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Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - June, 2021




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Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, June 8

A New Normal: Environmental Nonprofits and Paid 'Volunteers'

Please join us for a frank discussion with Al Smith, from Socialwyze, as he explores the public and environmental impact of work and income insecure people and the neighborhoods they inhabit. From environmental "hot zones" to food deserts, more and more neighborhoods are seeing their communities falter and become forgotten. 

Socialwyze is a new Eco and Social company that supplies nonprofits with fully-funded labor to expand the impact of their public benefit projects. This not only furthers environmentally impactful work, but it allows people who need work to find it. Whether there's a need for cleaning parks, beaches, planting trees, tending a community garden, or doing environmental remediation, nonprofits can readily increase their impact with a consistent supply of workers who need transitional work to support their families.

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. you can log in to the meeting, chat, and ask questions. The meeting will begin at 7:00 with announcements, followed by our speaker's presentation.

How to join the meeting via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99535860396>

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,99535860396#

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799 - Meeting ID: 995 3586 0396

Videos of prior General Meetings are on YouTube

[Click here](#) for a list of meetings with varied topics such as national parks,

Critterman, beautiful photos from around the world, wild animals, activism, and more.



Dallas Sierra Club Outreach Speakers Program - Speakers for Your Group

The Dallas Sierra Club provides outdoor/environmental education in the form of entertaining and informative presentations by Dallas Sierra Club members with expertise in the topics offered. These presentations range in length from 30 minutes to one hour and cover a variety of topics in the general categories of outdoor adventure, environmental education, and general ecology. These talks are appropriate for a wide range of audiences including youth groups, school classes, civic and social

groups, nature and gardening clubs, church groups, etc. Any group interested in an available topic is welcome to contact us. To see available topics and to schedule your speaker, [click here](#).

Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

The Sierra Club's political committee of Texas, headed by David Griggs, has endorsed a slate of candidates for the June 5th Dallas city council runoff election. [Click here](#) to see endorsed candidates for Dallas City Council. These people hold values that are consistent with those of the Sierra Club. If you live in the City of Dallas, please consider voting for these endorsed candidates on June 5th in the following districts: 2, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14.



If you haven't had the chance to donate yet, it is not too late. Your support is still much needed. Please go to: www.TurnTexasGreen.org, and look for the donate button. Any amount helps!

Conservation / Eco Action

by Victoria Howard, Conservation Committee Chair

It's the cusp of summer in North Texas, and no matter what your personal comfort level is (going out or staying home) there's an environmentally focused activity for you! Check out some of the neat opportunities listed below!

If you have an upcoming environmental event, please let us know about it! Post on our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram pages or email Victoria@dallassierraclub.org and let us highlight you in our newsletter!

The Texas Conservation Alliance

There are two opportunities to roll up your sleeves and help The Texas Conservation Alliance (TCA) and make a difference for wildlife. If interested, please RSVP [here](#).

Restore Pollinator Habitats with Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery in Dallas.

Date: Saturday, June 5

When: 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery ([8381 San Leandro Drive, Dallas, TX 75218](#))

Located near White Rock Lake, the Warren Ferris Cemetery is being restored from a neglected landscape, to a historic cemetery site and wildlife habitat. The site was established in the mid-1800s on the Warren Angus Ferris homestead. Over time, a dense thicket of invasive vegetation overtook the cemetery. A few years ago, the Friends began restoring the site by removing invasive species and planting native plants. TCA is proud to support such important work and help restore healthy habitat for pollinators, box turtles, cottontails, and other wildlife in the city. Join us!

Restore Pocket Praires & Polinators

Date: Saturday, Jun 12

When: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center ([6500 S Great Trinity Forest Way, Dallas, TX 75217](#))

Go Native! Native plants thrive in local soil and weather conditions, which means they need less water and require no artificial fertilizers to flourish. They not only suit the local environment, but they also form supportive, symbiotic relationships with native wildlife. TCA is proud to partner with Trinity River Audubon Center to plant native plants on their campus and help pollinators and grassland birds thrive in the urban environment.

North Texas Renewable Energy Group

Texas Annual Austin Cool House Tour

Date: Sunday, June 13

When: online 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

More Info: <http://www.coolhousetour.com/>

This year's virtual tour features a mixed-use condo tower, an affordable multifamily community, two east Austin backyard dwellings, a modern home in west Austin, and a suburban home designed for a challenging site. These six properties showcase:

- Value-driven decisions
- Climate responsive design
- Healthy material selections
- Energy efficiency strategies
- Water-saving methods
- Renewable energy options

In honor of its 25th anniversary, the tour is FREE to the public this year! Register in advance to receive login information. Professionals and students interested in earning continuing education credits can choose to purchase a CEU ticket:

<https://coolhousetour.squarespace.com/tickets>

Dallas College

The following two zoom presentations are presented by Dallas College and offer a wealth of information!

Life and Livelihoods: World Oceans Day

Date: Wednesday, June 8

When: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Where: online

Humanity has defined itself through its relations with the oceans over time culturally, socially and economically. The ocean has become central to maintaining life and livelihoods in every respect. Nevertheless, we have yet to understand our impacts on this life source or to discover its interconnectivity beneath the surface. In this presentation, we'll discuss how oceans act as carbon sinks, plus the causes and impacts of plastic pollution, and the consequences of both.

Facilitator: Lori Delacruz Lewis is the assistant director of sustainability for education at Dallas College.

Register: Email Lori Delacruz Lewis to register -- LDelacruz@dcccd.edu -- or [join us on MS Teams](#).

Dallas College: New Story Maps Tools for a Riveting Presentation

Date: June 14

When: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Online

Want your students/classmates to be excited about your presentation? Switch to StoryMaps for an immersive experience that you can share in the classroom. ArcGIS has added some exciting new options: swipes, galleries, floating media, setting story language and navigation.

Presenter: Lori Delacruz Lewis, assistant director of sustainability for education at Dallas College.

Info: LDelacruz@dcccd.edu

Event Website:

<https://go.activecalendar.com/dcccd/event/new-storymap-tools-for-riveting-presen>

ICO - Inspiring Connections Outdoors

by Liz Wheelan, ICO Chair

What's going on?! Wondering why you haven't seen pictures and heard stories about our fun kids in ICO, our terrific program which provides outings for underserved youth? Our ICO program is taking a rest due to COVID-19. As soon as we get the OK, we'll be working on plans to get the kids back into nature and on trail. If you're interested in volunteering or

making a donation as we continue to pay for storage of all our kid friendly gear, please let us hear from you!
Liz@DallasSierraClub.org or (214) 368-2306.

Outings

by Mark Stein, Outings Chair

When Will Outings Resume?

The Sierra Club has decreed there will be no Chapter or Groups through July 4. After July 4, Chapter and Group outings will reopen at a lower capacity than pre-pandemic times. Like most local outings leaders, I'm trying to learn what a reduced capacity reopening will mean. Here's the guidance I've received, as sent in a May 24 email to Outings Chairs:

[The Outings / Activities Governance Team](#), Safety Program Staff, and Outings Program staff are working with the Executive Safety Team to develop a plan that provides (some) certainty. We are actively working to get a timeline and plan approved that will include/provide:

- insights from pilots
- simple and clear presentation
- opening dates (we will reopen slowly, so we might reopen some activities before others)
- clear guidelines for what requirements are temporary
- ability for volunteers and staff to determine if new training is needed

Ultimate decisions about reopening Sierra Club outings will be made by a three-member Executive Response Decision Team, comprised of Jen Trahan (national Club CFO), Ramon Cruz (national Club President), and Michael Brune (Executive Director). "Insight from pilots" in the list of reopening considerations doesn't refer to aviation, but to ten trial outings approved by the Club. The pilot trips will:

... test our COVID protocols across a range of day trips in a variety of locations and contexts. Feedback from these specially-picked trips will help ground-truth our protocols for improvement and practical application. Once complete, we can pilot more complex trips, start running short, simple trips on a limited basis as conditions allow, and build up to full operations through 2021.

It sounds like it could be months before we're allowed to resume outings as usual. If I were king, I'd make vaccinations and obedience to land management agency rules the new requirements for Sierra Club outings until we reach herd immunity, then get on with outings. But I'm not king.

This was the Hemphill Bald Trail, on the southeast edge of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in mid-May. It was an ideal week to hike in the backcountry!



TICKED OFF

Everything you need to know
about ticks



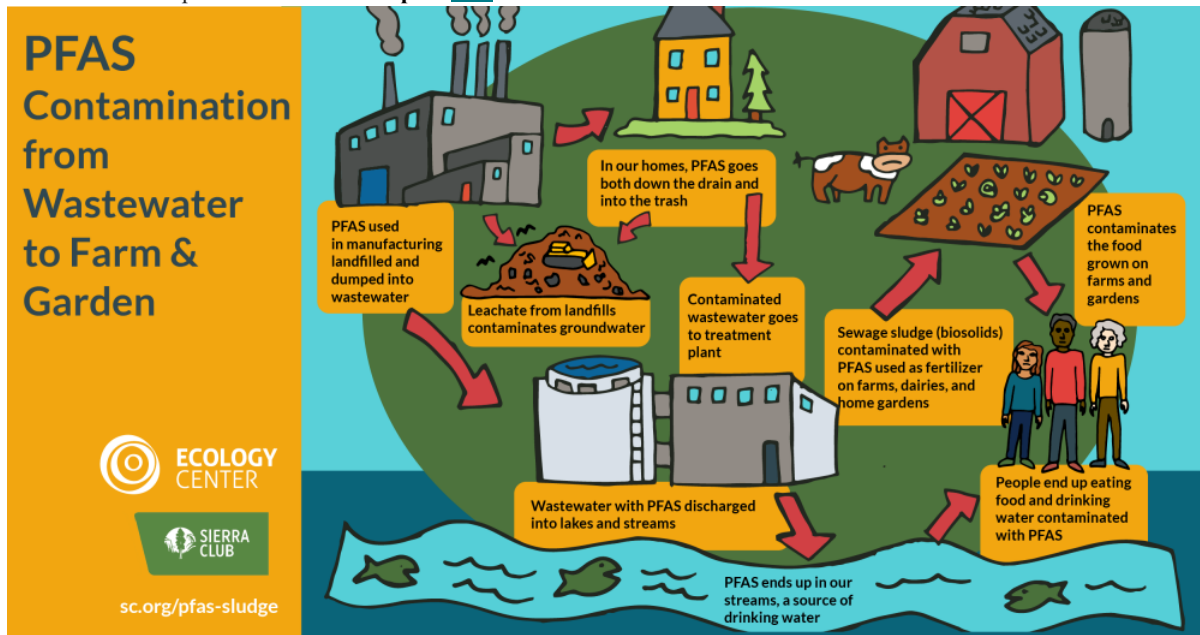
Ticked Off: Everything you need to know about ticks is a free webinar that you can watch [here](#). And [this resource guide](#) will provide additional information. Thank You! to John Rath and Catskill Mountainkeeper.

PFAS Warning

PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals that don't break down and they can accumulate over time. Exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health. PFAS are found in drinking water, packaged food, cookware, household products, the workplace, and contaminated soil and water used to grow food. Studies indicate that PFAS can cause reproductive, developmental, liver, and kidney problems; cancer; hormone and immune system problems; and increase cholesterol levels.

The Sierra Club and partners at the Ecology Center released a report that discusses PFAS in home fertilizers. Many home gardeners buy compost or commercial soil amendments to enhance soil nutrition. But new tests reveal concerning levels of

PFAS in fertilizer products. [Read the report here.](#)



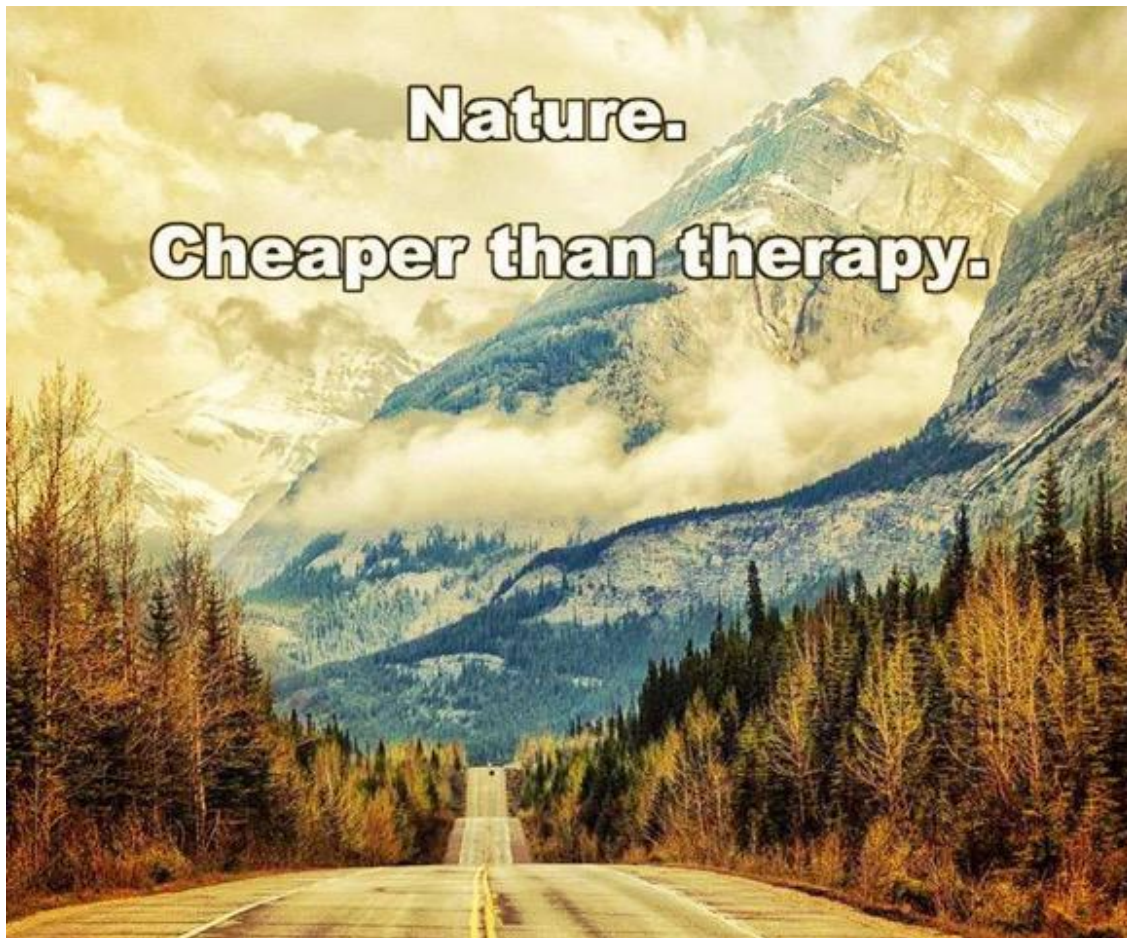
Sierran Profile - Karen Milam

I've been a member of the national Sierra Club for a number of years but only became active with the Dallas chapter last year, as virtual meetings have been easier for me to attend than the in-person ones. I joined the Sierra Club because of its long-standing reputation of empowering people through educational and actionable measures to both appreciate and protect many facets of the environment. The environmental issues adversely impact people in many ways, and we owe it to our children and future generations to be part of the solution, not the problem.



I have lived in the Dallas area nearly 40 years, and originally am from northwest Arkansas. The Buffalo National River and Ozark National Forest were my childhood playgrounds. I like conservation activities, photography, and bird watching, and I am a rock hound and a vegan. Two of my many favorite places in Nature are Buffalo National River (Arkansas) and Mount Hood (Oregon). When in Nature, I like to hike, take photos, and observe wildlife.

I am concerned about global warming, energy, air and water pollution, and parks / wildlife / land. It can be overwhelming to digest all of the environmental issues, but starting with little changes can add up! As individuals, we can measure how our daily actions impact the environment and create new positive habits whenever possible. In addition, we can lend our voice and volunteer efforts with organizations like the Sierra Club to collectively work together to make the necessary changes. Whether you have a little or a lot of time to volunteer, it will make a difference!



Et Cetera

To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles. - Mary Davis

Did you hear about the psychiatrist on a hike who fell into a depression?

Recommended reading

[A Walk in the Woods](#) by **Bill Bryson**

Bryson recounts his travails on trails as he and a friend walk part of the Appalachian Trail. The comical yet heartfelt memoir is made all the more surreal by the fact that Bryson had no actual experience in hiking. This classic is for hikers and non-hikers alike.

Available at most libraries, and at local and online bookstores

[Strangers In Their Own Land](#) by **Arlie Russell Hochschild**

This is a thought-provoking book that gives insight into why some conservatives think the way that they do. I have wondered why some people seem (to me) to vote against their own interests, and this book showed me why. - Kirk Miller

Available at the Dallas, Richardson, and Plano libraries, and at local and online bookstores

[60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Dallas-Fort Worth](#) by **Joanie S nchez**

This detailed guide presents the best day-hikes in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Each hike description features key information on length, hiking time, difficulty, configuration, scenery, traffic, trail surface, and accessibility, as well as information on the history and natural history of the area.

Available at the Dallas, Richardson, and Plano libraries, and at local and online bookstores

[Best Tent Camping: Texas: Your Car-Camping Guide to Scenic Beauty, the Sounds of Nature, and an Escape from](#)

Civilization by Wendel Withrow

The Lone Star State provides a spectacular backdrop for some of the most scenic campgrounds in the country, from the High Plains of the Panhandle to the beautiful beaches of the Gulf Coast. But do you know which campgrounds offer the most privacy? Which are the best for first-time campers? Wendel Withrow has traversed the entire state and compiled the most up-to-date research to steer you to the perfect spot! Whether you seek a quiet campground near a fish-filled stream or a family campground with all the amenities, grab *Best Tent Camping: Texas*. It's not only a guidebook; it's an escape manual for all who wish to navigate the back roads of Texas to find those special locales that recharge the head, heart, and soul. This guide is a keeper.

Available at the Dallas, Richardson, and Plano libraries, and at local and online bookstores. To get a signed copy of Wendel's book, contact him by email - Wendel@DallasSierraClub.org

Limerick

Went out hiking with friends; had a mind to

Reach the mountaintop but was resigned to

Reach the top all alone.

My friends wouldn't condone

A steep hike 'cause they just weren't inclined to.

- by Kirk Miller

What do you think?

What things would you like to see in the newsletter - changes, improvements, reading recommendations, feedback on articles? Please let us know. This is YOUR newsletter. Feedback is welcome (comments, suggestions, letters to the Editor, etc.). Please submit items to newsletter@DallasSierraClub.org

Previous issues of our newsletter are available [here](#).

Calendar

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

Jun 8 (Tue) Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

A New Normal: Environmental Nonprofits and Paid 'Volunteers' - Everyone is invited. Details are on our home page now.

Jul 4 (Sun) No outings through July 4, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the national office of the Sierra Club has precluded all local Sierra Club outings through at least July 4, 2021. The Dallas Group of the Sierra Club will resume outings when we have clearance to do so. Hopefully, recent CDC advice that contagion risk is extremely low for vaccinated people in small groups in the outdoors will usher resumption of Sierra Club outings this fall! Contact: Mark Stein Send Email 214-789-4596

Jul 7 (Wed) Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (Excom) is the elected governing body of the Dallas Sierra Club and meets at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. For more information, contact the Dallas Group Chair.

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