

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - February, 2022



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## Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, February 8

### **The Trust for Public Land**

The Trust for Public Land has worked with communities for over 45 years to achieve their Mission of connecting everyone to the outdoors, one community at a time. Have vacant land in your neighborhood? Illegal dumping? Learn how to beautify any neighborhood with a Natural Park. The Five Mile Creek Green Belt Master Plan has developed vacant land into Nature Trails and Parks using this Master Plan. South Oak Cliff Renaissance Park is transforming vacant land adjacent South Oak Cliff High School.



Robert Kent is the Texas state director for The Trust for Public Land, where he works to ensure every Texan is able to experience the health, climate, equity, and community benefits of close-to-home access to parks and nature. Since joining the organization in 2014, Robert and his colleagues in Texas have developed city- and regional-scale conservation plans, acquired hundreds of acres of land for new parks and nature preserves, developed numerous community-driven park master plans, advocated for hundreds of millions of dollars in new public funding for parks and conservation, and expanded park access to hundreds of thousands of Texans. Prior to working for The Trust for Public Land, Robert served as the policy director for the North Texas Commission. Robert received his BA from Baylor University, where he studied economics and environmental science, and his MSc from the University of Glasgow, where he studied international economic development.

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

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## Outings

by Mark Stein



### **Eight New Outings Leaders Trained in January**

Eight outings leader candidates participated in a Saturday-Sunday Outings Leader Training (OLT) workshop at Eisenhower State Park on Lake Texoma January 22-23. Pictured left to right are Tharani Devi Krishnakumar, Jim Robarge, Jennifer Kimble, Eduardo Gonzalez, Kevin Thompson, Stacey Donovan, Paula Biestek, and Valerie Bartley. "We have reason to be proud of this outstanding group of future leaders," says Outings Chair Mark Stein.

Liz Wheelan, Arthur Kuehne, Lynn Marple, Claudia Blalock, and Stein participated in the OLT program as instructors and advisors.

Paula Biestek and Eduardo Gonzalez, veteran backpackers with the Dallas Sierra Club, will lead hikes on the annual DSC outing at Big Bend National Park this month.

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## Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

The Executive Committee (Excom) elections have resulted in 5 new Excom members: Victoria Howard, reelected  
Reneé Roberson, reelected  
Sahan Yerram, reelected  
Arthur Keuhne, new  
Kathryn Bazan, new

They join Dan Moulton, Wendel Withrow, John Lingenfelder, and Liz Wheelan on our Excom.

At the January Excom meeting the following officers were reelected for 2022: Dan Moulton, Chair  
Wendel Withrow, Vice Chair  
Arthur Keuhne, Treasurer  
Sahan Yerram, Secretary

All Committee Chairs remain the same: Victoria Howard, Conservation/Eco Action  
Mark Stein, Outings  
Reneé Roberson/Victoria Howard, Programs  
Wendel Withrow, Membership  
David Griggs, Political  
Liz Wheelan, ICO

This is your leadership team for 2022. Ninety percent of life is just showing up!

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## Black History Month Feature

### Dr. Robert D. Bullard Receives United Nations 2020 Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) honored Dr. Robert D. Bullard, "father of environmental justice," with the 2020 Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award, the UN's highest environmental honor, recognizing outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.

"The Sierra Club has long recognized the rightness and necessity of environmental justice work, and we couldn't be more proud of having Dr. Bullard's name on our new award honoring those who have followed in his footsteps," said Sierra Club President David Scott. Just last year, the Sierra Club gave me the John Muir Award, its highest award that recognizes individuals with a distinguished record of achievement in national or international conservation causes.



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### Profile: Victoria Howard

(Conservation / Eco action chair and Programs co-chair)

I was born and raised in the same North Texas rural town I now reside in. When my town discontinued our curbside recycling program in 2017, I reached out to every environmental organization in Texas that I could find for help. Only two responded, the Dallas Sierra Club and Texas Campaign for the Environment. Rita Beving, Dick Guldi, and Chris Guldi were immediately supportive and helped advise me the entirety of my campaign. With the help of DSC and TCE's Corey Troiani, our grassroots fight to reinstate curbside recycling was successful! That is when I joined the Dallas Sierra Club.



I have been an organic gardener of medicinal and culinary herbs and plants most of my life. I have been classified by our neighbors as the "plant hoarder" (a title that I wear with pride), which gives you some insight into how many plants I have. Additionally, I live by the motto, "Life is too short to drink bad wine, bad coffee, or listen to bad music." So there is always a multitude of different varieties of music playing in the background (everything from Afro-Celt to Johnny Mathis, Enya to Beethoven with some alternative rock for good measure) and a tasty beverage of some kind in hand. I've also studied French for the last 8 years and enjoy the turn of phrase with my Belgian friends and family. My favorite foods would be any of the recipes from my Swedish mom and her extended family. Every holiday and special occasion brings out the multi-generational recipes from my recipe box. Although, if I were to dine out, my favorite food is Indian (any region is fabulous).

My favorite places in nature would be the acreage where we now live and the property I grew up on.

My biggest worry is large industrial polluters (like Concrete Batch Plants, Recycling Facilities, and other large producers) and the continued use of lawn products containing glyphosate (Round Up).

I know it's not sexy, but the best way to catch large and small polluters and exact change is to actively check one's local City Council Agenda, Planning and Zoning Agenda, and TCEQ permit requests. This only takes about 10 minutes one day a week, but it's the best way to find out what is around the corner and oppose it.

I was entirely homeschooled until I went to college, and I continue the tradition with my own kiddos.

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## Recommended Viewing

About the Sierra Club, 2 minutes, [click here](#)

How Tasmanian devils heal forests, 6 minutes, [click here](#)

How beavers engineer the land, 6 minutes, [click here](#)

Previous video recommendations are [here](#)

Please give us YOUR viewing recommendations via [newsletter@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@dallassierraclub.org)

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## Recommended Reading

Click on a book's title (below) for a link to information about the book at [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)

[\*The City and the Coming Climate\*](#) by Brian Stone, Jr.

This book taught me that there are many aspects of climate change that I wasn't aware of -- and that many of the world's climate change powers also are not aware of. Consequently, we are not addressing some of the most urgent climate change problems.

Most large U.S. cities not only are warming faster than the planet as a whole, they are warming at double the rate of global climate change, with major implications for human health. The implications for city dwellers are suggested by the 2003 European heat wave, in which 70,000 people died as a result of heat-induced illness. Managing urban heat (the heat island effect) is essential for mitigating climate change. After explaining the problems, the author gives concrete solutions to the problems. - Kirk Miller

Available at the Dallas library and at local and online bookstores

[\*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

Previous book recommendations are [here](#).

Please give us YOUR reading recommendations via [newsletter@dallassierraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@dallassierraclub.org)

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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.

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## Et Cetera

**The idea of wilderness needs no defense; it only needs defenders. - Edward Abbey**

**Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.**

**Hiking can be a pine in the ass, but I love it.**

### Limerick

Stormy weather was to my liking;  
Made it cooler when I was hiking.  
Distant thunder was not  
Too impressive. I thought

That the lightning was truly striking.  
- by Kirk Miller

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## 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](mailto:newsletter@dallassierraclub.org)

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

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## 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.



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## 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](#).

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is our calendar for the next few months. For complete listings, visit us at [www.DallasSierraClub.org](http://www.DallasSierraClub.org).

### February 8, Tuesday - General Meeting

**The Trust for Public Land** - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

### 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.

### March 8, Tuesday - General Meeting

The subject has not been determined. Details will be on our website soon.

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To donate to our Club, please [click here](#).