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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - June 2016

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Sandbranch Community Cleanup

Join us this Saturday (June 11) at the Sandbranch Community Cleanup. Sign in at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 128 Burns Dr., Seagoville, TX, between 8:15 and 8:45 am for assignment to a work team and orientation; work begins promptly at 9 a.m. Tools will be provided, but wear protective clothing---long pants, long sleeved tops, closed shoes, and hats. Gloves, goggles, sunscreen, and mosquito spray will also be provided, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Work ends at noon with lunch and a celebration at the Sandbranch Community Center.

Use this link to volunteer - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CleanSandbranchDay>

Sandbranch is the poorest community in Dallas County. It has been without running water, sewage service, and trash pick up for over 30 years. Sandbranch... everybody's community! is about giving a basic human right---clean drinkable water---to the citizens of Sandbranch. Read the Strategic Vision and Plan for Improvements to the Sandbranch Community [here](#).

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

The Compost Contribution: How gardeners' black gold can help protect the planet

You do two good things when you make a pile of brown leaves and assorted green waste, then encourage it to rot: You prolong the life of your landfill, and you produce something that contributes to a healthier environment. And you can do this at any scale and in any number of ways, using a remarkable range of ingredients. You can compost as a community garden, a city, a county, a business, or just as one person.

Few activities encompass such a wide range of raw materials, methods, and personal styles. And surely there aren't many products, homemade or industrial, that can help with everything from methane reduction to habitat restoration.



The presentation will include a little history, a brief look at methods, and examples of uses, particularly those beneficial to the environment. All this as seen through the eyes of John Darling, a backyard composter / tree hugger who fell into a job as campus composter for UT Arlington.

Poison Ivy

In this subversively funny talk, Amy Martin, author of *Itchy Business: How to Treat the Poison Ivy and Poison Oak Rash, Prevent Exposure and Eradicate the Plant* (www.Itchy.Biz), will share her deep knowledge gleaned from 12 years working in wildlife habitat management. Martin breaks the rash into 4 stages for her unique approach, each with a different tactic using the 3 Cs of rash relief: calm, cool and constrict. Home remedies are ranked and rated, as are a world of unique herbal and mineral rash products. The many ways to practice safe scratch are revealed. She details how to prevent the poison ivy allergen urushiol from reaching the skin and the right way to remove it if it does. Martin shares the weird (urushiol mummies, poison lacquer, and trees that fume urushiol) and the wonderful (poison ivy's excellence for wildlife and erosion control) in a talk that will leave you itching for more.



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.

Santa Fe Peaks and Foothills, New Mexico Bus Trip: September 2-6

Enjoy three late summer days of backpacking or day hiking--your choice--near Santa Fe this Labor Day weekend. Board our chartered sleeper bus in Dallas Friday night. Wake to breakfast at a local cafe in Santa Fe. Two backpacking itineraries will hike three days and tent two nights in the mountains. Two other itineraries will hike three days and sleep two nights in cabins. Arrive back in Dallas Tuesday at daybreak. The four trip options will cater to a range of experience and difficulty levels. Each trek will experience hiking at a range of altitudes. For the full trip details and registration forms [please click here](#).



Earth, Wind, & Fire Energy Summit II

Registration will begin on June 20th for the Earth, Wind, & Fire Summit-II. The summit will be October 22-24, 2016. Details are at <http://earthwindfiresummit.org/>. The summit is hosted by the Dallas Sierra Club.

The last energy conference was a sellout event. This year's conference promises to be even more exciting, with topics and speakers addressing some of the most talked about energy issues of the day.

Eighteen speakers have already been confirmed, including:

Climate/Energy - Internationally renowned climate scientist Kathryn Hayhoe, recently featured as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People will present.

Fracking/Waste Disposal/Earthquakes - Seismologist Brian Stump from SMU, known for his research with a team of colleagues into earthquakes that jostled North Texas and the DFW area since 2008 will discuss their findings.

100% Renewable Texas Community - Chris Foster, Manager of Resource Planning and Integration for the City of Georgetown will speak to their city adopting 100% renewable energy.

Affordable Solar for Your Home - Larry Howe, vice chair of TSES, will speak to what's available for the public regarding the considerations and plans for affordable solar for your home.

Fracking/Water Contamination - Zac Hildenbrand of UTA-CLEAR, whose group continues its studies of environmental quality in proximity to unconventional oil and gas extraction sites will speak about his peer-reviewed findings on water and fracking.

Energy Economics - Environmental Engineering Professor Marc Jacobson of Stanford, a leader in the field of air pollution, global warming, large-scale clean-renewable energy solutions will speak on the economics of today's energy sources.

State of Texas Energy - Warren Lasher, ERCOT System Planning, managing the flow of electric power to 24 million Texans will speak to where Texas is in its energy portfolio.

Fracking/Health Effects - Anne Epstein, MD, Chair of the Lubbock City Board of Health, who has gathered studies and published findings regarding the relationship between fracking and health effects within various communities will also present.

The Conference website will be ready to accept registrations on June 20, so get ready to reserve your slot. Register soon at the \$55 level before the price jumps to \$75. For more information, call Rita Beving at 214.557.2271 or email her at rita.beving@gmail.com.

Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

July 12 - Movie Night! We supply the popcorn, snacks, and drinks (and, of course, the movie)
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. For 25 years, local residents, concerned citizens, and the Ktunaxa Nation have strongly opposed this development for environmental, economic, and spiritual reasons. Development has continued to move forward despite overwhelming opposition. The film highlights the tension between the protection of wilderness and the backcountry experience and ever-increasing development interests in wild places.

We will also have a program about **Trinity Environmental Academy**. Learn about Trinity Environmental Academy (TriEA), Dallas' first environmentally focused public-charter/private college partnership on the Paul Quinn College campus. The mission of TriEA is to provide an innovative, community-based environmental education to engage and empower scholars to become tomorrow's global change agents.

September 13 - A bicycling and paddling adventure along the Elbe river

When Eli Baron flew to Germany, his bicycle arrived but his clothes and camping gear did not. Undeterred, he pressed on. The journey started with a bicycle ride reaching the Elbe's headwaters

high in the mountains in the Czech Republic near the border with Poland, and pedaling across the Czech Republic through Prague and unto Dresden in Germany.

Calendar

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



Jun 11 (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



Jun 11 (Sat) Clean Sandbranch Day

June 11 is Clean Sandbranch Day, organized by Project DreamHaus and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Volunteers are needed to tag thousands of tires for removal by heavy equipment, to mow, to pick up debris and to restore a playground. Sign up on the Event Calendar at <http://www.sandbrancheverybodyscommunity.org/> or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CleanSandbranchDay>. Wear long sleeves, long pants, a hat, boots and gloves. Meet at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 128 Burns St., Seagoville, TX, 9:00 am to noon. For more information: Pastor Eugene Keahey [Send Email](#) 214-957-0741



Jun 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Outdoor Leader Training 201

OLT 201 is an overnight outing at Dinosaur Valley State Park for prospective outings leaders who will eventually lead backpacking trips and who have completed OLT 101. Participants will receive instructions for when and where to arrive Saturday. The outing will adjourn to lunch on Sunday. Training sessions include a hike to demonstrate issues of group management in outdoor situations. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Jun 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Compost is Black Gold. Learn about the variety of composting methods and ingredients, how they protect our planet, and what you can do. **Poison Ivy** - Learn how to prevent poison ivy from reaching your skin, and how to properly remove it if it does. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Jun 15 (Wed) No Outings Committee Meeting

We're skipping the regular third Wednesday Outings Committee meeting tonight. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 20. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Jun 18 (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 8 AM, working until approximately 11:00. 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



Jun 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Brazos River Canoe and Kayak Trip

Join us on the Brazos River for a weekend of paddling 19.5 miles on a Texas Scenic River. We'll start Saturday at 9 A.M. at Rochelle's Canoe Rental, Graford, Texas. Our flotilla will put in below Possum Kingdom Dam and finish in the early afternoon of the next day, a perfect weekend trip. We'll camp one night on an island about halfway to the finish. The trip is rated moderate as one or two category 1 rapids are on our reach of the river. Hear coyotes at night and see hawks and longhorn cattle during the day. Rochelle's rents canoes and operates a shuttle to the trip start. See Rochelle's website at www.rochellescanoerental.com. This trip was originally scheduled for June 4-5, but it's been rescheduled due to high rainfall and high water on the river. To participate, contact outings leader Terry Sullivan . Trip capacity is limited, so call Terry early. Leader: Terry Sullivan [Send Email](#) 214-533-9899



Jul 6 (Wed) 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.



Jul 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Movie night! We supply popcorn, snacks, and drinks. See *Jumbo Wild* to learn about the controversy surrounding the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort. And learn about Trinity Environmental Academy (TriEA), Dallas' first environmentally focused public-charter/private college partnership. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Jul 20 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

The Outings Committee meets tonight at 6:30 at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas, upstairs. At these monthly meetings, outings leaders review lessons learned from recent outings and plan future outings. Anyone interested in outings is invited. Reply to Mark to be added to the advance agenda email list or to suggest an agenda item. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733

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](#)