

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - June, 2022



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### Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, June 14



#### Dallas trees and invasive species

WOODen you like to know more about trees? We enTREEt you to attend a TREEmendous, inTREEguing presentation by an illuSTRÉEous person who worked for the foresTREE service.

Do you ever look up into the tree canopy and wonder which tree you're looking at and what its characteristics are? Ever debate for hours, poring over the internet, trying to decide which species of tree is best to plant? Want trees but don't have any? Then, you've come to the right place! Please help Dallas Sierra Club in welcoming Karen Woodward, Forester for City of Dallas, as she discusses invasive tree species and the status of Dallas trees in general.

Karen Woodard came to the City of Dallas in 2008 and has degrees in Horticulture, Environmental Science, and Master of Science Forestry. She came to the City of Dallas from the Texas Forest Service where she worked as a Regional Urban Forester, with her last assignment being the Hurricane Rita Urban Tree Recovery Project. Karen is the City Forester, assisting all departments with tree issues and teaches/trains both the City of Dallas personnel and the public on all things trees.

FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 14, Dallas Sierra Club at Brookhaven College  
Map of meeting's location <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?generalmeeting>

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 p.m. 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](mailto:Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org)

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



### How to protect Dallas green spaces

Please join the Dallas Sierra Club as we welcome Phillip Irwin, Chief Arborist for the City of Dallas, as he discusses the Dallas Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) to protect and enhance its Ecosystems, Trees, and Green Spaces, while answering the question, "How can a city legally protect its historical trees with City ordinances?" With the overall goal being to create environmental equity and equality in all Dallas neighborhoods, regardless of their socioeconomic situation, Mr. Erwin will share his expertise and experiences gleaned from his 23 years working in the field of the SW District of Dallas.

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

Map of meeting's location <http://www.dallassierraclub.org/page.htm?generalmeeting>

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

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## Outings

by Mark Stein



### Backpack in Colorado July 24-28

Join a July adventure in backpacking in the South San Juan Wilderness Area of southern Colorado. This will be a memorable trip to a scenic region north of Chama, New Mexico, and west of Antonito, Colorado. Hike a loop up the South Fork Conejos River valley on trails through aspens and spruces to scenic lakes carved by glacial cirques. This is an ideal summer vacation week for participants with a previous backpacking experience. Arrive at the trailhead in the afternoon of Saturday, July 24, and return to the trailhead Wednesday July 28. See trip details and procedure for registration at [this link](#), then call or email for additional information.

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## Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

### Carbon dioxide now more than 50% higher than pre-industrial levels



Carbon dioxide measured at NOAA's Mauna Loa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory peaked for 2022 at 421 parts per million in May, pushing the atmosphere further into territory not seen for millions of years..

NOAA's measurements of carbon dioxide at the mountaintop observatory on Hawaii's Big Island averaged 420.99 parts per million (ppm), an increase of 1.8 ppm over 2021. Scientists at Scripps, which maintains an independent record, calculated a monthly average of 420.78 ppm.

"The science is irrefutable: humans are altering our climate in ways that our economy and our infrastructure must adapt to," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "We can see the impacts of climate change around us every day. The relentless increase of carbon dioxide measured at Mauna Loa is a stark reminder that we need to take urgent, serious steps to become a more Climate Ready Nation."

This article is too large for our newsletter. [Click here](#) for the full article

The progress made since the Paris Accord in 2015 has been summed up nicely by Greta Thunberg, "blah, blah, blah."

Should the Sierra Club, at all levels, try to do more to stop this trend?

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### Profile: Temeckia Derrough

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Temeckia attended schools in both Dallas and Duncanville. In 2006, she and her family became Habitat for Humanity homeowners within the Joppa community.

In order to bring transparency and helpful resources to the community, Temeckia formed the non-profit Joppa Freeman's Town Association in 2017. Within a year of its birth, the Association partnered with community residents to stop the establishment of additional batching companies in Joppa that had been compromising air quality for years.

As a member of the Environmental Commission, Temeckia continues her mission of being a voice for Joppa residents and advocating for environmental justice. She also is an EPA Community Advisory Group member on the Lane Plating Super Fund site.

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### In Memoriam George Pettit 1937 - 2022



George was a major factor in the Sierra Club in the 1970s in the Dallas - Fort Worth Group and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. Using his set designer art skills, he built a large exhibit to move in his station wagon that showed the "Vanishing Wilderness of Texas." The Lone Star Chapter was spearheading what became a national movement to promote designation of a Wilderness Area for the new Guadalupe Mountains National Park, National Wild River Designation for the Rio Grande River along the Texas Mexico border, and National Park Status for Texas' Big Thicket. He set up and showed his exhibit all over Texas. The exhibit was so outstanding that the National Sierra Club gave recognition to the fine work. They had George do similar exhibits for other endeavors in California once he moved there.

[Click here](#) for George's obituary in *The Mercury News*

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### Doctors Can Prescribe Year-Long Pass to Canada's National Parks

By [Jennifer Bain](#) - February 4th, 2022

Health care professionals in four Canadian provinces can now prescribe time in the national park system to boost people's mental and physical health. [Parks Canada](#) is collaborating with a program called [Park Prescriptions](#) (PaRx). Doctors, nurses and other licensed health care professionals who register with the program can prescribe nature -- and even a Parks Canada Discovery Pass -- to their patients.

"Medical research now clearly shows the positive health benefits of connecting with nature," Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, said in a written statement. "This exciting collaboration with PaRx is a breakthrough for how we treat mental and physical health challenges, and couldn't come at a better time as we continue to grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our daily lives."

Parks Canada has provided 100 [adult Discovery passes](#) this year and will reassess this number in future years. The pass sells for \$72.25 (Canadian) and provides unlimited access to national parks, national marine conservation areas and national historic sites for 12 months. The park system is already free for anyone 17 and under. The [BC Parks Foundation](#) is the official charitable partner of [BC Parks](#) and the provincial park system. It launched PaRx -- Canada's first national nature prescription program -- in November 2020 in British Columbia. In 2021, it expanded the program to Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. PaRx [signed up more than 1,000 prescribers](#), garnered plenty of buzz, and won a [Joule innovation grant](#) from the Canadian Medical Association. But until now, the nature prescriptions revolved around working out what kind of nature time people should consider, and not something tangible like a parks pass. For now, only people in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario are eligible for the Parks Canada passes, but the PaRx hopes to expand to Quebec, Alberta and New Brunswick soon, and eventually roll out in every province and territory.

"I can't think of a better way to kick off 2022 than being able to give the gift of nature to my patients," said PaRx director Dr. Melissa Lem, a family

physician. "There's a strong body of evidence on the health benefits of nature time, from better immune function and life expectancy to reduced risk of heart disease, depression and anxiety, and I'm excited to see those benefits increase through this new collaboration."

Participating prescribers who can prescribe a Parks Canada pass are asked to prioritize patients who live close to national parks, historic sites or marine conservation areas, and who could benefit from it the most. Nature prescriptions were one of the [top eight global wellness trends in 2019](#), and are cropping up around the world. Countries such as the United Kingdom are now investing in park prescription pilots to help tackle mental and physical health problems and the resulting strain on their health care systems and economies. PaRx was recently recognized by the World Health Organization in its [COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health](#), where it was featured as a way to inspire protection and restoration of nature as the foundation of our health -- one of only two case studies cited from North America.

"Research shows that children and adults who are more connected to nature are not only more likely to work to conserve it, but also engage in other pro-environmental behaviours," said Lem. "I like to think that every time one of my colleagues writes a nature prescription, we're making the planet healthier, too."

PaRx has been endorsed by the BC Family Doctors, Saskatchewan Medical Association, Nurse Practitioners Association of Manitoba and Ontario College of Family Physicians. It offers practical, evidence-based online resources like quick prescribing tips and printable fact sheets, plus a green-time target of "two hours per week, 20+ minutes each time." As Canada grapples with the ongoing pandemic, it's a critical time for health care professionals to promote the mental and physical health benefits of heading outdoors.

"Our goal is to make sure that people who need it can get out easily and affordably to benefit from the healing power of nature," said BC Parks Foundation CEO Andy Day. "So far, through the generosity of our donors and partners, we have provided free trips and nature therapy sessions during the pandemic to health care workers, seniors, refugees, and vulnerable youth. It's been incredibly inspiring to see the impact nature has on people."

[Click here](#) for the full article.

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## Reduce Your Eco-Footprint in Dallas with These DIY Tips

by Tina Martin ([www.ideaspired.com/](http://www.ideaspired.com/))

You don't have to be a contractor to make your home more eco-friendly. Many simple and low-cost changes can save you money on your utility bills and [help the environment](#). Here are some easy, eco-friendly home improvements for any skill level in Dallas, TX.

### Insulate Doors and Windows

One of the best ways to reduce your energy consumption is to improve the insulation in your home. This step keeps the cool air in during the summer and the warm air in during the winter, which means your HVAC system doesn't have to [work as hard](#) (and use as much energy) to maintain a comfortable temperature. You can complete a few projects yourself, such as caulking around windows and doors and adding weather stripping to doors.

### Install a Smart Thermostat

Installing a smart thermostat is another great way to [reduce your energy consumption](#). You can control this device remotely to turn off the AC when you're not home and turn it back on a few minutes before you arrive. It can also learn your preferences over time and can adjust the temperature accordingly.

### Use Energy-Efficient LED Light Bulbs

This switch is one of the easiest ways to make your home more eco-friendly. Energy-efficient LED light bulbs [use less energy](#) than traditional incandescent bulbs, saving you money on your electric bill. They also last longer, so you don't have to replace them often.

### Install Low-Flow Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

You can save water and money on your water bill by installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. These devices restrict water flow, so you'll use less water without even noticing a difference. If you don't feel comfortable installing them yourself, you can connect with a local plumber to get a quote and discuss your needs. To control the price, research '[plumbers in my area](#)' first to find the best deal. Read online reviews and look for savings opportunities before deciding.

### Repaint With Low-VOC Paints

Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are found in many paint products and can be [harmful to your health](#). Products with lower levels of VOCs are safer for you and the environment. Look for low-VOC paints the next time you're repainting your home.

### Change Your Filters Regularly

Another easy, eco-friendly tip is to [change your air filters regularly](#). This process can improve the efficiency of your HVAC system, improve the air quality in your home, and help you avoid costly repairs in the future. Plus, it's easy to do yourself and only takes a few minutes. To save money, look for bulk discounts on air filters, so you can stock up.

### Add an Indoor Herb Garden

Indoor herb gardens are a great way to [reduce your carbon footprint](#). They provide fresh herbs for cooking, eliminate packaging, and don't require as much energy to grow as traditional outdoor gardens. They're easy to care for and make a great addition to any kitchen.

### Make Your Home More Environmentally Friendly

You don't need to be an expert to make your Dallas home more eco-friendly. Simple changes, such as improving insulation or switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, can save you money and help the environment.

For more ways to help the environment near you, [join the Dallas Sierra Club](#).



Image via [Pexels](#)

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## 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](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)

[\*How To Avoid A Climate Disaster\*](#) by Bill Gates, 2021

Do you know the five main categories of human activities that produce greenhouse gases? They are:

- 1 – making things such as cement, steel, and plastic
- 2 – plugging in (supplying electricity)
- 3 – growing things (plants and animals)
- 4 – transportation (planes, trucks, ships)
- 5 – keeping warm and cool (heat, cooling, refrigeration)

In this book, each activity gets its own chapter describing how the category impacts the climate, reviewing alternative solutions, and suggesting an associated Green Premium. A Green Premium is defined as the difference between what we pay today for products from each category and what we would have to pay for a zero-carbon alternative. Bill Gates describes at least 19 technologies which are currently being developed to help get to zero emissions globally.

In further chapters, he discusses policies, planning, and what individuals can do to help fix the climate disaster. He proposes that "engaging in the political process is the most important single step that people from every walk of life can take."

I found the book to be encouraging since it helped me to understand that there are many projects in progress to address a broad range of climate change issues that will have to come together to get to a net zero solution by 2050. - Kim Klich  
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

[The World's Littlest Book on Climate: 10 Facts in 10 Minutes about CO2](#) by **Mike Nelson, Pieter Tans & Michael Banks**

This book is a quick read on climate facts. The authors have given clear information about such things as why we know that the type of CO2 in the atmosphere is caused by burning fossil fuels, why there are more extinctions, wild weather, and why 2-3 F degrees impacts the earth so much. - Pam Klich  
[Click here](#) for a free download e-version.

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores. [Click here](#) for Amazon.

There are also in-person discussion sessions, May-August, in Plano called the **Friendly Science Climate Science Workshop**. [Click here](#) to sign up. - Pam Klich

[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

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

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

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## Et Cetera

**Nature is pleased with simplicity. And nature is no dummy. - Isaac Newton**

**Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. - John Muir**

**Gorge-ous views as far as the eye canyon see**

### Limerick

When he hiked in the woods, he battled  
A coiled reptile but wasn't addled  
By the poisonous snake;  
Didn't make a mistake.  
He kept calm and did not get rattled.

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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, click [here](#).

### June 14, Tuesday - **IN PERSON** General Meeting

Dallas trees and invasive species - Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

### June 26, Sunday - Dallas Organic Gardening Club Meeting

Gardening in Shade - 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., North Haven Gardens [Click here](#) for details

### July 6, 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.



## July 12, Tuesday - **IN PERSON** General Meeting

How to protect Dallas green spaces - Click [here](#) to see details on our website.

## July 24, Sunday - Dallas Organic Gardening Club Meeting

Creating biodiversity and sustainability in the suburban garden - 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., North Haven Gardens [Click here](#) for details

## July 24-28, Sunday - Thursday, South San Juan Wilderness, Colorado

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

## August 3, 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.



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