



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

Dallas Sierra Club News - November 2019

General Meeting Program - Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

Mount Assiniboine, China, and Svalbard

Dan Leffel, photographer extraordinaire, will cover three diverse areas of the world, all suitable for adventure and hiking! First, he will present his trip to Mount Assiniboine in the Canadian Rockies in 2018 to photograph fall colors. There are many hiking trails in this area, with beautiful landscapes. Second, will be a short presentation on his three-week trip to China in December 2018, covering many areas of the country, from the Great Wall to the Yellow Mountains to the rice terraces of southern Yuanyang Province. Finally, he will present some images from his trip this past June to Svalbard Island in Norway. Svalbard, at 78 degrees north latitude, is only 500 miles from the North Pole and more polar bears live there than people! As Dan presents images from his travels, he will also share helpful hints on how to improve your photographic skills. There will be ample time to ask questions regarding any of the other places Dan has travelled, or about his presentation.



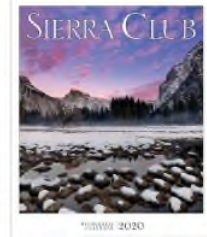
Dan has photographed all seven continents; rafted the Grand Canyon three times; spent a great deal of time in the four corners area of the US, as well as Alaska and New England; hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu; safaried to Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe in Africa; photographed Iceland, Cuba, India, Japan, Patagonia, Nepal, Bhutan, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Greece, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Austria, Norway, Holland, Australia and New Zealand; and traveled throughout North and South America. His images have won a number of awards, including selection to multiple North America Nature Photographer Association (NANPA) Showcases and Sierra Club competitions. He spends his summers in the Oregon Cascade mountains and is committed to helping preserve and share the beauty of nature and indigenous cultures through his photographs.

Everyone is welcome. It's FREE and 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.

2020 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 General Meetings and at the Holiday Party (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). We know of one of our members who has given his brother a Sierra Club wall calendar for Christmas every year for the past 20+ years and it has always been his favorite gift. As a service to our members, the calendars sell at the discounted price of only \$12 each and we pick up the sales tax. We take check, cash or credit cards.



We also have Dallas Sierra T-shirts for \$10 and polo shirts for \$15.

Dallas Sierra Club Holiday Party - Sunday, December 15



Cooler weather is finally here and the holidays are just around the corner. It is time to start getting those special events on your calendar. Our Holiday Party is an event you don't want to miss.



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza. We'll party on Sunday, December 15 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 (or the beverage of your choice). Support the Club by getting a 2020 Sierra Club Calendar or Planner (at a special price of only \$12)!. 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!!

Big Bend National Park Bus Trip - Hurry! It's almost full!

Details and registration forms for the Dallas Sierra Club's annual bus trip to Big Bend National Park are now online! Depart Dallas at 9:00 PM Wednesday, February 5, return Sunday by 11:59 PM. We offer options to day hike from a base camp, backpack every day or mix day hiking and backpacking in our four days at Big Bend. Featured destinations include the Chisos Mountains, Rio Grande Hot Spring, the Blue Creek Trail, Mule Ears, The Chimneys and Tule Spring. Click [this PDF document](#) for full information. Participation in each itinerary option is limited. Early registrants get priority of preference for trip options.



In recent years, the Big Bend trip has sold out weeks before departure. Early registration is advised, although recent history suggests we will probably accommodate multiple people from a wait list. All

hikes have maximum and minimum limits for number of participants, making early registrants more likely to get top preferences.

Help the Dallas Sierra Club When You Shop at Amazon.com



Did you know that you can help the Dallas Sierra Club make 5% on every purchase you make from Amazon.com (at no cost to you). Just use the [this Amazon.com link](#) (also on the right side of the Dallas Sierra Club's website). Once you click on it, you can add it as a bookmark in your browser. Just remember to always use this link (via your bookmark) when you visit Amazon.com. It's a really easy and free way to help the environment as you shop.

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 Program You Don't Want to Miss

December 10 - Update on City of Dallas Climate and Energy Initiatives

Please join the Dallas Sierra Club for an important conversation with Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director for the City of Dallas' Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, as she briefs us on **Dallas' Green Energy Policy** and the status of the **Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan** .

Limerick of the Month

My desire to go camping's immense.
When we camp, there is little expense.
 Wife's libido gets raised,
 Which is something I've praised
When we camp, and the sex is in tents.

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.

Calendar



Nov 12 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Dan Leffel will present photography from three diverse areas of the world: Mount Assiniboine, China, and Svalbard Island. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our home page now.



Nov 16 (Sat) Educational Outing - John Bunker Sands Wetland

Join me for an educational outing on a cool fall day in Seagoville Texas (20 minutes SE of Dallas). John Bunker Sands Wetland (also known as the North Texas Municipal Water District's East Fork Wetland) is a great example of how man can work with nature to help solve societal problems facing us today and into the future. The Wetland was created to use natural processes to polish water from the Trinity River and move the polished water to Lake Lavon. It is estimated that up to 40% of the water used by the North Texas Municipal District comes from the Wetland. The Wetland serves as an excellent example of land stewardship. Not only is the Wetland a means to conserve our valuable water resource, but it also provides for wildlife habitat. The Wetland was designed to use native Texas aquatic plants to naturally polish the water, while at the same time providing for an abundance of wildlife, which includes over 250 species of birds.* We will meet at 9:00 am. We will have a general discussion about the Wetland and at 10:30 join a staff member of the Wetland for a walk around the Wetland and learn more about how the Wetland works. We will come back for lunch and then walk out and see the nesting eagles who have their nest near the Wetland. A hat and good walking shoes are recommended. Bring your lunch and a liter of water. If you have binoculars, bring them for a better look at the eagles. The outing will end around 3:00. Limit 10 people. Cost is \$5 per person. * From the NTMWD website. Leader: Jim Binnings [Send Email](#) 205-746-3266



Nov 16 (Sat) Dr. Anne C. Epstein lecture, "Health Effects of Oil and Gas Development"

2:30pm in the Excellence Multi-purpose Room of Arlington George W. Hawkes Central Library, 100 S Center St, Arlington Dr. Epstein is a medical doctor in Lubbock TX, well known for her research into environmental health concerns associated with the shale boom.



Nov 20 (Wed) No Outings Committee Meeting

The November Outings Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be January 22. Contact: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733



Nov 21 (Thu) Climate Change and Food in Dallas

6:30 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Channing Hall, 4015 Normandy Ave., Dallas (Preston & Normandy - just south of Mockingbird) Learn how the changing climate and natural disasters affect food production and the availability of food. [Details are on Facebook.](#)



Nov 23 (Sat) Dayhike on the Chisholm Trail in Plano

Meet at 9:30 AM in front of the Starbucks/Barnes & Noble (north side of 15th just west of US 75). We will walk 5 miles on a paved path. Bring water. No reservations, just show up. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Judy Cato [Send Email](#) 972-658-6834



Dec 4 (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.



Dec 7 (Sat) Suburban Walk: Bear Creek-Bob Eden Trail, Euless city park.

Join me for an approximately 5-mile walk on a scenic, paved trail. Get your miles in before

lunchtime and enjoy a cool late fall walk. Most of the walk is in mixed hardwoods. We will have a chance to ID trees as we walk through Bear Creek, McCormick, and Bob Eden parks. Bathrooms are at the turnaround at Bob Eden park. Bring a liter of water, dress for the weather (layers), and wear comfortable walking shoes. Walk starts at 8:00 am and we will be back to the cars no later than 12:00 am. Leader: Jim Binnings [Send Email](#) 205-746-3266



Dec 10 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

The City of Dallas will discuss their soon-to-be-finalized Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our home page now.



Dec 15 (Sun) Sierra Club Holiday Party

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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](#)