



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

Dallas Sierra Club News - March 2015

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We Have Moved

Our New Location:

As many of you have heard, the REI store where we held our General Meetings has moved to Northwest Highway just east of Central Expressway. The new store does not have a meeting room large enough for our General Meetings, so we had to find a new location.

Our new meeting location is at Brookhaven Community College, just about 1 mile west of our old location.

We meet in an auditorium in the Brookhaven College Geotechnology Institute. This building is very easy to find and is right next to lighted parking. We'll have signs directing you to the new location and there is a [map on our website](#).

General Meeting Program - March 17, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

NOTE: The March General Meeting will be one week later than our usual second Tuesday of the month schedule. Our meeting location, Brookhaven College, is shut down for Spring Break so we have moved our meeting to the 17th.

The Environment at the State Capitol



Zac Trahan, Program Director for Texas Campaign for the Environment, will lead an interactive discussion about potential environmental bills during the 2015 Texas Legislative Session. It has always been difficult to pass good environmental legislation at the State Capitol, but this year is shaping up to be the toughest challenge yet. Sierra Club is working with groups like Texas Campaign for the Environment and many others to pass the best bills possible and to defeat negative environmental bills that would result in more pollution, not less. Industry lobbyists are currently targeting the numerous local ordinances that DFW cities have passed on contentious issues such as fracking and single-use shopping bags, pushing legislation that would over-ride and pre-empt our right

to local control. Come learn more about this and other potential environmental legislation - and get plugged in to ways you can help influence state lawmakers on behalf of a cleaner, greener world.

Zac has been working with Texas Campaign for the Environment since 2002 and currently serves as D/FW Program Director. The group helped pass state legislation for computer and television recycling in Texas, and played a leading role in passing Dallas' strict gas drilling and single-use bag ordinances.

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 Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Ln in Farmers Branch. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) of our website for more information and a map.

Upcoming Meetings

This year, we will have some of our best General Meeting programs ever, so mark your calendar for these special dates:

April 14 - All About Bats

Kate Rugroden, Director of Special Projects for Bat World Sanctuary, brings *The Essential Bat* to the Dallas Sierra Club. **This family friendly program features live native-species bats, and is an opportunity for people to see these tiny creatures up close.** The program, based on her book, *The Essential Bat*, introduces the audience to these extraordinary creatures and the many ways in which they affect human life through lecture/discussion, artifacts, and live native-species bats.

May 12 - Movie Night

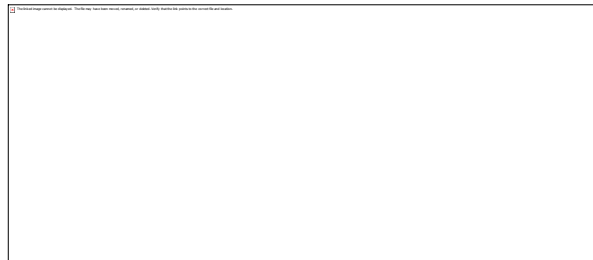
See *Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier*, a film featuring National Park Service Ranger Shelton Johnson as a 1903 Buffalo Soldier and his observations as one of the first "park rangers" to serve in Yosemite's vast wilderness. We see Yosemite through his eyes and feel his growing affection for this new world. The film blazes a trail to an important history that was nearly lost, and provides an opportunity to ride with the Buffalo Soldiers through the Range of Light.

Special Spring Outing at Colorado Bend State Park

Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are welcome for this weekend adventure at one of our most scenic state parks. Your choice of car camping or car camp/backpack combination.

Leave your worries behind and come relax, enjoy fellowship and fun in the beautiful landscape bordered by the Colorado River. Pack your camp chair, hiking shoes, bike, kayak, guitar, telescope and croquet set – whatever you do, join us!

This park is four hours from Dallas and the campsite is accessible by car. We'll organize day hikes to Spicewood Springs and Gorman Falls. There will be overnight backpacking options. For full details and information about how to sign up, click on [this link](#).



Calendar

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



Mar 14 (Sat) White Rock Lake Clean-up

Walk and talk while picking up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM this second Saturday of the month at the Love of the Lake office, northeast corner of Garland Road and Buckner Boulevard. Look for the crowd 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



Mar 14-15 (Sat-Sun) Off-Trail Exploration in Caney Creek Wilderness Area, Arkansas

If you need carefully groomed trails for your backpacking adventures this hike is **not** for you. If you would like to explore a scenic, seldom visited part of Arkansas and don't mind stepping off the beaten path this might be just what you're looking for! You will be amazed at how different things look from heavily used trails just a few miles away. We will hike in to Caney Creek Wilderness on the ridgetop Buckeye Mountain trail. After lunch Saturday we will leave the Buckeye Mountain Trail for an off trail route down into Short Creek where we will camp Saturday night. Sunday we will hike off trail up Short Creek (without a paddle) and loop back to our trailhead. We will only cover about five miles each day but the off trail sections will make it seem like more. Some of the hike up Short Creek follows traces of an old road but there is no trail. Early in the year brush and brambles should be at a minimum. Expect a steep climb out of Short Creek. Leader: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Mar 17 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Zac Trahan, Program Director for Texas Campaign for the Environment, will lead an interactive discussion about potential environmental bills during the 2015 Texas Legislative Session. Learn more about this and other potential environmental legislation -- and get plugged in to ways you can help influence state lawmakers on behalf of a cleaner, greener world. **FREE!** Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Mar 18 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

Outings leaders, prospective leaders, and people interested in outings are welcome to this monthly gathering (typically on third Wednesdays at 6:30) to plan outings. This month, we're meeting in Community Room B, upstairs at Central Market, SE corner of Lovers Lane and Greenville Avenue, 6:30 PM. Bring ideas for where to go and what to do. Ask Mark to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Mar 21 (Sat) Trail Appreciation at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Join us out at the Cedar Ridge Preserve to upgrade some of the beautiful walking trails on the southwest edge 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 12-ish, and then walk around the preserve and admire it! Bring some water for sure. Click [here](#) for directions and more information about Cedar Ridge Preserve. If you wish to carpool, let me know and we'll arrange a meeting spot. Come on out and bring your friends and families! Stay green with us. Contact: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



Mar 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Weekend Backpack at Buckeye Mountain Trail, Arkansas

Hike one of the most scenic Wilderness trails in Arkansas in the Caney Creek Wilderness of west central Arkansas. Saturday we'll enjoy the views from the ridgetop Buckeye Mountain Trail.

Sunday we'll hike out along the creek bottoms of the Caney Creek Trail. With any luck the wildflowers will be starting to emerge. This trip is rated moderate and would be suitable for beginners in good shape. Both days cover about 4 1/2 miles. Saturday includes an 800 foot uphill section. We'll camp Friday night near our cars, Saturday night near a nice little waterfall. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 940-231-8482



Mar 29-Apr 3 (Sun-Fri) Backpacking and Spelunking in the Guadalupe Mountains

Join me in the beautiful Guadalupe Mountains National Park as we climb Guadalupe Peak, hike up to McKittrick Ridge and climb down through the beautiful McKittrick Canyon. We will move forward to an evening motel in Carlsbad, New Mexico and a walk-in tour of the Carlsbad Caverns, including reservations to explore the Lower Cave the next day. This trip is rated strenuous because the hike up to McKittrick Ridge is 11 1/2 miles uphill. We will have to carry two days of water as well. Party is limited to ten hikers. We will car camp at Pine Springs two nights, camp in McKittrick Ridge one night and motel two nights. I like to explore and be pampered. Please call me to discuss the trip and answer your questions. We welcome beginners who are in good shape. Leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



Apr 11 (Sat) White Rock Lake Clean-up

Walk and talk while picking up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet at 8:15 AM this second Saturday of the month at the Love of the Lake office, northeast corner of Garland Road and Buckner Boulevard. Look for the crowd 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 11 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class

Leave the crowds in the campgrounds. Backpacking enables you to move into backcountry serenity, expanding your mobility to trails where your car won't take you. Dallas Sierra Club outings leaders with decades of experience leading multi-day backpacking trips will demonstrate what you need to know to begin or enhance your own backpacking experiences. Topics include gear to take versus leave at home (packs, tents, food and cookware, clothing) and safety and comfort tips. This class is for both total novices and intermediate level backpackers who want to refresh their knowledge, skills or gear. Class location is the First United Methodist Church, Richardson, 503 N. Central Expressway in Richardson, Room 2A. Click [here](#) for directions on reaching the class location from Central Expressway. The class time is 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Pre-registration isn't necessary; just show up on April 11. The class fee is \$40 or \$35 for Sierra Club members. Please arrive before 10 to register so we can start promptly. Bring a sack lunch or a drink and a snack. Contact: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Kate Rugroden, Director of Special Projects for Bat World Sanctuary, brings The Essential Bat to the Dallas Sierra Club. **This family friendly program features live native-species bats, and is an opportunity for people to see these tiny creatures up close. FREE!** Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Apr 15 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

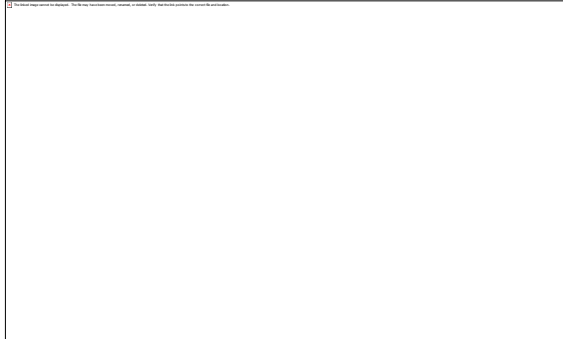
Outings leaders, prospective leaders, and people interested in outings are welcome to this monthly gathering (typically on third Wednesdays at 6:30) to plan outings. This month, we're meeting in Community Room B, upstairs at Central Market, SE corner of Lovers Lane and Greenville Avenue,

6:30 PM. Bring ideas for where to go and what to do. Ask Mark to be placed on the email list for an agenda. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Apr 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Camp, Hike or Backpack at Colorado Bend State Park, Texas

Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are welcome for this weekend adventure at one of our most scenic state parks. Take your choice of car camping or car camping/backpacking combination. Leave your worries behind and come to relax and have fun in the beautiful landscape bordered by the Colorado River. Pack your camp chair, hiking shoes, bike, kayak, guitar, telescope and croquet set-- whatever! This park is four hours from Dallas and the campsite is accessible by car. We'll organize day hikes to Spicewood Springs and Gorman Falls, as well as overnight backpacking options. For details and information about how to sign up, click [this link](#). Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 18 (Sat) FREE Electronics Recycling and Document Shredding

April 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Electronics accepted: computers, portable electronics, TVs, stereo equipment, office equipment, vehicles, and more Details at <http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=1529> First United Methodist Church Parking Lot - 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson. Enter from southbound Central Expressway access road, just south of Arapaho Road. Donations benefit the Richardson Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA), the sponsor of the event. The event is free, but donations are encouraged and accepted. You DO NOT have to be a Richardson resident to participate.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



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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. [Join the Sierra Club](#)