



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

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

## Dallas Sierra Club News - October 2018

### Register to Vote - **DO IT TODAY** - The Deadline in Tuesday, October 9

You only have a few days left to register so you can vote in the upcoming election. The General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. The last day to register for this election is October 9. Early voting takes place from October 22 through November 2. Head over to [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) to register, to check on your registration status, or to change your address.



After you have registered, Vote Green by supporting Sierra Club endorsed candidates. Sierra Club endorsed candidates for national office are at the Sierra Club Voter Guide. Candidates endorsed for Texas House and Senate races are at [TurnTexasGreen.org](http://TurnTexasGreen.org).

### General Meeting - October 9, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30 - Everyone Welcome

#### Fall Elections

Hear about the Sierra Club's 2018 Electoral Campaign to help elect political leaders friendly to the environment and learn how you can make a difference. Competitive races will be analyzed, our endorsed candidates will be introduced, and volunteer political opportunities will be discussed. David Griggs, Dallas Group Political Chair and Chair, Sierra Club Political Committee of Texas, will make the presentation. David is a finalist in the GreenSourceDFW Sustainable Leadership Awards. For details [click here](#).



#### The Environmental League

In 2017, the Environmental League was created to increase nature awareness and appreciation in urban youth, teach civic and organizational leadership skills to our youth, and educate our youth on environmental conservation, helping them to understand how they, both individually and as a group, can bring about change. Two chapters were created (in Conrad and Hillcrest High Schools). They had 9 clean-up events and were responsible for over 2,864 hours of community volunteerism. Jim Lord will talk about the Environmental League's goals and achievements, and how they are working to make it a self-sustaining organization.



The Environmental League is a finalist for the GreenSourceDFW Sustainable Leadership Awards. For details, [click here](#).

**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.

## Notes from the Chair's Desk

Reading the paper this week (Yep. I still take & read the daily paper; to support local journalism and to find out stuff. Don't you?), there were several articles concerning Global Warming and Global Climate Change. It's not good news. Extreme temperatures around the world are becoming more commonplace, the Great Barrier Reef east of Australia continues to decline; and rules in place to protect our environment are being weakened and done away with.

Yeah. Such inspiring news to read. One of our Lone Star Chapter ExCom members, Bruce Melton, took a road trip to the Arctic and posted daily reports of Climate Change he observed. What he reported was not good. The "new normal" in America is its wonderful natural environment is suffering terribly from Climate Change.

I think about these and about how much our own Texas has changed over the 70 years of my lifetime. The discouragement is so great. There is so much which needs doing and needs doing right now. But it takes political will to change the wrong-headed course we're on now. Political will is driven by an engaged electorate. But how does Texas' electorate become engaged? How to make it so, so the focus of political is directed towards avoiding this looming environmental catastrophe?

I truly love this state, but fear its rich environmental resources are and will be squandered by powerful but shortsighted fools. These fools are represented by their tools, by Texas legislators who care little for you and me. These must be replaced with people who have skills to lead and who recognize what it takes to make Texas great.

But how to replace them? It's done one vote at a time. You can make a commitment to vote next month, and work to see that others vote. For me, I committed to vote and to work on the campaign of one individual running for the state legislature. You too, can be an advocate for change. The Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter PAC, "Turn Texas Green", has endorsed several candidates who will keep the promise. Their website, [TurnTexasGreen.org](http://TurnTexasGreen.org), is a good start. But you must step-up and work to engage with voters, to see that they do vote.

AND!!! This Sunday, October 7th, will be a terrific opportunity to do just that. The Buffalo Tree Festival in downtown Dallas, goes from noon to 10pm. Headlined by the group, Spoon, and Texas' soon to be new U.S. Senator, Beto O'Rourke. It promises to be a real celebration and filled with excitement. Check out the website, [TheBuffaloTreeFestival.com](http://TheBuffaloTreeFestival.com), to see just what I mean. It's only 10 bucks and your Dallas Sierra Club will be there, so stop by and say Hi. Would love to meet you.

If you love Texas; have a passion for the outdoors; and support our environment - carry on the example set by leaders of your Dallas Sierra Club – set a clear focus on the goal and plan for success. Do this - Select a pro-environment candidate for the state legislature, then focus for the next four weeks to support your candidate with your time.

Go to the [TurnTexasGreen.org](http://TurnTexasGreen.org) website. Make a generous contribution. Attend Sunday's festival and become involved in making 2018 the year of change that Turns Texas Green. There are four weeks until the election. I urge every Dallas Sierra Club member to work to turn our Texas green. Join with me and your Dallas Sierra Club to invest time and money to see it through. Let's see a change for the better come November.

**Fall Outing at Beavers Bend State Park - October 19 - 21**

Celebrate fall and join us for this relaxing event in the beautiful mountainous region of southeast Oklahoma. The weekend is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and stages. Families, couples, singles, all are welcome. We have the group compound all to ourselves, complete with your choice of rustic cabin or tent camping, dining hall with kitchen, optional catered dinner and (drum roll please)... yes, even a bathhouse with hot showers and flush toilets!



On Saturday we'll offer various levels of hikes or you can be on your own to enjoy many fun activities offered by the park. Plan an active weekend or hang out on the porch, whichever you would enjoy. Cabin requests are on a first come basis so make your plans now! [Click here](#) for more information and required registration forms. Don't wait to sign up. This camp out sells out fast.

**NEW ADDED BONUS:** Saturday night program by Wendel Withrow celebrating 50th anniversary of renowned environmentalist Edward Abby's *'Desert Solitaire'*. Includes great photos and environmental inspiration! Fun dessert and game night still also included.

### DFW Solar Tour - October 13

The DFW Solar Tour is a FREE, one-day event on Saturday, October 13, 2018, generally from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during which you are invited to tour innovative green homes and buildings around the DFW Metroplex and learn how homeowners and businesses can use solar energy, wind energy, energy efficiency, and other sustainable technologies.



Visit the [DFW Solar Tour Website](#) for a list of participating homes, details about each home, and information about the Tour, including [a map](#) of locations.

### Volunteer Leaders Needed

We need two people to share setting up our monthly general meetings. The two co-chairs will schedule speakers and will promote / advertise the presentations. This is an opportunity for you to get speakers on topics that you think are good. You will be given assistance during a transition period as you "learn the ropes" to ensure that things work smoothly. If you are interested, contact Kirk Miller at 972-699-1687 or [Kirk@DallasSierraClub.org](mailto:Kirk@DallasSierraClub.org).

We also have openings, starting next year, for Club Secretary and for a position on the Dallas Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Contact John Lingenfelder at [chair@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:chair@dallassierraclub.org) if you are interested or would like more information.

### Dallas Sierra Club Outreach Speakers Program - Speakers for Your Group

The Dallas Sierra Club has started a Outreach Speakers Program to provide outdoor and environmental education in the form of entertaining and informative presentations. To find out how the Dallas Sierra Club can provide a speaker for your group, [please follow this link](#).

### Videos of Our General Meetings

We have started posting videos of selected General Meetings on YouTube. Visit our [General Meeting Page](#) to find links.

### Future Programs You Won't Want to Miss

#### **November 13 - The Great Trinity Forest and Liveable Arlington**

Learn about the largest urban forest in the United States, the Great Trinity Forest. We'll also hear how a citizens group works to make Arlington a better place to live.

#### **January 8 - Wildlife of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands**

Journey to uninhabited Laysan Island in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

### Limerick of the Month

On a backpacking trip the man went;  
Took a girlfriend so he'd be content.  
Time together they spent  
In the nighttime, which meant  
That the backpacker had one intent.

By Kirk Miller

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

### Calendar



#### **Oct 6 (Sat) Day Hike on Chisholm Trail, Plano**

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Starbucks on 15th Street in Plano, near the Barnes and Noble store, outside, at the tables on the patio, 801 W. 15th St., Plano, to be exact. We will walk/hike the Chisholm Trail for about 5 miles, and it's pretty flat. Just bring your own water and comfy shoes, and we can head for a beer or a soda afterwards at On the Border. We will finish around 12:30 or 1, depending on the pace, which is leisurely, for the most part. Kids are welcome. Leader: Ginger Brdley [Send Email](#) 469-223-7902



#### **Oct 9 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Hear about the Sierra Club's 2018 Electoral Campaign to elect political leaders friendly to the environment; and learn about the Environmental League, an organization that educates youth about environmental conservation. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our [home page](#) now.



### **Oct 13 (Sat) Dayhike White Rock Creek Trail from Moss Park**

Meet at 8:30 am at Moss Park (SE corner of Greenville Ave and Royal Lane). Hike 5-6 miles along a paved trail. Bring water and a snack, as we will be hiking all morning. No reservations are necessary. Just show up. No pets please. Optional lunch at a local restaurant. Leader: Mark Adams [Send Email](#) 940-231-8482



### **Oct 13 (Sat) DFW Solar Tour**

The DFW Solar Tour is a FREE, one-day event on Saturday, October 13, 2018, generally from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during which you are invited to tour innovative green homes and buildings around the DFW Metroplex and learn how homeowners and businesses can use solar energy, wind energy, energy efficiency, and other sustainable technologies. Visit the [DFW Solar Tour Website](#) for a list of participating homes, details about each home, and information about the Tour, including [a map](#) of locations.



### **Oct 19-21 (Fri-Sun) Fall Weekend at Beavers Bend State Park, Oklahoma**

Celebrate fall by joining us for a weekend in scenic southeastern Oklahoma. We have a large group compound reserved, complete with your choice of rustic cabin or tent camping, bathhouse (flush toilets and hot showers!) and dining hall with kitchen. We'll offer Saturday hike options with Dallas Sierra Club leaders, ranging from a one-mile nature trail to a 7-mile trail over multiple ridges. The park offers additional activities, including paddling (rentals available), horseback riding and more. We also offer a Saturday night catered dinner option. This weekend is for singles, couples, families, friends and all ages, EVERYONE. Details and reservation information is in [this PDF document](#). Coordinator: Liz Wheelan [Send Email](#) 214-368-2306



### **Nov 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Nov 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Backpack Eagle Rock Loop, Arkansas**

Ready to climb some hills with a splash of fall color? We'll hike 26.8 miles on the longest loop trail in Arkansas. Meet at a trailhead 4 hours from Dallas early Fri. morning and backpack through Sun. afternoon. A small group with a max of 6 experienced backpackers in good physical condition. Contact the trip leader to discuss joining the group. Trip Rated: [Strenuous](#). Leader: Christian Costello [Send Email](#) 972-591-1547



### **Nov 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Backpack Trip to the Caney Creek Wilderness**

Join us for one of the Dallas Sierra Club's favorite Arkansas backpacking trips. We'll backpack about 4 1/2 miles along Caney Creek in Caney Creek Wilderness, cross the creek a few times, and climb some small hills. We'll set up camp near a waterfall then do a short optional day hike as time and energy permit. 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



### **Nov 7 (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.



### **Nov 10-11 (Sat-Sun) Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Rockport, TX**

Twelve quick and lucky people will join an adventure to see rare Whooping Cranes in their winter home near the Gulf coast, six hours south of Dallas. America's tallest birds have a wingspan of seven feet. A \$60 outing registration fee includes admission to ANWR, campground fee at Goose Island State Park and a Saturday night shrimp boil dinner at GISP. Drive or carpool Friday afternoon or evening to your choice of camping at GISP or a motel in Rockport or en route. Leader: Ande Johnston [Send Email](#) 214-914-3590



### **Nov 13 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Ben Sandifer will tell us about **The Great Trinity Forest** and Ranjana Bhandari will talk about **Liveable Arlington**, a grassroots organization advocating for a healthier city. Full details will be provided soon. Everyone is invited. Full details will be on our [home page](#) soon.

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](http://www.DallasSierraClub.org). [Join the Sierra Club](#)