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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - April 2016

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

Pacific Crest Trail Adventure

Conor and Mason Puckett hiked from Canada to Mexico along the Pacific Crest Trail from June 28 to October 28, 2015. Traversing the "Crest" of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges, they endured blistering heat, freezing cold, physical and mental anguish, and even a little bit of fun. Okay, a lot of fun. This presentation will cover some of what goes into the planning and execution of a thru-hike, as well highlights along the way. Fewer people have successfully completed a Southbound thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail than have summited Everest. Come and hear about their fascinating adventure.

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.



Wilderness Navigation Class - Two Nights - April 13 and 14

Some walks in the woods are pretty easy, but journeys of all lengths can turn from amazing to catastrophic if you can't find your way. Learn the fundamentals of navigating your way in the wilderness in this fun and comprehensive two-night class. Among the subjects covered are: looking for and purchasing different type maps, how to read maps, how not to get lost, map use if you do get lost, different kinds of compasses and how to use your compass. There will be some discussion about GPS, but our main focus is learning 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. If not, we'll have extras you can use and will show you what to look for when you purchase your own. The class will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Whole Foods Market, southeast quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane in Dallas. This two-night class (second night Thursday, April 14) will begin at 6:30 PM and finish about 8:45 PM. The class fee is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Cost covers both nights and handout materials. We encourage online signups by Tuesday before the class ([click here](#)) or you can pay with cash or check at the door. A half-day hike the following Saturday or Sunday with the class instructors Arthur Kuehne and Bill Greer will be offered to class participants who want to practice their new skills.

Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge and Camping, Arkansas: Friday April 29 - Sunday May 1

Drive to this gem of a park in the Ouachita Mountains near Mena, Arkansas anytime on Friday, hike Saturday and depart Sunday. We've booked ten of the forty rooms at the ridgetop Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge atop Arkansas' second-highest point and also a cluster of campsites. Saturday group hike options include a 10-mile day hike to Black Fork Mountain, third-highest point in Arkansas. Shorter group hike options are a segment of the Ouachita Trail to the Oklahoma line and the Kerr Arboretum trails near Talihina, Oklahoma. Outing details, including complete sign-up information, are [in this PDF](#).

Davis Mountains Explorapalooza: May 27-30

Have a memorable Memorial Day weekend in sky island locations near Fort Davis, Alpine and Marfa, Texas, elevation 4,400 to 6,800'. Meet our chartered bus (not a sleeper bus) Friday morning in Dallas to cruise to Fort Davis. We've reserved campsites at Fort Davis State Park and cabins and "camp rooms" at Stone Village Tourist Camp, a renovated 1935 tourist court in



Fort Davis town for a three-night stay. We'll take in a night Sky Party at the McDonald Observatory, a guided hike at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Museum of the Big Bend, an afternoon to explore Marfa, an evening to view the mysterious Marfa Lights, a morning hike on the palisades above historic Fort Davis and a couple hours by the huge desert spring at Balmorhea State Park. All this happens before Monday night when you return to Dallas! For complete trip details and sign-up forms, please download [this PDF](#).

Earth Day is Coming and We Need Your Help

Every April the Dallas Sierra Club is invited to participate in many Earth Day events around Dallas. This year we are focusing on Earth Day Texas which will be held at Fair Park on April 22-24. We need volunteers to help greet people at the Dallas Sierra Club booth. If you would like to help promote the Sierra Club and the environment, and have a great time meeting people from across Texas, please contact our Earth Day Coordinator, Wendel Withrow at [this email link](#). We have time slots to fit any schedule on all three days of the event.

In addition to Earth Day Texas, we will participate in several other Earth Day events. Contact Wendel for more information.

Conservation News - Methane Rule Hearing

On February 18 three of us from Sierra Club went to a Bureau of Land Management hearing in Oklahoma City on their new Methane Rule. It's not called Methane Rule, but "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation." It is important because it changes the regulation of venting and flaring on federal land, including tribal lands. Here are some points to consider

- The BLM manages all federal mineral rights, including those under national forests and corps of engineers properties where the surface is managed by a different agency. In the role of mineral rights manager, BLM is oriented more toward protecting royalties paid to the government than toward protecting air.
- Unlike the recent EPA proposal, the BLM would regulate existing sites as well as new sites.
- The proposed rule lets the industry self-inspect and self-report. This is a notoriously bad idea, but the agency does not have the staff to do otherwise. We would rather see the industry charged for inspections by independent inspectors. It has been suggested the agency require soil sampling, which may be harder to manipulate than air sampling.
- Methane, the gas released by venting and leaks, is 60-80 times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO₂. Therefore, requirements to flare are an improvement over venting. Flaring is still wasteful, though. The new rule requires that producers pay royalties on the gas that is lost by venting or flaring, not just the gas that can be sold. Producers claim capturing all the gas is too difficult and too expensive, and they get to apply for exceptions to the rules.
- You can read this proposed rule and submit your comments online until April 8 at www.regulations.gov . Search for BLM. Look at the result named "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation." Click on "Open Docket Folder" to be able to read all related documents, including the comments submitted so far. <https://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=BLM-2016-0001> is where you wind up.

After the meeting about the proposed rule, BLM representatives seemed stunned to learn that we had found it difficult to learn about events such as this one and the recent proposed sale of gas leases under lakes in Texas parks. They seemed to be genuinely concerned to make their events easier to learn about. Meanwhile, interested persons should know that news from the BLM is announced on the national BLM site if it is thought to apply to the entire country, but news about local land, such as Lewisville Lake or Sam Houston National Forest or Yellowstone National Park, may only be announced on a regional BLM site that covers several states. Texas news is posted in the New Mexico office.

BLM is working on improving. They have drafted a new proposed planning process. You can read about that at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/planning_2_0.html and submit comments online through April 25.

Chris Guldi - Conservation Co-chair

Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

May 10 - Landscaping: It's about conserving water, providing habitat, and enjoying your littl bit of the outdoors - Conserving water outdoors can significantly lower our water bills and preserve this precious natural resource. It's time to learn some water saving gardening techniques such as the use of native plants, mulching beds, smaller turf areas, and efficient irrigation techniques.

June 14 - The Compost Contribution - You do good things when you make a pile of brown leaves and assorted green waste, then encourage it to rot.

July 12 - Movie Night - See *Jumbo Wild* to learn about the controversy surrounding the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort that would span four glaciers and 15,000 acres in the Purcell Mountains of British Columbia.

Calendar

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



Apr 9 (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



Apr 9-10 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpack Trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness

Join us for one of the Dallas Sierra Club's favorite local backpacking trips. We'll backpack in about 4 1/2 miles along Caney Creek, cross it a few times, and climb some small hills. After setting up camp near a waterfall, we'll do a short day hike as time and energy permits. For many of us this was our first Wilderness hike and it's still one of our favorites. Leader: Bill Greer [Send Email](#) 972-247-0446



Apr 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Hear about Conor and Mason Pucketts' four month adventure hiking the entire **Pacific Crest Trail** in 2015. Fewer people have done this than have summited Everest. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Apr 13 (Wed) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 1

Some walks in the woods are pretty easy, but journeys of all lengths can turn from amazing to catastrophic if you can't find your way. Learn the fundamentals of navigating your way in the wilderness in this fun and comprehensive two-night class. Among the subjects covered are: looking for and purchasing different type maps, how to read maps, how not to get lost, map use if you do get lost, different kinds of compasses and how to use your



compass. There will be some discussion about GPS, but our main focus is learning 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. If not, we'll have extras you can use and will show you what to look for when you purchase your own. The class will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Whole Foods Market, southeast quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane in Dallas. This two-night class (second night Thursday, April 14) will begin at 6:30 PM and finish about 8:45 PM. The class fee is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Cost covers both nights and handout materials. We encourage online signups by Tuesday before the class ([click here](#)) or you can pay with cash or check at the door. A half-day hike the following Saturday or Sunday with the class instructors Arthur Kuehne and Bill Greer will be offered to class participants who want to practice their new skills. Contact: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 14 (Thu) Wilderness Navigation Class - Part 2

Join us for this second night of our two-part class that begins Wed., April 14. Both sessions are at Whole Foods Market, Preston Road at Forest Lane. See above for details (Apr 13). Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 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 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. The Preserve's address is 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. 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



Apr 16 (Sat) Electronics Recycling - FREE

Electronics recycling, document shredding, book and clothing drive, 9 am – 1 pm, Richardson, free for everybody. [Click here](#) for details about items accepted, a map, etc.



Apr 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. Upon conclusion, we typically adjourn to Pei Wei for dinner. Anyone interested in outings is invited to participate. Reply to Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list or to suggest an item for the agenda. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733





Apr 29-May 1 (Fri-Sun) Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge and Camping, Arkansas

Drive to this gem of a park in the Ouachita Mountains near Mena, Arkansas anytime on Friday, hike Saturday and depart Sunday. We've booked ten of the forty rooms at the ridgetop QWSP Lodge atop Arkansas' second-highest point and also a cluster of campsites. Saturday group hike options include a 10-mile day hike to Black Fork Mountain, third-highest point in Arkansas. Shorter group hike options are a segment of the Ouachita Trail to the Oklahoma line and the Kerr Arboretum trails near Talihina, Oklahoma. Outing details, including complete sign-up information, are in [this PDF](#). Coordinator: Lynn Marple [Send Email](#) 972-345-5528



May 3 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (or Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets upstairs at Whole Foods Market, southeast corner of Preston Road and Forest Lane, in Dallas at 6:30 pm. Contact the [Dallas Group Chair](#) for more information.



May 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Carol Feldman from the Native Plant Society of Texas will talk about using native plants in landscapes. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



May 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](#) 214-455-2115



May 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 to participate. Reply to Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list or to suggest an item for the agenda. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



May 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 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. The Preserve's address is 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. 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



May 22 (Sun) Outdoor Leader Training 101 class

Sierra Club members are invited to participate in a class teaching culture, rules and skills for Sierra Club outings leaders. This is one of four training exercises for leaders: 1) OLT 101; 2) OLT 201 (sequel class for leaders of outings that are overnight or far from cars); 3) Wilderness First Aid (Basic First Aid is the alternative for leaders of only day hikes); 4) leadership of a "provisional" outing, accompanied by another leader. Upon completion of those steps, the Outings Committee determines



when a prospective leader is ready to independently lead a Sierra Club outing. The class is from 1 to 5 PM at the Whole Foods Market, southeast corner of Preston Road and Forest Lane in Dallas, upstairs. There is no class fee.

Prospective leaders and current leaders who want to renew OLT 101 training are encouraged to participate. Please reply so we can anticipate group size and materials to prepare. We won't repeat this class until 2017. SAVE THE DATE and also the dates for OLT 201 (June 11-12). Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



May 27-30 (Fri-Mon) Davis Mountains Explorapalooza

Have a memorable Memorial Day weekend in sky island locations near Fort Davis, Alpine and Marfa, Texas, elevation 4,400 to 6,800'. Meet our chartered bus (not a sleeper bus) Friday morning in Dallas to cruise to Fort Davis. We've reserved campsites at Fort Davis State Park and cabins and "camp rooms" at Stone Village Tourist Camp, a renovated 1935 tourist court in Fort Davis town for a three-night stay. We'll take in a night Sky Party at the McDonald Observatory, a guided hike at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Museum of the Big Bend, an afternoon to explore Marfa, an evening to view the mysterious Marfa Lights, a morning hike on the palisades above historic Fort Davis and a couple hours by the huge desert spring at Balmorhea State Park. All this happens before Monday night when you return to Dallas! For complete trip details and sign-up forms, please download [this PDF](#). Coordinator: Annie Wilson [Send Email](#) 682-232-4980

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](#)