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Dallas Sierra Club  
Lone Star Chapter

## Dallas Sierra Club News - December 2019

### General Meeting Program - Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 pm - Refreshments at 6:30

#### Update on City of Dallas Climate & 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**. The plans will have been presented to Dallas City Council in late November, and Ms. Alvarez will be briefing Sierra Club attendees on the recent progress, draft planning efforts, and strategies likely to be included in the plan. Ms. Alvarez will also discuss related information and a timeline towards completion.



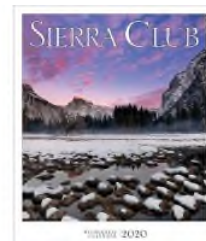
Ms. Alvarez brings a unique approach to her tasks by blending her personal and professional experiences into environmental action. She has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, a minor in geology from Rice University, and postgraduate work in water resources. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas and 5 other western states, and she is also certified as a Certified Floodplain Manager and Master Naturalist in Texas. Ms. Alvarez brings over 35 years of experience in broad practical experience in civil and environmental planning.

**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!!

## Backpacking 101 Class - Saturday, February 15

Want to be adventuresome and explore amazing backcountry areas? Come to this popular, interactive class designed for never-ever backpackers and people who want to refresh backpacking knowledge and skills. Dallas Sierra Club trip leaders with decades of backpacking experiences will present a comprehensive overview of backpacking topics, including packs, boots, tents, sleeping bags, food and cooking, clothes, wilderness ethics, sanitation and more. We'll include tips we wish someone had told us sooner to make backpacking more comfortable and less expensive.



**Place:** Community Room, Midway Hills Christian Church, 11001 Midway Rd, Dallas (Midway Rd, a couple of blocks north of Royal Ln. - [here is a Google map](#))

**Time:** Saturday, February 15. The class begins at 10:00 AM and lasts until about 4:00 PM, with a break for lunch. Please arrive early to sign in and get settled.

**Price:** \$40, which includes a light lunch of backpacking food and handouts. Online pre-registration using a credit card is encouraged and appreciated ([click here](#)) or pay by cash or check at the door.

If you already have some gear and questions about using, packing or replacing it, bring it with you and we'll do our best to answer your questions.

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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

#### January 14 - Commissary Is Very Necessary

Join the Dallas Sierra Club as we welcome Marcus Russell, president of **Commissary Is Very Necessary (CIVN)**, to discuss their group's expanding work in combating environmental and social injustice in South Dallas County/South East Oak Cliff; CIVN's recent collaboration with **Climate Reality Project DFW** Dallas Ecological Devastation Tour; and their partnership with local activist, Olinka Green.

### Limerick of the Month

Said a pun that my wife didn't like.  
Moved away so her fist wouldn't strike.  
    And I knew that she'd plead  
    That a stroll I did need.  
Sure enough, she replied, "Take a hike!"

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

**Dec 9 (Mon) EPA Haze Rule Hearing**

1:00PM, The Renaissance Tower, 1201 Elm Street, Room 5220, Suite 500, Dallas. See [a detailed description of the issue here](#). E-mail [huser.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:huser.jennifer@epa.gov) to sign up to speak.

**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**

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, nuclear, 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. 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!!

**Dec 18 (Wed) No December Outings Committee meeting**

As in past years, there's no Outings Committee meeting in December. Instead, we'll have fun at the holiday party at El Fenix in Casa Linda on Sunday, Dec. 15, 6:30. The next Outings Committee meeting will be on January 15. Everyone interested in planning winter, spring and summer outings is warmly invited to come and participate in January! Contact: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733

**Jan 11 (Sat) Eisenhower State Park, Denison Texas**

Put on your coat, gloves, and wool cap and join me for a 6-8 mile (depending on the trail condition) winter hike. We will start at the Armadillo Hill Trailhead, pick up the Ike Hike and Bike Trail, and head northwest. We will walk through a mix of hardwoods and along the shores of Lake Texoma. We'll stop at a great overlook called Lovers' Leap and then break for lunch at the picnic area (bathrooms nearby). Then we'll double back the way we came. Bring 2 liters of water and lunch. Dress for the weather (layers). Wear good hiking shoes as the trail is rocky and uneven. \$5 per person. Limit 10 people. Leader: jim Binnings [Send Email](#) 205-746-3266

**Jan 14 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting**

Learn how Commissary Is Very Necessary (CIVN) combats environmental and social injustice in Dallas. Everyone is invited. Full details are on our home page now.

**Jan 15 (Wed) Outings Committee pizza and planning**

Wednesday, January 15 is the date for a pizza and planning session. Outings leaders and others interested in outings are invited to come with ideas for 2020. Let's review plans for the Big Bend National Park trip, a Memorial Day outing and anything between or beyond those events. Come at 6:30 and we'll place an order for pizza. This January meeting is at my home, 3631 Normandy Avenue, Highland Park. Organizer: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214-526-3733

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](#)