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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - October 2015

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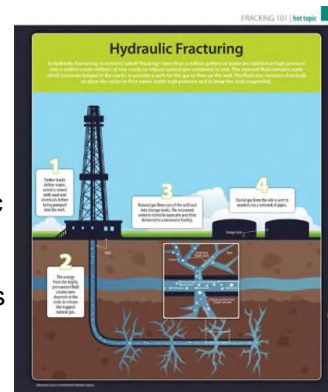
General Meeting Program - October 13, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

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.

Advancements in unconventional drilling techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing and shale acidization, have made the extraction of natural gas and oil from previously inaccessible deep shale formations both practical and economically advantageous. Hydraulic fracturing involves a highly pressurized injection of water, proppants, and chemical additives to expand fissures or fractures in the shale formation to release the trapped hydrocarbons. Despite the effectiveness of this technology to liberate previously sequestered natural gas and oil, it is not without environmental risk. Concerns over environmental stewardship have provided the impetus for multiple investigations designed to characterize the relationship between unconventional drilling and environmental quality. Presented here are air, soil and water quality data that has been collected over the past 5 years in an effort to understand the relationship between unconventional drilling and the environment. Snap shot and time-series analyses both implicate specific components of the shale extraction process to having contributed to the emission of volatile organic carbons species into the air and the penetration of rogue chemicals into underlying aquifers. This data can be used to point source contamination events and to develop novel remediation technologies.

Dr. Zachariah Hildenbrand received his Bachelors of Science and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at El Paso, completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and is a Faculty Research Associate at the University of Texas at Arlington where he is a lead scientist and project manager for several research studies analyzing groundwater quality in the Barnett and Cline Shale formations. He is also the founder of Inform Environmental, LLC, an environmental consulting company whose goal is to provide comprehensive groundwater analyses and monitoring services for the energy sector, water conservation groups, municipalities, and concerned citizens.



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.



Mike Rawlins is former chair of the Dallas Sierra Club, former Conservation Chair, and occasional outings leader. He currently serves as the County Chair of the Collin County Democratic Party, trying to elect environmentally friendly candidates.

Everyone is welcome. FREE! 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. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) for more information and a map.

Sierra Club Calendars for Sale

Bring your cash or check book to the October General Meeting (and November and December) and get your 2016 Sierra Club Wilderness Calendars and Appointment Books. These award winning calendars are the best selling calendars in the United States. And they make great gifts, so be sure to get several.

Fall outing at Beavers Bend State Park Oct 16 - 18. Hurry - Only a Couple of Days Left to Sign Up

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](#).

Dallas Sierra Club Holiday Party



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 13 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. [Here is a Google map.](#)



Club members and guests will share the holiday spirit, some great Mexican food, and the company of others at this annual event. Join us for some camaraderie, door prizes, silent auction (including a NEST Learning Thermostat and some great books), and perhaps some surprise speakers, you never know. We'll celebrate some of our outstanding volunteers and have plenty of time to mingle. There's bound to be talk about issues of the day -- air, water, fracking, coal, nuclear, whatever strikes your green fancy. The entire menu will be available so you can order whatever you want to eat or drink, including liquid spirits. We'll provide a free round of margaritas. Support the Club by getting a 2016 Sierra Club Calendar or Planner!. Invite your family and friends. So come on out for a great party, low price, no clean up, and lots of like minded people. What could be better? See you there, and bring your appetite. Happy Holidays!!

Calendar

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



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 4½ 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

Make your reservations now so you can join us for this relaxing weekend among the fall beauty of southeastern Oklahoma. Same low price for **rustic cabin or tent camping**. We'll offer several Saturday 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. Optional Sat night catered dinner. [Click here](#) for full information and sign-up forms. RESERVATION DEADLINE is OCT 13 so don't wait - send in your reservations now! Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Oct 21 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

The Outings Committee meets tonight at 6:30, upstairs at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas Anyone interested in outings is invited. Contact Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



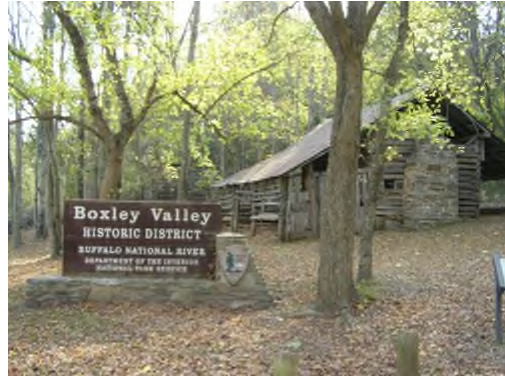
Oct 24 (Sat) Day Hike at River Legacy Park, Arlington

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



Nov 4 (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.



Nov 7 (Sat) Day Hike at Breckenridge Park, Richardson

Save the morning for a hike on a winding trail through a surprisingly scenic suburban park. Details will be posted in October. Leader: Robin Sowton [Send Email](#)



Nov 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Topic is to be determined. Everyone is invited to the Dallas Sierra Club's General Meeting. Full details will be on our [home page](#) a couple of months before the meeting.



Nov 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



Nov 18 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

The Outings Committee meets tonight at 6:30, upstairs at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas Anyone interested in outings is invited. Contact Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Nov 21 (Sat) Trail Maintenance at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Come to the hilly terrain of Cedar Ridge Preserve to help maintain one of the better trail

networks in Dallas. The Dallas Sierra Club is responsible for the Possum Haw Trail. We work here on third Saturdays of almost every month, starting at 9 AM, working until approximately noon. This project is fun and the landscape is beautiful. We've ordered excellent weather. The Preserve's 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 me. Contact: Ginger Bradley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



Nov 21 (Sat) Dayhike on the Chisholm Trail in Plano

Meet at 9:30 AM in front of the Starbucks/Barnes & Noble (north side of 15th Street, just west of US 75). We will walk 5-6 miles on a paved path. Bring water. No reservations, just show up. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato [Send Email](#) 972-658-6834



Nov 21-22 (Sat-Sun) Backpack 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. This is a great trail to work on your map skills. Sunday we'll hike out along the creek bottoms of the Caney Creek Trail. It's a little late for fall colors but we might get lucky. This trip is rated moderate and would be suitable for beginners **in good shape**. Both days cover about 4 1/2 miles. Saturday includes a 500 foot uphill section. We'll camp Friday night near our cars, Saturday night near a nice little waterfall. Leader: 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 a href="http://www.DallasSierraClub.org"> www.DallasSierraClub.org. [Join the Sierra Club](#)