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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - July 2017

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- [Labor Day Bus Trip](#) - Explore the Pecos Wilderness in New Mexico
- [Upcoming Programs](#) - Mark your Sierra Club calendar
- [Calendar](#) - Find out what's going on in the Dallas Sierra Club

General Meeting Program - July 11, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Citizen Science and iNaturalist

What if you find something outside but don't know what it is? How do you find out? What if you could share that discovery with others to excite them about nature as well? Citizen science is one way to address each of those questions. One particularly useful tool is iNaturalist, an online network with an associated app where participants document all of the living organisms around them, share that data with the rest of the naturalist community, and learn a lot in the process.



Sam Kieschnick, this program's presenter, is an urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife serving the east side of the DFW metroplex. He previously worked as a nature educator with the City of Mansfield at Oliver Nature Park, as a naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, as a science interpreter with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, as a botanist with BRIT, and as an instructor at Weatherford College. He has a master's degree from Tarleton State University studying the genetics of pocket gophers. As an urban wildlife biologist, Sam's focus will be on three a's: awareness, appreciation, and action.

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.

Pecos Wilderness Bus Trip on Labor Day Weekend

Details of the sleeper bus trip to backpack in the Pecos Wilderness are now online in [this PDF file](#), as are registration forms. The bus leaves Dallas at 9:00 pm Thursday night, August 31 and returns by 6:00 am on Tuesday, September 5, allowing four days to hike and three nights to camp. We offer a choice of five hike itineraries ranging in difficulty from moderate to strenuous. The Pecos Wilderness Area protects a significant part of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico. Late summer temperatures will be significantly cooler than Dallas. The trip price is discounted to \$260 per person for registration received by August 15. We recommend earlier registration because this holiday weekend has historically been a popular date for outings.



Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

August 8 - Wildlife Sanctuary Night

The Creative Teacher will have live animals (including a kangaroo) that are engaging entertainment for children and adults alike. And we'll have a representative from Black Beauty Ranch. The ranch is home to retired research chimpanzees, rescued elephants, kangaroos, monkeys, camels, giraffes, and tigers.

September 12 - Fall/Winter Vegetable Gardening in North Texas

The best time for gardening in North Texas is from September until June. Come and find out why and how.

October 10 - The Wave

Photos of surreal sandstone landscape along the Utah - Arizona Border.

November 14 - Wildflowers of North Texas

This colorful slideshow program will take you on a virtual tour through the seasons of some of our last undisturbed natural areas, and introduce some of the amazing plants that once dominated the region.

Calendar

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



Jul 8 (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



Jul 11 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Citizen science and iNaturalist - Record observations by taking a photo with a smart phone,

share it with other naturalists, and discuss the findings. You could become a field biologist in your own backyard. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Jul 15 (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 for July and August, working until approximately 11 AM. 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



Aug 2 (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.



Aug 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Wildlife Sanctuary Night - We will have presentations from representatives of two animal sanctuaries: Black Beauty Ranch and The Creature Teacher. Live animals will be present. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Aug 12 (Sat) Backpacking 101 Class

Learn essentials of backpacking--what it's like, what you need to bring and what you don't need. This class is for never-ever backpackers and also people who want to update backpacking gear or skills. Volunteers with decades of experience leading trips will present a comprehensive range of backpacking topics with candor--packs, tents, sleeping bags, food, what to wear, water treatment and lots more. They'll share tips to improve your comfort and keep gear affordable. Unlike stores that offer basic classes, we're not selling merchandise. This class will be especially helpful for new backpackers on the Labor Day trip to the Pecos Wilderness, the February trip to Big Bend National Park or other outings through spring 2018. We'll schedule at least one fall outing with spaces reserved for people completing the August 12 class. **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 show up and pay at the door if the class space remains available. Interested or have questions? Please contact the class coordinator. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



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**Aug 31-Sep 5 (Thu-Tue) Pecos
Wilderness, Sangre de Cristo
Mountains, New Mexico**

This Labor Day weekend, we're traveling by sleeper bus to backpack in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Pecos Wilderness Area. From trailheads at Cowles and Jacks Creek, we'll hike in five groups of five to ten per group through fir and aspen forests to meadows above the tree line.

Each group will enjoy four days of hiking and three nights of camping. The Pecos Wilderness is one of the very best, most memorable destinations in the

southern Rockies. Our bus will leave Dallas Thursday night to arrive at trailheads Friday morning.

We'll bring you home by 6 AM Tuesday. Complete trip information, including detailed trip descriptions, cost, and sign-up instructions are in [this PDF file](#). This is the last scheduled bus trip of 2017.

Coordinator: Steve Fleischman [Send Email](#) 972-689-7317



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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