

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - March, 2022



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

Dallas' new Environmental Commission and how to get involved

Please join us for an exciting conversation with the newly appointed Chair of Dallas' Environmental Commission! Kathryn Bazan (a 14 year veteran of environmental advocacy, Dallas Sierra Club Board Member, and former TCEQ Compliance Regulator) will educate us on the scope of the Commission's work, how Dallas residents input is needed, and how we all can act in partnership with the Commission to enact real change citywide.



The Environmental Commission was created by [Ordinance No. 21847](#) on April 22, 2021. It is composed of 15 voting members of the general public and eight non-voting technical expert members. The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the Environment & Sustainability City Council Committee on issues related to the environment and sustainability, as well as to provide guidance on the implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

Kathryn Bazan is a North Texas environmentalist and neighborhood advocate. Formerly a TCEQ employee focusing on environmental regulatory compliance, Kathryn now concentrates on implementing environmental policy at the municipal level, serving as the Vice-Chair of the Sierra Club's Eco-Action and Conservation Committee, and supporting grassroots community campaigns that fight industrial encroachment, especially in West and Southern Dallas. Kathryn is also the co-founder and leader of East Dallas Greater Good, a 2,000 member community action group, and the organizer for The

Friends of the Old Fish Hatchery at White Rock Lake. She is a certified Texas Master Naturalist, serves as chairwoman of the newly formed Dallas Environmental Commission, and is a member of the Dallas Sierra Club Executive Board.

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

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, April 12

Big Bend National Park - Lone Star Spectacular

Join all of your Dallas Sierra Club friends for our first meeting back in person at Brookhaven College and a general program full of beautiful photos and adventure! We have put together a 'best of' from the Dallas Sierra Club outings to Big Bend National Park, including backcountry tales of physical effort and soul soothing solitude. Don't miss this chance to visit one of the world's great wilderness parks where the term 'socially distanced' means miles apart, not feet.



FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 12, Dallas Sierra Club at Brookhaven College

[Click here](#) for a map of the meeting's location

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member. Just show up. We would love to meet you.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in building H, the Geotechnology Institute building. From 6:30 to 7:00 you can wander among various issue booths to pick up information and talk with Sierra Club members. Contact Victoria Howard, 214 855 1580 Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org

The Dallas Sierra Club is a non-profit conservation organization whose motto is Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. We are part of America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, which was founded over 100 years ago by John Muir.

Outings

by Mark Stein

Big Bend 2022 Trip

Here's a sample of what we saw and did. Photos are courtesy of trippers Eduardo Gonzalez and Elaine Fogarty.





Photos clockwise from upper left: Rio Grande Overlook from Hot Springs trail; Rio Grande Hot Spring from U.S. side; Roadrunner; Rio Grande at upper mouth of Boquillas Canyon

After a hiatus in 2021, Dallas Sierra Club hikers revisited Big Bend National Park and Big Bend State Natural Area from February 9 to 13. Twenty-three backpackers and hikers pursued three discrete itineraries. All groups camped a first night at Chisos Basin group campsites, then dispersed to camps in the high Chisos Mountains and at Rio Grande Village. Daytime weather was ideal for hiking and soaking in Rio Grande Hot Springs, although Saturday night in the Chisos Mountains reached a low of nineteen degrees, reason to dig every piece of clothing out of backpacks to stay warm! Chisos Mountains hikers observed 2021 fire damage on the South Rim loop, but the fire improved views of iconic Boot Rock. One of three groups hiked a Marufo Vega Trail route, a first for a DSC trip in several years, covering 14.6 miles with 2,200 feet of climb and 2,200 of descent in a long day.

Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

SIERRANS - SOME GOOD NEWS!

We will start having our monthly general meetings **in-person** again starting with the April 12 meeting. Just like the old days, we will meet on the Brookhaven College campus in Building H, Room 126 (Spindletop). [Click here](#) for a map of the meeting location on the Brookhaven campus.

As before, social hour will start at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7:00. There are, however, a few differences:

- We will not offer snacks and drinks.
- We encourage, but cannot require, that you be vaccinated, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing.

The program will be Wendel Withrow talking about Big Bend National Park.

Here's your chance to see fellow Sierrans you may not have seen for two years!

Why You Should Consider Taking Your Business Paperless

By Tina Martin (www.ideaspired.com)

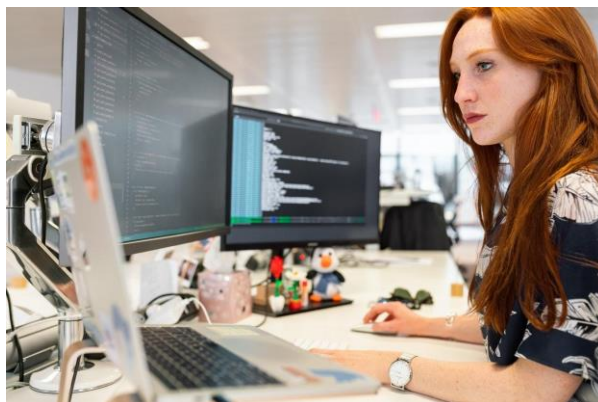


Photo Credit: Pexels.com

People are becoming increasingly eco-conscious, recognizing the negative consequences of actions like deforestation. As a business owner, you don't want to blindly continue to think your efforts won't make a difference. Because they can. In fact, it's important to do your part, and one of the easiest ways to start is by going paperless. This isn't just a means of saving the environment. It also has benefits for your company.

The Dallas Sierra Club provides the resources you need to make going green easy. Discover the perks of going paper-free and how to do it below.

Going paperless is a small step your business can take to help the environment. It also has advantages for your company, like saving money and time. Eliminating paper doesn't have to be complicated.

This article is too large for our newsletter. [Click here](#) for the entire article which provides guidelines for going paperless, such as:

- * Recognize the advantages of going paperless
- * Take tangible steps toward a paper-free business
- * Revamp your company mentality to embrace paperless

Federal Lands 101

by Bill Greer

An explanation of the five agencies that manage federal land



When I take new hikers to Caney Creek Wilderness in Arkansas, I often find that some people think they are visiting a National Park. They're not; Caney is managed (to the extent that it's managed by anyone) by the United States Forest Service. This has made me think that a brief explanation is in order of who manages your Federal land.

Your Federal Government owns "roughly 640 million acres of land in the United States" according to the Congressional Research Service. In Nevada about 80% of all land is Federally owned. In Connecticut it's 0.3%. In Texas it's 1.8%. I'll try to give you a brief overview of who manages this land. Exact figures vary; I'll mostly use Congressional Research Service numbers.

Entire libraries have been written on the subject of Federal land management. Needless to say this short article will ruthlessly summarize!

Most Federal Land is managed by 5 agencies. In order of holdings size they are:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | 250 million acres | \$1.2 billion budget |
| Forest Service | 193 million acres | \$5.5 billion budget |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | 89 million acres | \$470 million (Refuge System) |
| National Park Service | 80 million acres | \$3 billion budget |
| Department of Defense | 26 million acres | |

This article is too large for our newsletter. [Click here](#) for the entire article which gives a synopsis of each agency as well as the future of public lands.

Recommended Viewing

Water recycling, 4 minutes, [click here](#)

Earthship home and Conservation communities, 25 minutes, [click here](#)

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

Previous video recommendations are [here](#)

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

Recommended Reading

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

[*The End of Bias: A Beginning*](#) by Jessica Nordell

This book examines unconscious bias, which is unintentional prejudiced behavior that clashes with our consciously held beliefs. The book is somewhat surprising in its revelations. It made me think and re-think some things. For example, in diversity training, if you try to be color-blind, it makes bias worse; if you stress differences, it helps reduce bias. This seemed counter-intuitive to me, but the author explains why this is so. She uses real life examples to illustrate points throughout the book.

The author is very open about her journey in researching and writing the book, and how surprised she was with what she found during her research and also in what she found out about herself.

It should be beneficial to all of us in our everyday lives. The book is a quick read. Check it out. - Kirk Miller
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

[*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

Previous book recommendations are here. <http://dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?buystuff>

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



Et Cetera

And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul. - John Muir

Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better. - Albert Einstein

I fernly beleaf my puns are qualitree.

Limericks

"To stay young, what you do," advised Ruth,
"Is go hike in the Alps. That's the truth.
It will give you a wealth
Of good fortune and health.
Take a hike. Find the mountain of youth."

To relax while in Europe, I find
There's a really good way to unwind.
Just go out for a hike;
It is something you'll like.
Mountain climbing sure alps clear the mind.

- 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.

March 8, Tuesday - General Meeting via Zoom

Dallas' new Environmental Commission and how to get involved - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

April 3, Sunday - Oak Cliff Earth Day

After a two-year hiatus, organizers are gearing up to host the 13th annual Oak Cliff Earth Day from noon to 5 p.m. at Lake Cliff Park in Dallas. [Click here](#) for information.

April 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.

April 12, Tuesday - IN PERSON General Meeting

Big Bend National Park - Lone Star Spectacular - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

April 22, Friday - Earth Day

Make every day Earth Day. Be good to Mother Earth!

May 4, 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.

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

