

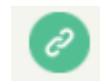
EXPLORE. ENJOY. PROTECT.



Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - September, 2021



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Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, September 14

The Next Generation of Environmental Leaders

Please join us as we welcome Katharina Kang, Education Director of Groundwork Dallas, and her colleagues Samantha Conejo and Adrian Sanchez as they outline *The Trinity River Crew*'s innovative program which provides meaningful, paid conservation work experience, education, leadership skills, and professional development training to high-potential youth from historically marginalized areas along the Trinity River.



The purpose of this program is to encourage and empower local youth through cultivating their leadership skills and providing educational and professional development opportunities as they complete meaningful conservation projects while under the guidance and expertise of *Trinity Park Conservancy* and *Groundwork Dallas*. Projects to be discussed will include: conducting water quality assessments, bird surveys, blackland prairie restoration, wetland restoration, invasive species removals, bee sanctuary creation, urban garden designing, and monofilament recycling bin production.

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

GET READY TO GIVE!
9.23.21

Donate to:  **SIERRA CLUB**
DALLAS GROUP

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
—NTX—
GIVING DAY
9.23.21 presented by amazon

Mark your calendar to donate to the Dallas Sierra Club on September 23, 2021, as part of North Texas Giving Day.

Due to COVID-19, Dallas Sierra Club fundraising activities have been severely limited, but our work on social and environmental justice, wilderness preservation, clean air and clean water, and a mountain of other issues goes on. We need your help to keep us in the fight!

Contributions will be matched at a rate of approximately 6% plus the Club will be eligible for special bonuses from North Texas Giving Day. For more information, see <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/sierra-club-foundation-fiscal-sponsor-for-dallas-sierra-club>. You can submit a donation now to be automatically charged on the 23rd.

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

Our Treasurer, Arthur Kuehne, recently pointed out these two articles that deal with the Sierra Club's internal turmoil over institutional racism and who the founder, John Muir, really was. If you have been wondering what is going on at National and if John Muir was a racist, I urge you to read these articles. It takes about 10 - 15 minutes to read both articles. If you read both, then read them in the order they are listed. If you only read one, then read the second one listed.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/16/sierra-club-racist-internal-fight-505407>

<https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/who-was-john-muir-really/>

ICO - Inspiring Connections Outdoors

by Liz Wheelan, ICO Chair

Getting ICO Program for Kids Back On Trail

Yes, the pandemic put a hold on our wonderful Inspiring Connections Outdoors ('ICO') program. As schools settle into a new 'norm' and the Delta variant continues to raise issues, we're continuing to monitor the situation to determine when we can regroup and safely get these amazing underserved kids back into nature. In the meantime, I continue to seek giving oriented volunteers interested in helping us at least a few Saturdays each fall and spring to help with the outings. Sound like your kind of fun? If so, please contact me at Lizwico@aol.com. The more volunteers we have, the more kiddos we can help enjoy the outdoors!

Outings

by Mark Stein, Outings Chair

Rebuilding the Outings Program

Outings leader retraining after eighteen months of a COVID-based absence of Sierra Club outings is a priority for the Dallas Sierra Club. Only three leaders had full credentials to lead outings as of early September. Sixteen Dallas Group outings leaders won renewal of their leader training credential at a September 1 training session for current and lapsed leaders. Retraining after four years is required for all Sierra Club outings leaders.

Basic or advanced first aid certification is also required for all Sierra Club outings leaders within the two years prior to leading any outing. Since inception of Covid-19, in-person first aid classes have been neither practical nor cost-effective. Most of our Dallas leaders still require first aid training certification before leading again. To quickly rebuild our pool of outings leaders, leaders with certificates from a previous first aid class are now encouraged to secure online first aid certification.

Our targets for outings are day hikes in September, adding overnight outings in October. Check the blue [Outings](#) tab and [Our Outings List](#) for notices of scheduled outings. Bear with us as we rebuild to our pre-Covid level of offerings.



Et Cetera

Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread. - Edward Abbey

I will believe corporations are people when Texas executes one.

Plateaus are the highest form of flattery.

Recommended reading

***Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken**

This book lists one hundred things that could draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These are practical, economical things (many are technologies) that are cost-effective and can be done now. Hawken writes a paragraph or two about each item -- in non-technical language -- giving the methodology and science behind each. Very interesting. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

***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

Previous book recommendations are [here](#).

Limerick

Conservationists often have smiled
When in nature because they're beguiled
 By the sights and the sounds
 Which in nature abounds,
And their thoughts often tend to run wild.
- 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.

September 14, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details will be on our home page soon.

September 23, Thursday - North Texas Giving Day

Due to COVID-19, Dallas Sierra Club fundraising activities have been severely limited, but our work on social and environmental justice, wilderness preservation, clean air and clean water, and a mountain of other issues goes on. We need your help to keep us in the fight!

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October 6, 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.

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