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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - January 2016

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- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

General Meeting Program - January 12, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Area

Bill Greer will present a short program about a Dallas Sierra Club backpack outing in the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Area. Come share the trip with us and see what New Mexico's newest Wilderness area looks like.



Hummingbirds and challenges facing wildlife in Texas

Texas has a wealth of wildlife, one of the most species rich states in the nation. If we wish to continue to support and maintain this diversity, there are numerous challenges we face. Mark Klym will talk about hummingbirds and what is being done to support and maintain our native Texas treasures.

Mark is coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs at Texas Parks and Wildlife. He grew up just across the international border in Canada where he developed a love for the outdoors - spending time fishing, birding and hiking. His special interest in hummingbirds developed early, when he found a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird exploring the plants in his grandfather's greenhouse.



Mark received baccalaureate degrees in Biological Science and in Fisheries & Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. He followed the hummingbirds to Texas in 1999 to work with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He is coauthor *Hummingbirds of Texas* by Texas A&M Press, editor of the *Eye on Nature* and *The Texas Hummer* newsletters, and author or editor of several booklets and publications from TPWD.

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

We still have 2016 Sierra Club Wilderness Calendars and Appointment Books. These award winning calendars are the best selling calendars in the United States. Get them at the January General Meeting.

Big Bend National Park Bus Trip: February 26 - March 2

Read a full description of the Dallas Sierra Club's upcoming trip to backpack and hike in Big Bend National Park [when you click here](#). We'll depart Dallas on a sleeper bus with professional drivers at 8:00 PM on Friday, February 26 and return you to Dallas by 6 AM Wednesday, March 2. The cost per person (transportation and permits) is \$260 with timely registration.



This year's trip features four hikes. Destinations include the remote Mesa de Anguila, the varied landscapes of the classic Outer Mountain Loop hike and two trips exploring the high Chisos Mountains. One of our trips will be complete new for us. It will camp in the developed Chisos Mountains campground and do all of their exploring on day hikes. Perfect for those of you who love to hike but don't backpack.

Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

February 9 - Critterman and His Animals - Live! The live animals in this family friendly presentation will be engaging entertainment for children and adults alike. Meet some amazing Lone Star natives.

March 8 - Clacier National Park - Our March program will feature a visit to Glacier National Park. Glacier was established in 1910 in northern Montana along the Continental Divide near the Canadian border.

Upcoming Conservation Events

Come to Important DFW Air Hearing on January 21

On Thursday, January 21 there will be a public hearing re: DFW air quality and our final local air plan at 616 Six Flags Dr. at 6:30 pm across from the Six Flags Park in Arlington.

Regional air plans are devised every five years. In our view, the TCEQ continues to fail citizens as it has for a decade regarding clearing the air to meet federal clean air standards. It is time for the

EPA to take over the process as DFW has waited long enough. In 2015, the EPA were taking comments to bump the region's non-attainment status from "serious" to "severe," the worst category there is.

Plans are underway to rally groups and individuals to come and speak for clean air. For more info, contact Rita Beving at rita.beving@gmail.com.

Public Hearing on Denton Natural Gas Power Plants January 23

On Saturday, January 23, there will be a public hearing on Denton's proposed natural gas plants starting at 9:30 am at Denton City Hall.

Two natural gas peaker plants have been proposed with 12 units/or engines between two sites. Though we applaud the part of the Denton Renewable Plan that proposes the city moving from 40% renewables to 70% renewables, we find it stunning that a city that passed a fracking ban would encourage the use of natural gas for power plants located within the city limits.

One of the peaker plants would be located at the worst air monitor in the region at the Denton airport. DFW is currently in a nine-county nonattainment region for air quality, of which Denton is a part of. Our current designation is serious for not meeting federal air standards. There are real questions if the region would ever meet attainment if an emissions producing source such as a peaker plant would be sited near the airport monitor. It also seems counterintuitive that a conservative city that overwhelming passed a fracking ban with at least 54-56% of the vote would even consider natural gas plants for power.

Denton's power is produced by the city-owned Denton Municipal Electric (DME) who has been one of four partners with Bryan, Garland, and Greenville in the coal-fired Gibbons Creek power plant. Though DME wants to claim that backing out of this coal-fired power plant produces a 37% reduction in their portfolio emissions, there is no indication that the Gibbons Creek power plant will close. This translates into more pollution when you add 2 gas-fired plants on top of the pollution that blows into the region from Gibbons Creek located southeast of the metroplex and Denton. The City of Bryan has indicated that it plans to continue using Gibbons Creek - other partners need to indicate by Sept. 2016 if they will continue as partners in the plant.

People in Dallas are encouraged to go to this hearing because what Denton does affects DFW's nonattainment status. They are also encouraged to get friends and colleagues in Denton to attend as there are many unanswered questions. Bring your questions. Past presentations can be reviewed on the Denton city website.

For more information re: the Denton gas plants, emails Rita at rita.beving@gmail.com.

Attend the Clean Eco Meetup January 28 - Help Improve Your DFW Environment

The first Clean Eco Meetup of the year will be held Thursday, January 28 at 6:30 pm at Picasso's Pizza on Inwood north of Forest Lane in Dallas.

Clean Eco Meetups are a clearinghouse for many environmental groups and activists from around DFW to come together and discuss the issues of the day and actions needed on these efforts. The public is invited.

Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- EFH and its bankruptcy proceedings
- Proposed Denton natural gas-fired power plants
- TransCanada/Keystone XL lawsuit

- Need for water conservation venues
- DFW air plan
- Railroad Commission agency sunset review
- Elections - Whose running/who has a shot?
- Your Announcements

For more information, email Rita.beving@gmail.com.

Backpacking 101 Class - January 30

Want to be adventurous and explore amazing backcountry areas? Come to this popular, interactive class designed for never-ever backpackers and people who want to refresh backpacking knowledge and skills. Dallas Sierra Club trip leaders with decades of backpacking experiences will present a comprehensive overview of backpacking topics, including packs, boots, tents, sleeping bags, food and cooking, clothes, wilderness ethics, sanitation and more. We'll include tips we wish someone had told us sooner to make backpacking more comfortable and less expensive.



Place: Whole Foods Market, southeast quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas. Come upstairs to the community meeting room.

Time: The class begins at 10 AM and lasts until 4 PM, with a break for lunch. Please arrive early to sign in and get settled. Buy lunch at the grocery and eat in the classroom.

Price: \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members. Online pre-registration by credit card is encouraged and available by clicking [here](#) or you may pay by cash or check at the door.

If you already have some gear and want to ask questions about using, packing or replacing it, bring it with you and we'll do our best to resolve your questions.

We Want You to be our Membership Co-chair

The Dallas Sierra Club is looking for volunteers who likes working with people and planning events, and want to play an important role helping the environment and helping the Sierra Club. Duties could include:

- Assist with checking in new members and visitors at our monthly General Meeting.
- Help maintain our volunteer database.
- Assist with our annual Holiday Party and other social events such as new member hikes, pot-lucks or picnics.



WE WANT YOU!
to be our
Membership Co-chair

If this looks like something you might be interested in, please contact the Dallas Group Chair, Wendel Withrow at 972-416-2500 or by [email](#), or visit us at our next General Meeting or Excom meeting (check our calendar).

Calendar

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



Jan 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Bill Greer will present a short program about a Dallas Sierra Club backpack outing in the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Area. Mark Klym's main presentation will talk about hummingbirds and what is being done to support and maintain our native Texas treasures. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Jan 16 (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



Jan 20 (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 We'll continue to plan outings and classes for 2016. We particularly need day hikes and one-night or two-night outings this spring. 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



Jan 21 (Thu) DFW Air Hearing

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Garland, and Greenville in the coal-fired Gibbons Creek power plant. Though DME wants to claim that backing out of this coal-fired power plant produces a 37% reduction in their portfolio emissions, there is no indication that the Gibbons Creek power plant will close. This translates into more pollution when you add 2 gas-fired plants on top of the pollution that blows into the region from Gibbons Creek located southeast of the Metroplex and Denton. The City of Bryan has indicated that it plans to continue using Gibbons Creek - other partners need to indicate by Sept. 2016 if they will continue as partners in the plant. People in Dallas are encouraged to go to this hearing because what Denton does affects DFW's non-attainment status. They are also encouraged to get friends and colleagues in Denton to attend as there are many unanswered questions. Bring your questions. Past presentations can be reviewed on the Denton city website. For more information: Rita Beving [Send Email](#)



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Price: \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members. Online pre-registration by credit card is encouraged and available by clicking [here](#) or you may pay by cash or check at the door. If you already have some gear and want to ask questions about using, packing or replacing it, bring it with you and we'll do our best to resolve your questions. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#)
214-368-2306



Feb 3 (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.



Feb 9 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting



Critterman and his animals - Live! The live animals in this family friendly presentation will be engaging entertainment for children and adults alike. Meet some amazing Lone Star natives. Discover the incredibly valuable services that native animals perform as natural pest controllers and waste removers. You will meet a ghost, a janitor, a famous historical creature, and its arch enemy. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Feb 13 (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](#) 214-455-2115



Feb 17 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

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Feb 26-Mar 2 (Fri-Wed) Big Bend National Park

Board our chartered sleeper bus Friday night and wake to breakfast at the restaurant in the National Park. The 2016 trip will offer options to backpack the Chisos Basin, the Lost Mine Trail, the Window Trail, the Outer Mountain Loop and the Mesa d'Anguila. One trip option will base camp at the Chisos Basin Campground and make day hikes, no backpacking necessary. All trips hike four days (Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues.) and camp three nights, returning to Dallas Wednesday before daybreak. The end of February is prime time to visit the Park, before it's too hot. Complete trip details, including costs and sign up requirements are in [this PDF document](#). Bus trip leader: Arthur Kuehne [Send Email](#) 214-608-3210

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](#)