

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - April, 2022



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

Big Bend National Park - Lone Star Spectacular

OUR FIRST IN PERSON MEETING IN TWO YEARS - DON'T MISS IT!

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.



Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, May 10

Electronic Recycling Bonanza

Ever wonder how to recycle office items like wall partitions? Not sure where to recycle certain electronics? Ever cringe at having to throw away an item that can't be donated? Then please join us in a conversation with Terry Shultz from United Electronic Recycling (UER), a top-rated electronic recycling company headquartered locally in Coppell, Texas. UER is an established, environmentally responsible recycler of electronic waste. In 2020 alone, their team recycled over 8,000,000 lbs. of electronic waste, prevented it from ending up in landfills, and redirected it to be re-used as new products. UER hosts monthly electronic drop offs in the metroplex as well as pick-up options for recyclers!



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Note from the Chair

by Dan Moultonn

ATTENTION DALLAS SIERRANS

If you did not read the above notice about our April 12th general meeting, please go back and read it now!

This will be our first in-person general meeting in two years! During the last two years, we have managed to continue functioning using Zoom meetings, but it is not the same as when we meet in person. In addition to renewing old friendships, we can catch up on personal news and project progress and plan for the future. In short, we can get back on track and get up a head of steam to pursue our goals into the future.

All the details you need to attend the meeting are in the above notice. We will not serve food or drink at the meeting. You are encouraged to wear a mask if you wish.

Remember, 90% of life is just showing up!

An item from our May, 1986, newsletter

Sheepish Misunderstanding

A few years ago sheep ranchers in Oregon were having a lot of trouble with wolves, and had taken to shooting and poisoning them. This caused great alarm among those concerned with the protection of wildlife, and a town meeting was held to discuss the problem. One of the speakers was a woman from the Sierra Club office in San Francisco; as an alternative to shooting or poisoning as means of controlling the wolf population, she recommended that the ranchers trap and castrate the male wolves . . . After a long silence, a grizzled old rancher rose slowly to his feet and said, "Ma'am I'm afraid you don't quite understand our problem—the wolves are eatin' our sheep, not screwin' 'em!"

Recommended Viewing



Click [here](#) to watch this short, fascinating video about The Ocean Cleanup - System 002.

Boyan Slat is trying to clean up **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch** which is the size of the state of Texas, and also turn trash into something truly valuable.

Water recycling, 4 minutes, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOefGELrWEw>

Earthship home and Conservation communities, 25 minutes, click here

<https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode-1212-greening-up-the-places-we-call-home/>

About the Sierra Club, 2 minutes, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7bq87ZLwmw>

Previous video recommendations are here. <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?videos>

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

Profile: David Gray

Conservation Committee - Rivers and Wetlands

I have lived in Dallas for over 30 years and my wife, Nancy Bateman, and I live in Lake Highlands where we are active in the neighborhood Tri-Alliance security committee.

I joined the Sierra Club soon after graduation from college in the '70's in response to the general escalating concern about the environment and inspired by the famous "Earthrise" picture taken by Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders <https://www.space.com/earthrise-image-apollo-8-earth-day-50th-anniversary.html>.

But I didn't become active until the early 1990's when the Dixon Branch creek in Old Lake Highlands and White Rock was being threatened with clearcutting, dredging, and channelization. Then Conservation leaders Gary Hayden and Diana Christopolous enlisted me in a neighborhood effort to oppose the city's plans and come up with alternative solutions to local flooding problems. From there, I got involved in the Trinity River project.

I'm more on the Conservation side of the club, but Nancy and I do like to do nature and wildlife touring. We recently visited the Bosque Del Apache Natural Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque-del-apache>, a wetlands where we saw the overwintering Sandhill Cranes, hawks, eagles, and lots of water fowl. We visited the Galapagos Islands many years ago about which we presented to the Club soon after. We've also seen and touched gray whales in Baja, Mexico, and seen wolves, bears, and caribou in Denali National Park, Alaska, and moose in Maine. Here in Texas, we like the Trinity Audubon Center, Padre Island, birding in Rockport, Whooping Cranes in the Aransas Refuge, and Big Bend



National Park. We have a Certified Natural Yard from the National Wildlife Federation, and enjoy the birds, hawks, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, and raccoons that come to visit.

I have been an active volunteer at First Unitarian, most recently and actively as co-founder and leader of the Climate Action Team (CAT). CAT was vital in the support and passing of the Dallas Comprehensive Environmental Climate Action Plan, CECAP, adopted in 2020. CAT has also most recently pursued a campaign to convince members not using renewable power to switch to renewables and also to educate them about the opportunities for rooftop solar power, <http://renewable.org>.

I served for several years as the chairperson of the Texas Conservation Alliance, TCA, (formerly the Texas Committee on Natural Resources), a statewide non-profit conservation organization and the Texas affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, and have continued to serve on the Board of Trustees. I volunteered with the Trinity River Corridor Citizens Committee in 1994 until 1998 when I became chair of the Save the Trinity River coalition, and later was a leader of the Trinity Vote campaign. Those efforts eventually led to the defeat of the Trinity Parkway, a high speed tollway proposed to be built in the Dallas Floodway between the levees and severely limit the use of that green space for recreation, wildlife, and natural open space. I have been the Conservation Co-Chair and an Executive Committee member of the Dallas Sierra Club, served on the Executive Committee of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, and still serve on the DSC Conservation Committee.

At home, I enjoy doing chores [smile], woodworking, perpetual piano lessons [smile], gardening, reading, tennis, and following the Mavericks and Rangers.

How Parents Can Protect Their Kids From Nature-Deficit Disorder

By Tina Martin (www.ideaspired.com/)



photo via [Pexels](#)

Nowadays, it can feel like outdoor fun is going out of style. Maybe you and your friends would run around barefoot until dusk, playing tag and catching lightning bugs in your backyard, but today, your kids prefer the company of their smartphones.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many children (and adults) experience the effects of nature-deficit disorder, but thankfully, the remedy is as easy as going outside. Check out these resources for tips on helping your whole family kick nature-deficit disorder for good!

Outdoor Fun at Home

Beyond finding fun games to enjoy together outside, consider creating play spaces that are built to last, will keep your children engaged, and maybe even [bump up](#) your home's value.

[17 Awesome Treehouse Ideas For You And The Kids](#)

[How To Build A Playground For Your Kids](#)

[15 Ideas for a Children's Discovery Garden](#)

[Help Save the Bees by Growing Wildflowers from Seedles](#)

Family Sports Beyond the Backyard

Another great way to build outdoor appreciation is through sports or fitness activities you can enjoy as a family.

[The Best Tips and Tools for Teaching Kids to Water Ski](#)

[Kids Trail Running: Parents Get Your Kids Running Trails!](#)

[6 Steps to Fishing Success With Your Kids](#)

Adventure Activities to Enjoy Together

When it comes to travel, kick it up a notch with adventure trips or activities geared toward outdoor fun.

[Family Climbing Vacations ROCK](#)

[25 Best US National Parks for Families](#)

[Dallas Sierra Club Outings](#)

[Birding Tours in North America](#)

If you're worried that your children are at risk for nature-deficit disorder, all hope is not lost as there are endless possibilities for outdoor family fun. When your children explore the world outside, there's no limit to what they can learn.

This resource is brought to you by the [Dallas Sierra Club](#) which focuses on local conservation issues to promote citizen awareness and participation in improving the health of our planet and local community. Our volunteer leaders conduct our outings in a way that minimizes the impact on our environment. These volunteers also teach classes on backpacking, wilderness navigation and wilderness medicine. For more information, please visit our website or [contact us](#) today!

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

Nature is not a place to visit. It is home. - Gary Snyder

Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. - John Muir

The hill looked hard at first, but I got over it.

Limerick

These five lines are a simple plea.
I sure hope that you will agree
That we need to take care
Of our water and air.
Planet Earth means the world to me.

- 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, click [here](#).

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 15-17, Friday - Sunday, Eagle Rock Loop Backpack Trip

Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

April 22, Friday - Earth Day

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

April 23, Saturday - Electronics Recycling & Document Shredding

The City of Richardson's annual Trash Bash (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) will include many drive-thru activities including electronics recycling, document shredding, used book/record/CD/DVD collection, used cooking oil collection, Lions Club eyeglasses collection, and a collection event for Network of Community Ministries. Click [here](#) for details.

May 4, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) 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.

May 10, Tuesday - **IN PERSON** General Meeting

Electronics Recycling Bonanza - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

May 26-30, Thursday - Monday, Camp and hike Bandelier, Valles Caldera, and Santa Fe NF, New Mexico

Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

July 24-29, Sunday - Friday, South San Juan Wilderness, Colorado

Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

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

