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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - April 2015

In This Issue. . .

- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, April 14
- [Upcoming General Meeting Programs](#) - Mark your calendar
- [Colorado Bend State Park Group Campout](#) - Visit one our most beautiful state parks
- [Explorapalooza](#) - Our newest bus trip - don't miss it!
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

General Meeting Program - April 14, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

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. During the program, attendees are introduced to bats in the media, bats as cultural icons, and ways to help protect bat species. Special attention is given to White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that is devastating bat populations throughout the U.S. For more information about *The Essential Bat* or Bat World, please visit www.batworld.org.



Kate is a Business Systems Analyst/Project Manager and licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in bats, raccoons, and opossums. She is the director of Bat World MidCities in Arlington, TX, and serves as the Director of Special Projects for Bat World Sanctuary as well. Kate has an extensive background in presenting educational programs utilizing both live animals and artifacts as a docent at the Minnesota Zoo. Upon moving to Texas in 2004, she became involved in wildlife rehabilitation as a way to expand her knowledge of wildlife while caring for orphaned, ill, and injured native species. Her first book, *The Essential Bat*, was published by Bat World Sanctuary in August, 2012.

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 Meeting

This year, we will have some of our best General Meeting programs ever, so mark your calendar.

May 12 - Movie Night

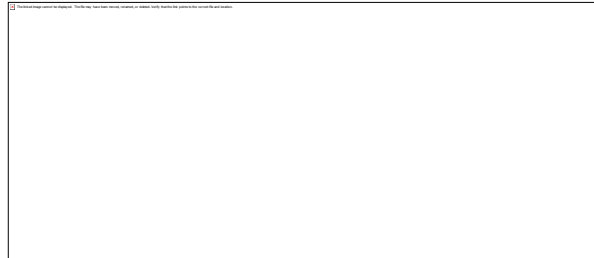
See *Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier*, a film featuring National Park Service Ranger Shelton Johnson as a 1903 Buffalo Soldier and his observations as one of the first "park rangers" to serve in Yosemite's vast wilderness. We see Yosemite through his eyes and feel his growing affection 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](#).



Southwest Texas Explorapalooza Trip - May 23-25

Come join us for a unique trip to the Llano River area that is unlike any of our usual bus trips! This Memorial Day Weekend we're going to enjoy Texas scenery at an easier pace, camping in a developed campground with running water and hot showers, or there's an option to stay in a motel nearby. There will be no backpacking, nor sleeping on a bus! We'll explore the Caverns of Sonora, learn about Texas history at Fort McKavett, float the South Llano River, and see one of the largest colonies of Mexican free-tailed bats emerge in the evening from Devil's Sink Hole. We've allotted time for exploring our home base of South Llano River State Park, which has excellent hiking, birding, and swimming opportunities.



We have 14 campsites reserved at the state park that are all in close proximity to running water bathrooms. If you'd prefer a bed, there's a room block reserved at the motel a few miles up the road where our bus driver will also be staying. We've chartered a new comfortable bus, so you don't have to worry about driving- just relax and enjoy the camaraderie. Our bus leaves early Saturday morning May 23rd arriving around lunch time at our first destination and returns to Dallas Monday evening May 25th after dinner, so you can get back refreshed and relaxed without using up your vacation time!

For complete details, costs and sign up instructions, please see [this PDF](#).

Calendar

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



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.



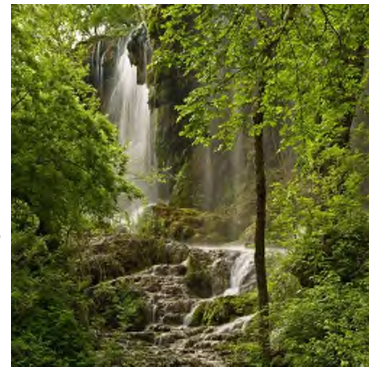
Apr 15 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

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

HURRY - RESERVATION DEADLINE is WED., APRIL 15th! Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities are welcome for this weekend adventure at one of our most scenic state parks, bordered by the Colorado River. Your choice of car camping both nights or a camping/backpacking combination. ("Car camping" means the campsite is within a few feet of the car parking area.) Pack your tent, camp chair, hiking shoes, bike, kayak, guitar, telescope or croquet set--whatever! The park is a four hour drive from Dallas, through the hill country. Everyone will have plenty of time to explore the unique park highlights including Gorman Falls (pictured at right), which plunges 65 feet over fern-covered travertine. Spicewood Springs is another attraction, suitable for April soaking in clear water. For those opting to backpack, it's only a short hike on Saturday to our backcountry site in the Windmill section of the park (great for beginners). For details and reservation information, 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



Apr 18 (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



May 2-3 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpack In Caney Creek Wilderness West End

It can be kind of warm in May for a hard backpack so we'll take it easy. We'll start on the west end of Caney Creek (rather than the east end where most of our trips are) and hike in 2 or 3 miles. There we'll find a camp by the creek where there are some nice deep holes. If it gets hot we can soak in the creek! Even in May I promise that will cool you off. Our camp Friday night will be a 10 minute walk or so from the trailhead so it will be good (although not required) if you can get there before the 8pm sunset. Caney is about 5 hours from Dallas. There is a small hill to be conquered so you'll get a chance to test out the legs and those new boots just a bit. Let's have one last fling in Arkansas before the summer heat sets in! We will have to wade the Cossatot River first thing Saturday morning and we'll probably wade Caney Creek at least once. Plan on getting your feet wet. Bring a book, your hammock, and maybe your favorite libation. Leader: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



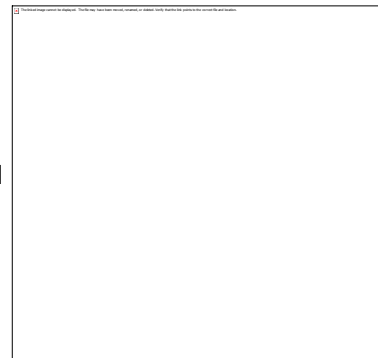
May 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting Movie Night! We will furnish popcorn, drinks, and snacks. See

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. Ranger Shelton Johnson is an award winning and internationally known storyteller who is featured in Yosemite Theater as well as theatre and television appearances nationally. **FREE!** Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



May 23-25 (Sat-Mon) Southwest Texas Explorapalooza

Enjoy a great outing this Memorial Day weekend. Explore the west edge of the Hill Country from a base at South Llano River State Park, near Junction, Texas. This park has **new** restrooms with flush toilets, hot water and **hot showers!** We've even arranged an option to camp in a motel in Junction. We've chartered a coach to transport you there Saturday morning and return you by 9:30 PM Monday (Memorial Day). Explore the Caverns of Sonora, historic frontier Fort McKavett and Devils Sinkhole State Natural Area (at twilight, to watch a tornado of three million bats fly from a limestone cave to search for insects). Monday morning you can rent a tube to float the clear South Llano River, hike some of the park's miles of trails, fish or sleep late before the party bus returns to Dallas. Trip details and registration forms are in [this PDF](#). Bus trip leader: Annie Wilson [Send Email](#) 682-232-4980



May 27 (Wed) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 1

Learn to find your way in the wilderness in this comprehensive two-night class. Topics include buying maps, how to read maps, how not to get lost, what to do if you do get lost, different kinds of compasses and how to use your compass. We'll discuss GPS devices, but our main focus will be 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 is offered at the First United Methodist Church, Richardson, 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX, Room 230. Click [here](#) for directions to the location from Central Expressway. The class will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 8:45 PM. The total fee for the two-night class is \$40 or \$35 for Sierra Club members. Handouts are included. Bring a pen or pencil for taking notes and for navigation practice exercises. A reservation isn't necessary. Just show up. Part 2 of the class is the following night (Thursday, May 28), same time and place. A day hike with a class instructor will be offered to class participants who want to practice their new skills. Contact: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



May 28 (Thu) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 2

Part 2 of the two-night Wilderness Navigation class is tonight at the same place - First United Methodist Church, Richardson, 503 N. Central Expressway, Room 230. Click [here](#) for directions to the location. The class starts at 6:30 PM and will finish at about 8:45. The fee for the two-night class is \$40, \$35 for Sierra Club members. Bring a pen or pencil. 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.
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