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Dallas Sierra Club  
Lone Star Chapter

## Dallas Sierra Club News - September 2015

### In This Issue. . .

- [Sierra Club General Meeting](#) - Tuesday, September 8
- [Our October General Meeting](#) - Mark your calendar
- [Member Appreciation Dayhike and Picnic](#) - Hiking and Hot Dogs
- [Beavers Bend Campout](#) - Don't miss the fall tradition
- [Buffalo River Backpacking Trip](#) - Our first bus trip to this area
- [Wilderness Navigation Class](#) - Don't get lost
- [Solar Home Tour](#) - Sixth annual tour Saturday, October 3
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

### General Meeting Program - September 8, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

#### Zero Waste

Tony O'Sullivan will talk about the City of Dallas' goal of zero waste by 2040 through recycling, reusing, composting, etc. Topics will include incentives to get commercial properties to recycle.

The consummate and award-winning recycling expert, Anthony (Tony) O'Sullivan, has been with the City of Dallas' Waste Diversion Unit for over two years. He was recruited from Ireland where he has worked as a specialist in recycling and waste minimization at the original Green Star. He also served as their Ewaste factory & group maintenance manager, business development lead supervisor, contracts manager, compost facility manager collections/logistics manager and corporate operations/client manager. In the last role achieving 96% recycling rates for many Fortune Top 50 multinationals. He was also employed for Tougher's Oils Ltd. as the Group Environmental Manager in Dublin.



Born on the U.S. Air Force base in Chateauroux, France, and educated at Magdalen College which is a 680 year-old educational institution affiliated to the Oxford University system. He has lived in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arizona, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Spanish Islands.

**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.

### Our October General Meeting

Mark your calendars for our October 13 General Meeting. We have two programs you will not want to miss.

#### **Fracking's Effect on Environmental Quality**

Learn about the relationship between fracking and environmental quality. Dr. Zac Hildenbrand will present the results of recent studies about fracking and its effect on water, air, and soil quality.

#### **The Hadrian's Wall Path - A Walk Through Time in the English Countryside**

English country walking is for the most part a much different experience than hiking the American national parks and forests. Following the route of the 84 mile wall built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian to separate England from Scotland is as good excuse as any for this type of walking. Get a flavor for walking the hills, moors, farms, river valleys, estuaries, cities, and villages of Northumberland and Cumbria with a bit of ancient history along the way. The logistics of doing a hike like this are quite different as well, and will be discussed.

### Member Appreciation Dayhike and Picnic

Join us on Saturday, September 26 for a day hike followed by a picnic. Newcomers to the Dallas Group are particularly invited, but this event is for ALL Sierra Club members and friends. Arthur Kuehne will lead a day hike at 9:30, exploring about three miles of this hilly preserve in west Plano. Chef George Zimmerman will grill hot dogs for lunch, starting at 11:30 and we'll see if we can find some Blue Bell ice cream to complete the picnic. Assemble at the Sierra Club pavilion by the large parking area off Parker Road, just west of the fire station, on the north side of Parker Road. The park address is 6701 West Parker Road, Plano ([Google map](#)). [Click here to RSVP](#) so we know how much food to prepare and what kind of hot dog you prefer. We have reserved a covered pavilion, so we'll do the hike and picnic come rain or shine. Don't want to hike - just show up for the picnic.



### Fall outing at Beavers Bend State Park Oct 16 - 18. Reservations now open!

Celebrate fall and join us for this relaxing event in the beautiful mountainous region of southeast Oklahoma. The weekend is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and stages. Families, couples, singles, all are welcome. We have the group compound all to ourselves, complete with your choice of rustic cabin or tent camping, dining hall with kitchen, optional catered dinner and (drum roll please)... yes, even a bathhouse with hot showers and flush toilets! On Saturday we'll offer various levels of hikes or you can be on your own to enjoy many fun activities offered by the park. Plan an active weekend or hang out on the porch, whichever you would enjoy. Cabin requests are on a first come basis so make your plans now! [Click here](#) for more information and required registration forms.



### Shuffle, Shuffle, Shuffle. Shuffle Off to Buf-fa-lo . . .

Okay, I learned this lyric's a tap dance number from a 1933 musical, *42nd Street*, but it fits. Get your trail runners or boots ready for this October knock-your-socks-off trip to Buffalo National River, Arkansas -- our first-ever bus trip EAST. It's a National Park in the heart of Li'l Abner-land! That's right, the U.S. National Park Service developed and maintains a scenic river with far more miles of trails than you're going to walk in one weekend. Our moderately strenuous hike option (one of four itineraries) covers 30 miles of the flagship "Buffalo River Trail" that parallels the scenic river. Three shorter backpacking options of easy to moderate difficulty hike four days and camp three nights in other parts of the park, exploring the natural beauty and human history of this lovely valley. These hikes all visit historic cemeteries and cabins, hollows, falls and bluffs along the river. All trail elevations are below 2,200 feet, so there should be no high-altitude discomfort issues. (All right, the optional spur hike thrill on the infamous "Goat Trail" is a "Don't tell Mom" thrill, but thoroughly safe if you don't do something stupid.)

To maximize daylight time to enjoy the park and to eliminate the need to shuttle vehicles to trailheads, we've chartered a sleeper bus to transport us, leaving at 9:00 pm Wednesday, October 28. We'll return to Dallas by 9 pm on Sunday, November 1. **The last weekend of October is usually the premier week of the year for fall color** at Buffalo River, says Arkansas trails guidebooks author Tim Ernst. The trip cost is discounted to \$240 if received by October 10. For details and registration click [this link](#).

### Wilderness Navigation Class

Our popular two-night Wilderness Navigation Class is scheduled for September 23 and 24. Check out the calendar entry below for complete details.

### Solar Home Tour

The sixth annual DFW Solar Tour will take place October 3, 10:00-4:00, all over the Dallas area. Information about the solar-powered houses, businesses and schools one can visit is at [www.dfwсолartour.org](http://www.dfwсолartour.org) . One of the locations is entirely off the grid. And it's FREE.

### Calendar

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



#### Sep 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Tony O'Sullivan will talk about the City of Dallas' goal of zero waste by 2040 through recycling, reusing, composting, etc. Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



#### Sep 12 (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



### **Sep 19 (Sat) Day Hike and Trail Upgrading at Cedar Ridge Preserve**

This month's third Saturday service outing at Cedar Ridge will be different because our Dallas Sierra Club Chair Wendel Withrow will be at the parking lot, by the trail entrance point, to lead a day hike to the Possum Haw Trail that the Sierra Club maintains. We look forward to seeing new smiling faces to help maintain the trails and enhance the flora and fauna. Arrive by 8:45 AM, ready to walk and work until optional lunch afterward. It's fun and we have ordered excellent weather to enjoy and upgrade these beautiful trails on the southwest edge of Dallas. The address is 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75249. For directions and general information about Cedar Ridge Preserve, click [this link](#). If you need more information or want to carpool, call or email. Contact: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



### **Sep 23 (Wed) Wilderness Navigation Class--Part 1**

This is a comprehensive and fun two-night class in navigation with map and compass. Part 1 is Wednesday night at 6:30 and part 2 is Thursday night, September 24 at 6:30. Both sessions are upstairs at the Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane. The fee for the two-night class is \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members. An optional field lab for class participants will be set on a subsequent Saturday or Sunday at no additional charge. This is a great value compared to navigation courses offered by outfitter stores. Bring cash or a check. Bring a compass if you have one. If not, we'll have an extra you can use and we'll advise what to look for when you buy your own. Both sessions will run until approximately 9:00. No reservations are necessary for this class. You can just show up and pay at the door (cash or check). You can also sign-up and pay in advance by [clicking here](#). Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



### **Sep 24 (Thu) Wilderness Navigation Class--Part 2**

Join us for this second night of a two-part class that begins Wednesday, Sept. 23. Both sessions are at Whole Foods Market, Preston Road at Forest Lane. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



### **Sep 26 (Sat) Member Appreciation Day Hike and Picnic at Arbor Hills Preserve, Plano**

Save Saturday, September 26 for a day hike followed by a picnic. Newcomers to the Dallas Group are particularly invited, but this event is for ALL Sierra Club members and friends. Arthur Kuehne will lead a day hike at 9:30, exploring about three miles of this hilly preserve in west Plano. Chef George Zimmerman will grill hot dogs for lunch, starting at 11:30 and we'll see if we can find some Blue Bell ice cream to complete the picnic. Assemble at the Sierra Club pavilion by the



large parking area off Parker Road, just west of the fire station, on the north side of Parker Road. The park address is 6701 West Parker Road, Plano ([Google map](#)). [Click here to RSVP](#) so we know how much food to prepare and what kind of hot dog you prefer. We have reserved a covered pavilion, so we'll do the hike and picnic come rain or shine. Don't want to hike - just show up for the picnic. Contact: Arthur Kuehne [Send Email](#) 214-608-3210



### **Oct 3 (Sat) D/FW Solar Home Tour**

At this FREE event, talk directly with homeowners who use solar energy, solar hot water, wind energy, and other energy-efficient measures for their homes, as well as people who drive electric cars (Tesla, Leaf, Volt, and hybrids). Click [here](#) for details about home locations, information about each home, and other information about the tour. Click [here](#) to read an article about the 2013 Solar Home Tour published by GreenSourceDFW.org.



### **Oct 4 (Sun) White Rock Lake Day Hike**

We've all stored away some extra calories while it's been too hot to get out. Come burn some of them off and start getting the legs back in shape by walking the 9-mile trail around White Rock Lake. We'll take a break about halfway and elsewhere as needed. Bring water, bug repellent and rain gear. Meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot on the hill just east of Mockingbird and East Lawther. Keep those legs in shape for the fall hikes! Optional lunch after. Leader: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



### **Oct 7 (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 Brookhaven College, Building H at 6:30 pm. Contact the [Dallas Group Chair](#) for more information.



### **Oct 10 (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



### **Oct 10-11 (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 August 2015 backpacking class. Please contact the leader to sign up. Deadline to sign up is Friday, Oct. 2, 2015. Leader: Marcos Jorge [Send Email](#) 214-682-6555



### **Oct 13 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Dr. Zac Hildenbrand will discuss his recent research about fracking's effect on environmental quality, and Mike Rawlins will show photos from his walk along Hadrian's Wall Path in England. Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.





### **Oct 16-18 (Fri-Sun) Beavers Bend State Park Annual Fall Gathering, Oklahoma**

Mark your calendar now so you can join us for this relaxing weekend among the fall beauty of southeastern Oklahoma. Choice of rustic cabin (shelter with roof and walls) or tent camping. We'll offer several hike options ranging from a one mile nature trail for those just wanting to enjoy the view, to a 7 mile roller-coaster trail up and down and over the skyline ridges. The park also offers many family-friendly activities you can enjoy. [Click here](#) for full information and sign-up forms. This event has sold out in the past so once reservations open, don't wait too long to sign up! Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#)



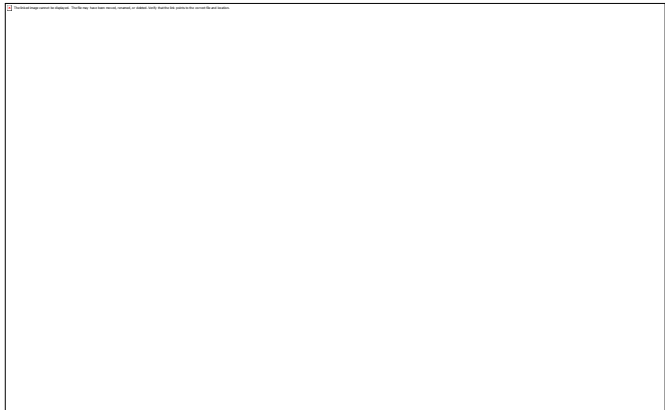
### **Oct 24 (Sat) Day Hike at River Legacy Park, Arlington**

Experience the urban wilderness close to home. Join us for a leisurely hike through the nature trails at River Legacy Park, 703 NW. Green Oaks Blvd. at Cooper Street. Stop by the Living Science Center afterwards to learn about the flora and fauna that live along the trail. Leader: Annie Wilson [Send Email](#) 682-232-4980



### **Oct 28-Nov 1 (Wed-Sun) Backpack at Buffalo National River, northern Arkansas**

Arkansas author and hiking expert Tim Ernst wrote this about Buffalo River: *"By the end of [October], it's crisp, clear days and nights, and the forest transforms from the dull green that you have gotten used to since May, into one of the most incredible displays of color anywhere. It can be just as pretty as New England or Colorado. And out on the trails the last week of the month is always best."* Buffalo National River is managed by the U.S. National Park Service, which strives to protect not only the scenic bluffs and hollows but also the human history of a backwoods valley. Four delightful hike route options suit beginner, intermediate and experienced backpackers. We provide transportation via sleeper bus departing Dallas at 9 PM on a Wednesday night, returning you to Dallas at 9:00 Sunday night. Full trip details, including cost and sign-up instructions are in [this PDF](#). Bus trip leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



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](#)