowned actor Lee Stetson himself, just off the Yosemite Theater stage for a special, Saturday night live performance portraying John Muir during his adventures in the high Sierras. The performance will be a highlight of our annual fall outing at Beavers Bend State Park near Broken Bow, OK. Seats for Mr. Stetson's performance are included for those signed up for the weekend camp out (cabin or tent). Availability of tickets for Mr. Stetson's Saturday night Oklahoma program only may be available in early October if not sold out to those signed up for the camp out. See above for more information about this fun weekend. Complete details on both events and reservation information [is in this PDF](#). Feel free to contact the trip coordinator with any questions. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Oct 19 (Sun) John Muir Live On Stage

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 thrilling adventures in this show: his ride down a canyon wall on an avalanche; freezing in the midst of a howling blizzard while simultaneously being boiled and blistered in hot springs; Muir's encounter with a Yosemite earthquake; and much more --



all liberally salted with Muir's wilderness philosophy. \$10. 7:00 p.m., Addison Conference Centre Studio Theater. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Oct 24-26 (Fri-Sun) Eagle Rock Loop Backpack

Join me on a three day backpack on the longest loop trail (27 miles) in Arkansas. A combination of parts of the Little Missouri Trail, the Athens-Big Fork Trail and the Viles Branch Trail, the Eagle Rock Loop Trail crosses the Little Missouri River several times and travels over six major ridges. The hike will combine steep hill climbs through mixed hardwood and pine forests with strolls along crystal clear streams. It is arguably one of the best hikes in the Ouachita Mountains. Points of interest include Little Missouri Falls, Spirit Rock Vista, Eagle Rock Vista and Winding Stairs. Participants should have some backpacking experience. TRIP RATING: STRENUOUS (due to elevation changes along the Athens-Big Fork Trail and the amount of miles covered). Please contact the trip leader to sign up. Leader: Justin Taliaferro [Send Email](#) 214-534-6606



Oct 25 (Sat) Day Hike Around White Rock Lake

Let's meet at the Stone Tables at White Rock Lake near Lake Highlands Drive and Buckner Blvd. From the intersection of Lake Highlands and Buckner, turn southwest on E. Lake Highlands. Take an immediate left (south) on Tiffany Way, then an immediate right on E. Lawther. There is a sign here but it now says "one Tables." The hike will start at 9:00am. We'll walk 9 miles in about 3 hrs on a paved path. This is a good conditioning hike for the upcoming Fall backpack trips. Bring water and snacks. No reservations necessary. There will be an optional lunch at a local restaurant after the hike. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 972-658-1281



Oct 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Car Camping in the Winding Stair Area in Oklahoma

We'll try to catch the fall colors in this beautiful part of the Ouachita Mountains this weekend. On Saturday, we will hike about 9 to 10 miles on a loop trail in the Horse Thief Springs area. The hike will be downhill into the Holson Valley in the morning, and uphill back to the cars in the afternoon. The day hike includes about 1900 feet of elevation change. There will also be a short day hike on Sunday morning before heading home. Because of the length and terrain of the day hike, this trip is rated as moderately strenuous. Note that the campsite is semi-primitive, and has no water. Contact the leader to sign up. Leader: Marcos Jorge [Send Email](#) 214-682-6555

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](#)