

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - January, 2022



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Help Stop Hazardous Pollution!

Proposed Concrete Batch Plant 1 Mile from the McKinney Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary... We need your help!

What: OnlineTexas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) public hearing

When: Monday, January 10, 2022, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

We Need Your Help

- 1) Please attend the public hearing via webcast at the following link: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar/join-webinar>, Webinar ID# 914819659. Join and register the webinar at least 15 minutes before the hearing starts.
- 2) Please also email your [opposition](#) about this permit at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ [Registration # 166972](#)

What this is about: TXI Operations has applied to the TCEQ for an Air Quality Standard Permit for a Concrete Batch Plant to be built at 1825 FM Rd 546, McKinney, TX. Property site size is over 39 acres, and they want this to be a permanent Concrete Batch plant where the primary function of this plant is to manufacture concrete by mixing materials including (but not limited to) sand, aggregate, cement, and water.

Why this is a concern: This proposed site is directly north of land owned by North Texas Natural Select Materials, who despite huge resident opposition, was granted their request by the City Council to be annexed into the City of McKinney so they could build a Concrete Recycling Facility. Therefore, this

means that there will be TWO concrete plants operating in the same vicinity unless we take action.

What is the overall concern for the Heard Museum? Both of these properties are a little over a mile from the Heard Museum Sanctuary boundary, next door to the Fairview Soccer Club, and Cornerstone Ranch (a home for special needs adults). This is of great concern because of the potential harmful effects on nature and humans from hazardous particulate matter and concrete dust in the air, polluted water run-off, and diesel fumes pollution.

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, January 11

Fix the Grid

Dave Cortez, Director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter, will talk about working to promote development of a sustainable, reliable, and affordable U.S. electric grid for 21st-century renewable energy.

Dave Cortez is a third generation El Pasoan now based out of Austin where he lives with his partner and almost 4 year old daughter. He grew up and learned organizing on the frontera, where industrial pollution, poverty, gentrification, racism and the border wall are seen as intersecting issues. Dave has been organizing in the Texas environmental movement for 16 years.



The recent winter storm was the latest example of a crisis of multiple intersecting struggles. While Dave and his family were without power for about 60 hours and without water for several days, the trauma and stress of protecting his toddler daughter from the stress of the storm still lingers. Dave is supporting staff and volunteers across Texas who are organizing to center racial justice and equity in their work to win environmental justice, to expand clean energy, and to protect the land and resources so every Texan has access to clean water and clean air.

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:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99535860396>

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,99535860396#

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 995 3586 0396

Note from the Chair

by Dan Moultonn

I know that everyone is wondering when we will be able to have our monthly general meetings in person again. David Griggs and Arthur Kuehne are now reviewing a contract with Brookhaven College to use the same room we had when the pandemic shut us down. We are now operating under the assumption that our first meeting will be in April. Of course, the pandemic may require that we alter our plans. At any rate, the day is coming when we can all get together once again. Until then, keep the faith and be patient!

Our general meeting (Zoom) on Tuesday, January 11 will feature the new Director of the Lone Star Chapter, Dave Cortez, speaking about the Texas electrical grid. We would like to have a nice turnout for this meeting, so please make an effort to attend. The Zoom link is available in this Newsletter, on our website, and on our social media sites.

Outings

by Mark Stein

Outdoor Leader Training

We're excited that at least seven prospective outings leaders will train with us at **Eisenhower State Park** on Lake Texoma. The two-day training event on

January 22 and 23 will be supported by current outings leaders and will include a training hike and options to camp or sleep in a heated meeting space.

Big Bend Outing

All 25 places on the February 9-13 outing to backpack and hike in or near **Big Bend National Park** were claimed by mid-December, with a short waitlist now hoping to participate. This will be our first overnight outing since COVID required a shutdown of Sierra Club outings in March 2020. COVID vaccinations were a requirement for all registrants. Masks aren't required outdoors, but are required indoors, including in restrooms and in carpools once arrived at the park.

Profile: John Lingenfelder

John is a long-time member of the Sierra Club, having served as a Dallas Sierra Club's ExCom member for many years and previously as the group's chair for two. Also, he has been a member of the Lone Star Chapter's ExCom for over six years and serves as secretary. Though long retired, John is licensed to assist seniors with applying for the FHA Reverse Mortgage. John and his wife, Chris, have lived in Plano for over 30 years along with a variable number of house cats (currently four). There are five grandchildren locally and two more in the Alamo City -- none of whom he sees anywhere close to enough. He attempts to keep in shape to participate in organized hikes and backpacking when the opportunity and circumstance allow it. John is an avid reader of historical and political nonfiction.



In addition to being active with the local and state Sierra Clubs, he is active with other local groups. He is on the board of the local Audubon Society, serving as Treasurer, and on the board of the local Native Plant Society of Texas. John has had a strong interest in Texas' water -- quality and quantity. This is why he recently joined the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Western States group, to work with other Sierra Club members across the nation who are likewise working on water quality and quantity concerns.

Related to water closer to home, seven years ago, John became one of the 22-board members of this region's water planning group, of which there are 16 such recognized groups statewide. The regional water planning groups were authorized by the Texas Legislature over 25 years ago and are within the structure of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Our region's group is the Region C Water Planning Group and represents the water supply interests of 17 counties. The group works to coordinate the planning by major water suppliers and providers in ascertaining water needs of the 300 retail water entities that directly supply the almost 8 million people in the area. This is done with the publication of a regional water plan every five years. Each of the 16 water planning groups does the same and these plans are accumulated by the TWDB and published as the state's water plan.

Among John's passions, a major one is keeping abreast of the state of our planet and the numerous effects from excessive Global Warming Gases on it. Another is the continual battle to shed to light on the long and ugly history of environmental racism and the work needed to overcome the effects of it.

One benefit of the pandemic has been the explosion of online meetings and webinars. John is the Zoom Meeting host of three for the Dallas Sierra Club -- the monthly ExCom, General and Conservation committee meetings. He also attends several monthly Zoom presentations given by other Sierra Club groups which always seem to have interesting topics. Additionally, there are online presentations related to astronomy, lectures on history, and other interesting presentations. These "finds" just go along with what John has always believed -- life is a continuum of being constantly exposed to some new thing and being curious and interested enough to learn about it. Little gray cells that are continually fed new little items to chew over seem to keep one's brain alive and young despite the ongoing physical dissipation.

Recommended Viewing

A whale of a video, 5 minutes, [click here](#)

How Wolves Change Rivers, 4 minutes, [click here](#)

Sierra Club Outdoors, 3 minutes, [click here](#)

Green Bronx Machine, 25 minutes, [click here](#)

Please give us YOUR viewing recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

Recommended Reading

***Forget The Alamo* by Bryan Burrough, Chris Tomlinson, and Jason Stanford**

This book was researched very well and reveals that some things taught in school are whitewashed history. It is an easy, interesting read. The book contains tidbits such as:

- Irony: In the 1800s, Mexico passed a law prohibiting Americans from crossing the border to Mexico (but they didn't threaten to build a wall to keep Americans out).
- The Texas constitution remains the only one in world history to guarantee slavery and actually outlaw any and all emancipation.
- Phil Collins' obsession with the Alamo artifacts
- The Texas School Board and politicians censoring history books

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

***Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About The World -- And Why Things Are Better Than You Think* by Hans Rosling**

When asked simple questions about global trends - why the world's population is increasing; how many young women go to school; how many of us live in poverty - we systematically get the answers wrong. So wrong that a chimpanzee choosing answers at random will consistently outguess journalists, Nobel laureates, and investment bankers.

The world, for all its imperfections, is in a much better state than we might think. But when we worry about everything all the time instead of embracing a worldview based on facts, we can lose our ability to focus on the things that threaten us most. This book offers a new explanation of why this happens, and reveals the ten instincts that distort our perspective.

This book might change the way you see the world.

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

***The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate - Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben**

This fascinating book explains the science behind the secret and previously unknown life of trees and their communication abilities. Trees communicate through underground fungal networks; they share nutrients, send distress signals, and nurture each other. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

Previous book recommendations are [here](#).

Please give us YOUR reading recommendations via newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

How sad it must be
- believing that scientists,
scholars, historians,
economists, and journalists
have devoted their entire
lives to deceiving you, while
a reality tv star with decades
of fraud and exhaustively
documented lying is your only
beacon of truth and honesty.

Et Cetera

My father considered a walk among the mountains as the equivalent of churchgoing - Aldous Huxley

Critical thinking: the real national deficit

See those rocks? Don't take 'em all for granite.

Limerick

I find city life oft takes a toll.
When I'm out in the woods, I feel whole.
Here ensconced among trees,
I feel light as a breeze

Because Nature is good for the soul.
- by Kirk Miller

Let Us Know

Please let us know **your opinion**. Give us **an article** for the newsletter. Give us **feedback** on articles. What would you like to see in the newsletter? Changes? Improvements? What **books** and **videos** do you recommend? Please let us know. This is YOUR newsletter. Feedback is welcome (comments, suggestions, letters to the Editor, etc.). Submit feedback to newsletter@dallassierraclub.org

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

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](#).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

January 10, Tuesday - Help Stop Hazardous Pollution

Proposed Concrete Batch Plant 1 Mile from the McKinney Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary... We need your help! [Click here](#) for details on our Club's calendar.

January 11, Tuesday - General Meeting

Fix the grid. Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

January 22-23, Saturday-Sunday - Outings Leader Training

SAVE THIS WEEKEND for Outings Leader Training for new leaders! Whether your interest is day hikes or multi-day backpacking, the Dallas Sierra Club actively seeks new leaders. We've reserved the heated meeting space and dining hall at Eisenhower State Park, near Denison, for new leader training. Sleep Saturday night in your tent or inside the building on your air mattress or cot. Come for tales from current leaders and role-playing situations you might experience as a leader. The only fee for the weekend is a \$10 park admission. This is an event offered only once every year or two. Don't miss it! Call or email for inquiries. Coordinator: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214 526 3733

February 2, 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.

February 9-13, Wednesday-Sunday - Big Bend National Park

We missed our annual outing to hike in the Big Bend due to COVID in 2021, but we're going there in 2022! This year's trip will offer a choice of three hiking/backpacking itineraries for a maximum of 25 participants. We've reserved campsites in the Chisos Basin, the Chisos Mountains, and Rio Grande Village. See how the Chisos ecosystem is recovering from a spring 2021 fire in the Chisos Mountains or view Boquillas Canyon from the remote Marufo Vega Trail. [Click here](#) for complete trip details and sign-up information. Coordinator: Mark Stein [Send Email](#) 214 789 4596

March 2, 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
