

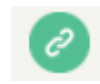
EXPLORE. ENJOY. PROTECT.



Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - August, 2021



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Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, August 10

How water contaminates our environment

Please join us as we welcome water resources engineer, Craig Taylor, for a discussion of natural water cycles and contaminant transport. This presentation will focus on how water naturally moves through the environment and how that movement can spread environmental contamination through our groundwater and surface waters. This will include a discussion of common management strategies for contaminated sites.



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

CDC Updates Mask Guidance / Governor Abbott Issues New Executive Order

On Tuesday, July 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that Americans wear masks indoors again, particularly in crowded indoor settings. The new indoor mask recommendations apply to vaccinated and unvaccinated people who live in [areas where the CDC has classified COVID-19 transmission as "high" or "substantial,"](#) a category that includes Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, and Collin counties.

Citing new information about the ability of the delta variant to spread among vaccinated people, the CDC also recommended indoor masks for teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks prevent infected individuals from exposing others to the virus and protect uninfected people by forming a protective barrier to large respiratory droplets.

On July 29, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued [Executive Order 38](#) that combines several Executive Orders and specifically states there are no COVID-19-related operating limits for any business or other establishment. It encourages individuals to follow safe practices (wear face coverings, social distancing, etc.) in high transmission areas, but also says that people cannot be mandated to wear face coverings by any jurisdiction. It also says that this order supersedes any conflicting orders issued by local officials. With "leadership" like that, we are likely in for a very long haul before things return to "normal."

For information on finding a vaccine provider in the area, please visit www.vaccines.gov.

Sierra Club national will not be revising existing guidance before the end of September. At that time, we are likely to get guidance we really didn't want to hear. Our Outings Committee leadership is staying current with national outings guidance, and trying to schedule the necessary training for leaders so we will be ready to resume outings as soon as national allows.

Until then, I ask you to stay patient and involved. We will continue to hold our ExCom and general meetings via Zoom. The club newsletter, and certain committee newsletters, will continue to be made available to members. There is no need to lose touch with your club. KEEP THE FAITH!

Conservation / Eco Action

by Victoria Howard, Conservation Committee Chair

Fellow Environmentalists,

The Eco Action Committee and I have been working closely with the residents in the groups *Clean Up Garland* and *Meadowlark Concerned Citizens* who have been advocating for the EPA to get involved and address the high levels of industrial pollution and cancer rates in Garland (specifically near the intersection of Shiloh Rd and Forest). Finally, the EPA has started testing and discovered that inorganic lead levels are more than 30% higher than safety allows in some Garland neighborhoods and schoolyards. There's also concern for high arsenic levels in the same locations. This has recently made local TV and print news. The EPA has finally scheduled a public meeting, virtually, for August 5th, 2021, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

We desperately need help getting the word out on social media and by distributing English and Spanish language fliers in the local neighborhoods in Garland. It is our goal to get a plethora of residents to turn out to hold the EPA and industrial polluters accountable in a public and documented forum.

I've included the links to the *Clean Up Garland* website where you can view the data highlighting the high cancer rates in the nearby neighborhoods as well as links to the *Dallas Morning News* Article and EPA notices. Also, please check out *Clean Up Garland* and *Meadowlark Concerned Citizens* Facebook pages for more information!

If there's any way you can help, please let me know! You can reach me directly at: victoria@dallassierraclub.org
Thanks,

Victoria

Clean Up Garland Website: <https://www.cleanupgarland.org/>

Dallas Morning News Article (published 7/30/21):

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/environment/2021/07/30/garland-isd-fenced-off-contaminated-areas-of-park-crest-elementary-residents-want-more-answers/?outputType=amp>

EPA Story Map (Globe Union 1111 Shiloh Rd):

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5d4359b40db241ff98fe235fbc6d626a>

EPA Public Meeting Flier/Link for August 5th, 2021:

<https://response.epa.gov/sites/14728/files/Globe%20Union%20Virtual%20Community%20Meeting%20Notice.pdf>

ICO - Outdoor Adventures with Underserved Youth!

by Liz Wheelan, ICO Chair

Miss our warm and fuzzy stories and pictures of kids enjoying the outdoors? Me too! Our Club's COVID related hold on outings has stalled fun in the sun for many, including our ICO. What's ICO? Since 1987 our Dallas Sierra Club's ICO program has provided day hikes, camping, backpacking, environmental service activities ♦ an array of outings, all at no cost to underserved kiddos. ICO (♦ Inspiring Connections Outdoors', previously named Inner City Outings), is to me one of the most valuable programs of our extraordinary Club. Started in the San Francisco Bay area in the late 70s, ICO is an amazing program of dedicated Sierra Club adult volunteers sharing their time and love of the outdoors with youth who without ICO would not otherwise have these experiences. The program has grown to over 50 ICO programs nationwide. Through ICO, kids of today learn to enjoy nature, outdoor skills, Leave No Trace, teamwork and our conservation values ♦ all qualities to help them become stewards of our future.



Sadly, there are all too many kiddos who grow up not knowing the freedom of roaming in the woods, hearing the sounds, smelling the fragrances, or seeing the beauty and uniqueness of nature. Gradually over recent years educators, physical and mental health professionals have acknowledged the value of outdoor time for youth ♦ unstructured time to use their imaginations, senses and muscles, to open their minds in a way screen time and books just don't allow. Through Dallas ICO, volunteers have taken kids used to cement under foot to the dirt of local nature centers and preserves, state parks, even a few national parks, from as close as Cedar Ridge Preserve to as far away as Colorado and New Mexico. Most outings are simple Saturday day trips to a local destination. We hope to get ICO back on trail this fall and **need volunteers to make it possible**. No required hours or special skills needed ♦ only a desire to share the outdoors with kids and a Saturday now and then during the fall and spring. Sound like something you'd enjoy? Questions? Please let me know so you can be added to our group email list and notified of our next Volunteer Orientation. (Yes, since we work with youth there's a bit of training, paperwork and a background check involved.) Don't have the time but want to help? Each ICO program depends on local funding for outing related expenses. Donations of any amount are truly appreciated and needed. Contact: Liz@dallassierraclub.org

Outings

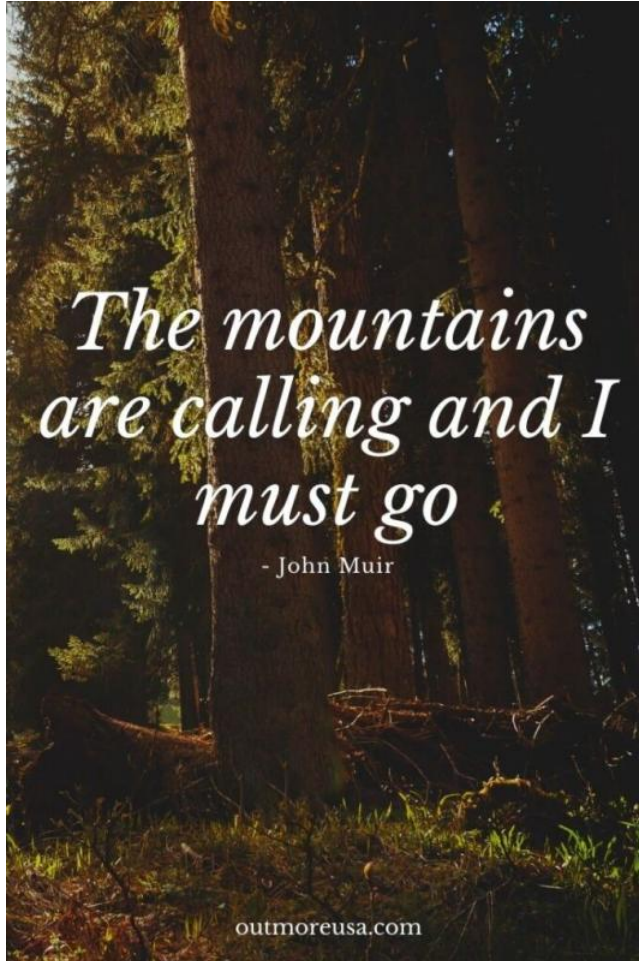
by Mark Stein, Outings Chair

It's August. Our outings leaders have the good sense not to hike in the sun when temps hover in the 90s and 100s. Take your personal hikes or walks in the early hours of the day or evening.

In a normal year, we'd be getting ready for a Sierra Club trip on Labor Day weekend to hike in the mountains of New Mexico or Colorado. A general problem when we take people on trips sponsored by the Sierra Club to most National Forest properties and many National Parks is that the permit processes we're required to follow now require

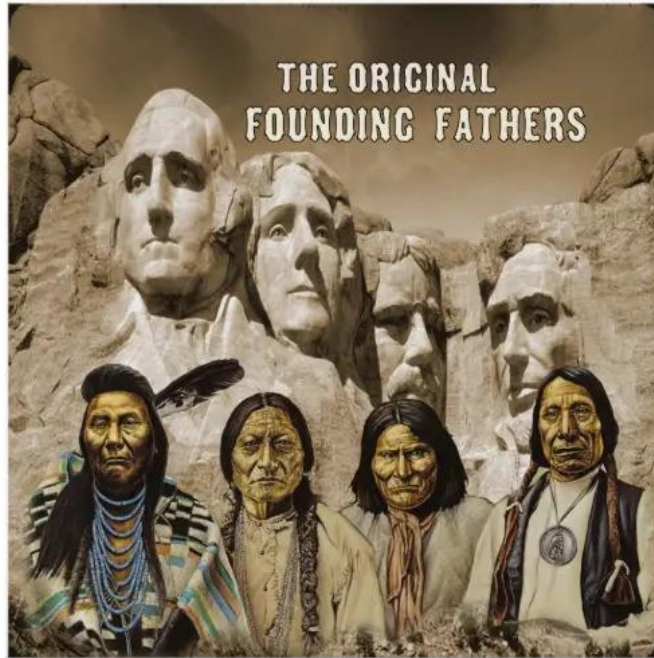
months of advance planning and paperwork. Reservations for camping almost any weekend at Texas State Parks are essential and group campsites are few. With COVID, that early planning just couldn't happen this year.

Our current thrust for the outings calendar is getting our leaders re-certified to lead again after almost all leaders' training credentials expired during the pandemic. We'll offer day hike and overnight hike options in September. The big annual outing to backpack or day hike at Big Bend National Park is scheduled for February 9-13. Details and registration are not yet available.



**Click [here](#) to watch a short video that shows
how an innovative, enterprising man makes
Paper from elephant poop**





Sierran Profile - Ginger Bradley

I was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Albuquerque when I was four, and raised in Albuquerque. I joined the Sierra Club in Albuquerque in 1982, for two decades, then moved to Dallas and joined the Dallas Group in 2006. My father was a lifelong Sierra Club member, and he loved to take us to the mountains and hiking, and he had some great hiking books written by Sierra Club members. I joined for the hiking/backpacking and anti-nukes and anti-pollution involvement.



My favorite Club activities are backpacking, camping, and attending informative meetings such as the Tree Guy, Critter Man, and the Dirt Doctor. I also like kayaking, collecting bandannas, and different kinds of green chile. My favorite foods are green chile from New Mexico, popcorn, pizza, and Beyond Burgers.

My favorite places in Nature are the Grand Canyon (been there at least 15 times), the Santa Fe National Forest, and Montana. I need to go to Montana again; it was incredible. I like to hike, swim, backpack, camp, have fires, drink beer, and discover new plants and trees.

A couple of notable experiences:

1. I got lost in Santa Fe National Forest, in the snow, in July, and lived to tell about it. We did 16 miles with full packs on, until we finally were found. The first thing we saw was a happy family and they had a puppy named Hebsabah. I will never forget that puppy; I think it was some kind of weird angel (the Dog), but not sure.
2. Most embarrassing moment, or at least in the top 5: I was in Telluride at the Bluegrass festival, also in July. It was freaking freezing (imagine that). I was in a little cafe in the morning, taking a whiz, but forgot to lock the door. A man opened the door and I had my pants pulled down and a wad of toilet paper in my mouth (clean, though), and he said, "OH, Sorry!" I replied, "Well, CRAP!"

I am anti-nukes, anti-fracking, and pro-solar. I like to pick up trash when possible. People who care about the earth always seem to work together just fine. It's just battling the selfish individuals and people who don't care about the future (or the environment) that is the hardest. Screw the right wingers; they seem to only care about the almighty dollar, themselves, and nothing else, which is maddening. You can't deny it. Look at the last Scorched Earth Administration!

Don't you hate it when people lie to your face, over and over? I can't stand it. It makes me want to throw poo at

them, like the monkeys do to us humans when visiting the zoo.

Some things that most people don't know: I have six brothers, I'm a life-long auditor, and my mom died when I was 16, so I was free to do whatever I wanted, which I did.

Et Cetera

What if climate change is a hoax and we create a better world for nothing?

**You're off to great places, today is your day.
Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way. - Dr. Seuss**

Mountains aren't just funny. They're hill-areas.

Recommended reading

***Paved A Way: Infrastructure, Policy and Racism in an American City* by Collin Yarbrough**

This book tells the stories of five neighborhoods in Dallas and how they were shaped by racism and economic oppression. The communities look nothing like what they did during their prime. Their declines were intentional; their foundations were chipped away over time. The book is an eye-opening look at the various factors that led, and continue to lead, to dissolution of neighborhoods. And it offers solutions to reverse these age-old practices. - Kirk Miller

Available at the Dallas library and at local and online bookstores.

***Texas Nature and Environmental Centers Guide* by Dan Moulton**

This book serves as an environmental education reference, and also as a nature center travel guide. It's a virtual short course on environmental science for non-scientists. Teachers and group leaders (including parents) can use this book to help plan field trips and locate educational resources. The appended Environmental Primer will familiarize you with major environmental issues facing us, and direct you to websites where you can learn more about specific environmental problems and potential solutions.

Available at local and online bookstores

***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

Previous book recommendations are [here](#).

Limerick

I was sleeping outside of my tent.

In the morning, sun rose and it meant

 Since I no longer dozed,

 Couldn't keep my eyes closed.

Waking up: an eye-opening event.

- 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.

August 10, Tuesday - General Meeting

How water contaminates our environment - Everyone is invited. Details are on our home page now.

September 1, Wednesday - 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.

September 14, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details will be on our home page soon.

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