



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET
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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - December 2016

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Dallas Sierra Club Holiday Party - Sunday, December 11



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 11 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, raffle prizes, 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, the election, 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 2017 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!!

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

Monarch Waystations for North Texas

Carol Clark will cover the amazing story of the Monarch Butterfly lifecycle and migration, clarify some common misconceptions about Monarchs, explain historic and current threats to Monarch populations, and tell why Texas is a pivotal location for Monarchs' future success. The program also covers real steps North Texas residents can take to help bolster the Monarch population, and what to plant to feed Monarchs. Free packets of local native Milkweed seeds and plant lists for North Texas will be available.

Carol Clark is an amateur botany enthusiast, a Texas Master Naturalist, and longtime member of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and is now a Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch. She also co-administrates the Texas Native Bee Co-op Facebook page for Texas Parks and Wildlife. She and her husband own and operate Clark Haven Farm, a wildlife preserve and custom wildflower seed business in Cooke County. Carol grew up with a nature photographer father and wildlife artist brother, and has spent much of her life looking around in the great outdoors. Her favorite things to do are leading discovery walks in local natural areas, and finding and photographing interesting plants and insects.



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.

From the Chair

Well now – isn't this special. After eight incredible years of giving to us, Wendell Withrow, has decided to pass the baton. He is resigning as Chair of the Dallas Sierra Club effective the end of this year. I urge each of you to attend the Club's Holiday Party this Sunday to express your thanks to Wendell for all he has done. His leadership and guidance have been stellar, and each should shake his hand then tell him "Thank You – Thank You for all you have done". So be there. This Sunday (the 11th). Let Wendell know that you cared that he was there for each of us.

The recipient of the baton to be the new chair of the Dallas Sierra Club is John Lingenfelder... me. I'll be at the Holiday Party and hope to meet every single one of you. If not Sunday, then at our general meeting Tuesday the 13th.

The coming year promises to be one for the books. The legacy of John Muir (the founder of the Sierra Club in 1892) lives very strong with the volunteer members of the Dallas Sierra Club. Our volunteers have been and will continue to be involved in conservation efforts, guided by our Conservation Co-Chairs, Dick and Chris Guldi. There will be trips to Austin to speak with Texas Legislature members; meetings with local officials to keep them informed; and coordination with environmental groups. Would you like to learn more about how this works? Dick and Chris are your guides to the intricacies.

Getting people out into the wilderness so they could experience it and come to appreciate why it is so important was a guiding principle of John Muir. In this outdoors experience the Dallas Sierra Club is rich and wealthy by far because of our volunteer leaders who exemplify John Muir's vision. Mark Stein,

Outings Chair; ably assisted by Bill Greer, Arthur Kuehne, and Liz Wheelan; plus, many trained trail leaders. There are already several planned outings – backpacking, camping, day hikes and more. Do you have an idea for a great outing? Do you want to go on one, or want to get trained to be a leader? Get with Mark, Bill, Arthur or Liz. But watch out! Their excitement and stories about the trails and trips is infectious. You just might get the bug and find yourself backpacking the Rockies before you know it.

It will be exciting. It will be challenging. And for sure, it will be a lot of fun in 2017. So be a part of it. Don't let the mundane or the mendacity of an easy life prevent you from grabbing your share. Be an active part of the Dallas Sierra Club and add to your sense of accomplishment.

John Lingenfelder

New 2017 Sierra Club Calendars Available for Sale at the General Meeting

Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendars and Engagement Calendars will be available for purchase at the October, November and December General Meetings (or until we run out). The Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar is the best selling nature calendar in the United States. Don't miss your chance to get one (or several - they make great gifts). The Wall Calendar sells for \$13 and the Engagement Calendar sells for \$14. We take check, cash or credit cards.

Backpacking 101 Class - January 21



Give yourself a gift that you can use for the rest of your life!

Want something fun to start 2017? This is it! Sign up now. The class is for never-ever backpackers and people who want to update backpacking knowledge, skills or gear. Sierra Club trip leaders with decades of experience will present a comprehensive overview of backpacking topics--packs, tents, food, clothing, sleeping bags, water treatment and much more, plus "ah-ha" tips we wish someone had told us sooner for the sake of comfort and affordability. Location: Whole Foods Market, Preston Road at Forest Lane, Dallas ([map](#)) Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Cost: \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members. You can register and [pay on-line here](#) or you can just show up and pay at the door. Trips especially for class participants will be scheduled for spring.

Big Bend National Park Bus Trip: February 15 - 20

Our 2017 trip to Big Bend is on-line at www.dallassierraclub.org. But if you want to go, you better sign up NOW. The trip is almost full.

Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

January 10 - Howard Garrett on Non-Toxic Pest Control and Related Water Savings

The first step of natural pest control is the basic organic program and resulting healthy soil and plants. Healthy, non-stressed plants don't attract pests nearly as much as do plants that are under stress from

the use of high-nitrogen, salt fertilizers and toxic chemical pesticides. Understanding the protection and use of beneficial insects and other living organisms is also a major part of successful pest control. When direct pest control is needed, there are "soft" choices that work well. Howard will explain all this with his thorough and fascinating slide show.

February 14 - Antarctica and the 2017 Texas Legislative Session

Visit Antarctica with Geoff Skews in our short program. Our long program will take a look at the challenges and opportunities ahead of us during the 2017 Texas Legislative Session. The speaker will be Rita Beving.

March 14 - Woodpeckers

Learn all about woodpeckers from Ben Jones and Jenna Hanson with the Dallas Zoo Wild Earth Academy.

Calendar

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



Dec 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](#) 214-455-2115



Dec 11 (Sun) Sierra Club Holiday Party

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Dec 13 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Learn about Monarch Butterflies and what you can do to bolster the Monarch population. Free packets of local native Milkweed seeds will be available. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Dec 17 (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



“ahh”

Turtle
We'll
Stein
aren't



Dec 17 (Sat) Christmas Lights Walk

Who says hikes must be in daylight? Come out to “ooh” and holiday lights in Highland Park. Meet at the intersection of Beverly and Lakeside Drives at 7:00 PM. (Lakeside parallels Creek, east of Preston.) Parking is available on both streets. walk until 8:00 or 8:30. Walkers are invited to adjourn to the house, eight blocks from your car, for a hot drink. Replies required, but a reply to Bill will put you on the list for notice if there's a schedule change due to weather. Leader: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224



Dec 21 (Wed) NO Outings Committee Meeting tonight

It's a busy month and we'll get along fine without another meeting this third Wednesday. The next Outings Committee meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 18. If you discover business that cannot wait, contact Mark. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Jan 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Howard Garrett, The Dirt Doctor, will talk about Non-Toxic Pest Control and Related Water Savings. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Jan 21 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class

Want something fun to start 2017? This is it! Save the date. The class is for never-ever backpackers and people who want to update backpacking knowledge, skills or gear. Sierra Club trip leaders with decades of experience will present a comprehensive overview of backpacking topics-- packs, tents, food, clothing, sleeping bags, water treatment and much more, plus "ah-ha" tips we wish someone had told us sooner for the sake of comfort and affordability. Location: Whole Foods Market, Preston Road at Forest Lane, Dallas ([map](#)) Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Cost: \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members. You can register and [pay on-line here](#) or you can just show up and pay at the door. Interested or have questions? Please contact the class coordinator. Trips especially for class participants will be scheduled for spring. Come on out! Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306

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.
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