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Dallas Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter

Dallas Sierra Club News - April 2018

General Meeting - April 10, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30 - Everyone Welcome

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

In June - July of 2005 a Sierra Club National Outing visited the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Now that the current administration is determined to open the Refuge to oil drilling, it's time to see what we are about to lose. The area is not at all what most people would expect and what the "drill, baby, drill" crowd would like you to believe. Bill Greer will share what the scenery and wildlife of this unique area are really like and what we are about to lose if the administration has its way. We'll explore a little about why this area is so vital to the caribou and all of the many species who call it home for at least part of the year. Come get an insider's view of what ANWR is really like!



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. The meeting takes place at Brookhaven College. Click over to our [General Meeting page](#) for more information and a map.

Victory for the Citizens of Joppa

On March 28th, the Dallas City Council rejected a zoning change that allowed two concrete plants next to the Joppa community in southern Dallas which is already under industrial/environmental siege. Joppa is already home to an asphalt plant and a switch yard, both creating ample environmental concerns for the small underserved historic Freedman town. Although there were a few advocates of the zoning change, the vast majority, as seen by petition circulation, were against allowing more heavy industry into their neighborhood.

Thankfully the efforts of the Dallas Sierra Club, JFTA (Joppa Freedmans Town Association), Downwinders at Risk, Texas Campaign for the Environment, and the Dallas NAACP in partnership with Council man Kevin Felder were able to gather over 200 signatures petitioning the denial of the zoning change. Data gathered by the Downwinders at Risk PM (particulate matter) Committee was used to give scientific basis to the arguments against allowing zoning changes that would further degrade the community and nearby areas. After mounting pressure from the community and partnering organizations, articles and editorials published by Dallas Morning News and other news outlets, the Council voted to oppose the rezoning.

The quashed rezoning was a huge win for the community, but there is still more work to be done. Further air quality monitoring will continue until the city is compelled to establish sufficient air quality monitoring for the area.

Council members voting against the proposed change were Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano, Omar Narvaez, Kevin Felder, Mark Clayton, Sandy Greyson, Jennifer Gates, and Philip Kingston. [Here](#) is a Dallas Morning News article about the issue.

Dallas Sierra Club at Earth Day Oak Cliff

The Dallas Sierra Club will participate in Earth Day Oak Cliff, in Lake Cliff Park, 300 E Colorado Blvd Sunday, April 15. Our booths will demonstrate solar ovens, hand out vegan cooking samples, and help with a children's activity. We'd love to see you there!

Wilderness Navigation Class April 18 and 19 - Don't Miss It!

Do you think topo maps look like a green sea of worms? Trail junctions make you nervous? Come to our highly acclaimed Wilderness Navigation Class. Longtime explorers Arthur and Bill will teach you how to use your compass, read a backcountry map, and more. The fee for the two-night class is \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members (best class price around). An optional nearby hike for class participants will be offered for the following Sat. or Sun. morning so instructors can help you practice what you learned. See the calendar below for more details and sign up information.



A Win for Sustainable Agriculture

Tyson Foods committed to support improved environmental practices on two million acres of corn by the end of 2020. It is the largest-ever land stewardship commitment by a U.S. protein company. Thanks to all who signed petitions and post cards and pressed for Tyson Foods to require sustainable practices from its feed providers. [Click here](#) for more information.

Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

May 8 - Tent Camping in Texas and Liveable Arlington

The Dallas Sierra Club's very own Wendel Withrow will present his book *The Best Tent Camping in Texas*, which talks about campgrounds that are accessible by car but not overrun with RVs; offer great scenery; and are as close as possible to a wilderness experience.

The citizens group Liveable Arlington advocates for and organizes toward a healthy, environmentally conscious, sustainable city. The group won the 2017 GreenSourceDFW Sustainable Leadership Award for Small Nonprofit.

June 12 - Wildflowers of Texas and Good Faith Impact

Michael Eason will talk about Texas wildflowers and will explain the diversity of our flora and reasons

behind this diversity. His presentation will include numerous photographs of Texas flora and their habitats.

Tracy Wallace will tell us about Good Faith Impact, a non-profit organization focused on workforce development and training in the community for renewable energy jobs and clean technology business practices.

August 14 - Animals - Live!

The wide variety of live animals in this family friendly presentation will be engaging, educational entertainment for children and adults alike. See and learn about unusual structural and behavioral adaptations that make it possible for some of our more interesting critters to survive.

Limerick of the Month

When the twins went on hikes they were tense,
So to go with a group made much sense.
Tried to sleep, each alone,
But could not, so they'd moan
'Cause the backpacking was two in tents.

By Kirk Miller, Dallas Sierra Club program chair and national pun champion.

If you would like to submit an environmental limerick for our Limerick of the Month feature, send it to editors@dallassierraclub.org.

Calendar



Apr 7 (Sat) Electronics Recycling and Documents Shredding

FREE Electronics Recycling and Document Shredding, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 7. Richardson Square - Most electronics will be accepted. For a map of the location, [click here](#) You DO NOT have to be a Richardson resident to participate. For details, [click here](#) and search for **trash bash**



Apr 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Bill Greer will talk about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. - Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



Apr 14 (Sat) Cool Connect Tree Planting

Help Texas Trees Foundation plant trees in Oak Cliff April 14, 9-12:30 to mitigate pollution and heat. Meet at Beckley-Saner Recreation Center, 114 W Hobson. Bring garden gloves if you have some. Other equipment will be supplied. Register at www.classy.org/dallas/events/cool-connect-oak-cliff-tree-planting



Apr 15 (Sun) Oak Cliff Earth Day

Sunday, April 15, 2018, 11:00 to 6:00 at beautiful, historical Lake Cliff Park in Dallas. <http://oakcliffearthday.com/index.html> Look for Camp Sierra



Apr 18 (Wed) Wilderness Navigation Class--Part 1

Want to explore but a little uneasy about finding your way? Even simple hikes can turn dangerous if you're not sure how to find your way, so come here first! Join us for this highly respected two-night class to help you navigate in the backcountry with map and compass. Part 1 is Wed., part 2 is Thu., both starting at 6:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane. The fee for the two-night class is \$35 for Sierra Club members, \$40 for non-members (best class price around). An optional nearby hike for class participants will be offered for the following Sat. or Sun. morning so instructors can help you practice what you learned. Pay in advance by [clicking here](#)



or pay at the door. Bring a compass if you have one. If not, we'll have an extra you can use and we'll advise what to look for when you buy your own. Both sessions will run until approximately 8:45 pm. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 18 (Wed) No Outings Committee Meeting tonight

The Outings Committee won't meet on this regular third Wednesday meeting date. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Apr 19 (Thu) Wilderness Navigation Class--Part 2

Second night of a two-part class that begins Wednesday, April 19. Both sessions are at Whole Foods Market, Preston Road at Forest Lane. See above for details and link to pay online. Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



Apr 28 (Sat) National Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take-Back Day where people can dispose old prescription and over-the-counter drugs safely. [Click here](#) for more information.



May 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.



May 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Wendel Withrow will talk about his book *The Best Tent Camping in Texas*, and Liveable Arlington's founder, Ranjana Bhandari, will talk about past successes and future projects. - Everyone is invited. Full details will be on our [home page](#) soon.



May 16 (Wed) Outings Committee Meeting

This third Wednesday of a month at 6:30 is time for our monthly gathering to plan outings. Come upstairs at Whole Foods Market, SE quadrant of Preston Road and Forest Lane, Dallas. Anyone interested in outings is welcome to attend and participate. 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



May 24-29 (Thu-Tue) Bus Trip to Backpack in Tennessee

A Tennessee trip will be a first in forty years of Sierra Club bus trips. Our Memorial Day weekend destination is South Cumberland State Park, east of Interstate 24, between Nashville and Chattanooga. We'll be on the Cumberland Plateau, a hilly upland stretching from eastern Kentucky to northern Alabama, west of the Smoky Mountains and Great Valley. Our hike options are in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. ("Gulf" is a local term for a wide, deep chasm.) Two options include a day on

the rim of Little Fiery Gizzard, another gulf, and at Foster Falls. Waterfalls should be flowing, wildflowers blooming. We'll depart Dallas on Thursday evening before Memorial Day and return by 6 a.m. Tuesday, after the Monday holiday. Trip details, cost information and registration forms are in [this PDF](#). **The bus trip is currently sold out**, but we maintain a wait list for the bus and can allow a limited number of participants to provide their own transportation at a reduced price. Call for details. Coordinator: Bill Beach [Send Email](#) 214-662-3224

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](#)