

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - July, 2022



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### 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.

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)

#### Outings

by Mark Stein



## Backpack Northern New Mexico in Early September

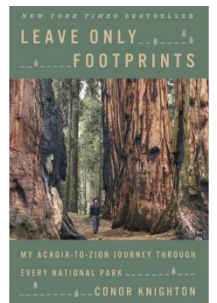
Northern New Mexico's fires are largely controlled after a heroic effort and rains. The current fire risk for the Pecos is "low." Join our backpacking outing in the Pecos Wilderness on the evening of August 31, returning to Dallas by Labor Day. Check our Outings List for details or email Jim Robarge ([robargeDSC@gmail.com](mailto:robargeDSC@gmail.com)) to request the complete outing description. The whole Pecos Wilderness remains closed for assessment of damage in the area east of where we plan to hike, so if the Pecos remains closed, we will switch the destination to the San Pedro Parks Wilderness near Cuba, New Mexico, another fine locale for backpacking, with elevations of 9,200' to 10,600'.

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## A Great Book

*Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park* by **Conor Knighton**, 2020

This is a delightful story of one man's journey through every national park in one year. From sunrise in Acadia on January 1 to sunset at Point Reyes National Seashore on December 31. A story told with humor and love for the great outdoors. - Coralie Miller  
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores



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## Eating Our Way to Extinction

*Eating Our Way to Extinction* - a video documentary, 2021, 1 hour 22 minutes

Most of us would rather not think about how a package of grocery store meat is processed for consumers. This documentary is meant to get your attention about the ugly side of raising meat for consumption and how it is impacting our food industry and important natural resources. It is meant to change your perception of food and the earth's current eco crisis.

The film includes beautifully shot footage from around the world showing our priceless forests, oceans, crop lands and water supplies. It is educational and entertaining, providing many related facts such as: over half of the earth's tropical rain forest has been destroyed, only 6% of the soy crop worldwide is used for human consumption, 33% of all fish are fed to livestock, 75% of all antibiotics are given to livestock, and trillions of gallons of water are needed to raise livestock. The film points out the benefits for reduction of meat consumption are that there will be less deforestation to grow crops for livestock, less water will be used to raise livestock and grow crops, more water will be available for humans and human crops, and less methane will be produced by livestock.

As a person who is working to increase my knowledge about climate change and what is impacting our earth, I appreciated the education this film provided, along with simple things people can do to help with our eco issues. Not all viewers will quickly change their eating habits, but many will at least be wiser about the price of meat production. I think this is a must-see film. - Pam Klich

Available on Apple iTunes, Amazon Video, VUDU and more.

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## Profile: Liz Wheelan

It's always a bit hard to write about yourself but the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has reminded me of a memorable and influential moment that led me to the Dallas Sierra Club.

I've always been drawn to the outdoors. I grew up in northwestern IL with woods behind the house, a forested state park nearby with trails and Native American history, a third-generation family cabin on a lake in the north woods of WI (complete with outhouse), and my dad's dream - a houseboat on the Mississippi River. When I wanted to run away from home or escape 'rest time' as a child, my parents somehow knew I had gone out my bedroom window and was quietly playing or daydreaming on the roof of the downstairs screened porch. (Yes, there was wooden lattice around the edge.) Large shadows from the towering oak trees outside provided imaginary creatures dancing on my bedroom walls. Then college at Colorado State in Fort Collins, with Rocky Mountain NP and so many other beautiful places nearby to hike, snowshoe, sit and study, or just escape from the rough realities of life. A walk in the woods, a sleeping bag on the top deck of the boat under the stars, a horseback ride through the meadow, walking in the rain, studying up against a rock deep in the woods, these were my happy places.



After college in CO and a graduate program in GA, like many others, a wonderful job opportunity brought me to Dallas. It was a terrific job for many years, but very late one night (while still at the office) something inside me said enough is enough and I resigned, having faith the previous job offers would still be around after I took a break. And this is where the 4<sup>th</sup> July comes in. During my 'break', thoughts of what I always thought to be a dream for my retirement years of taking a long road trip to see national parks started creeping into my head. I'd lost family members and friends, had saved money for a house that seemed less important, and had no job to tie me down. So, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1993, with a few maps and a rough idea of where I wanted to go, I packed the car and headed north. No reservations, just exploring. I ended up being gone four months, made it across much of the southwest, northwest, Canada, and Alaska, my ultimate goal. I camped out in a tent the entire trip except once every few weeks when I found a town and got a cheap motel room, did laundry, take a real shower, and restock food supplies. The adventure was one of the best things I've ever done. All alone amongst nature, seeing wildlife, and meeting the kind and interesting people you meet in state and national parks.

Shortly after returning to Dallas, I looked for a group with similar interests and attended my first Dallas Sierra Club meeting. Everyone was welcoming and enthusiastic about the outdoors. This was my tribe! They needed volunteers for an event that weekend with ICO, the outreach program that provides outings for underserved youth. I couldn't imagine not having the outdoors as a kid, so I signed up to help. I've been active in ICO ever since, locally, as regional rep for the southwest, and on national committees. I can't express how valuable this program is, getting kids into nature who without ICO, would likely never experience walking on a trail or sleeping in a tent. ICO gives them a fun time but also self-confidence and an appreciation for nature, teaching them the importance of being a good steward of the environment now and as they make decisions in the future. (Shameless plug - if you might want to volunteer or donate to ICO, please let me know. We can always use both kinds of help!)

And thanks to help from a few Sierrans who became life-long friends, I also began backpacking and for several years have enjoyed helping with classes and leading backpacking outings in the wilderness. Being outdoors has been fun, helped me through struggles, given me respite, introduced me to amazing people, and constantly shows me the unending beauty and wildlife we too often take for granted. Most challenging backpack: the Wind River Range in WY. My favorite backpacking destination: Isle Royale National Park (remote island in Lake Superior near Canada, accessible by ferry or seaplane from MI or MN, with moose and wolves). Longest outing: 20 days on Isle Royale. And yes, I bring chocolate to share on every outing!

Whether you enjoy watching birds out your window or climbing mountains, I encourage you to get involved with Dallas Sierra Club. It's so much more than a Club. It offers countless opportunities to meet wonderful people, help with conservation and related political issues, learn about the world around us, and have fun! Each of us can make a difference in our community. Be that someone who comes to their first Dallas Sierra Club meeting. It can change your life for the good.



**TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**Thinking of going electric? There is no better time!**



## Did you know?

**You can get up to \$10,000 in tax credit rebates for buying or leasing an EV or Plug-in Hybrid.**

**The TCEQ is now accepting applications for their \$2,500 rebate program.**

**(Add that to the \$7,500 Federal Tax Credit)**

**Deadline to apply is January 7, 2023.**

**To check eligible models & find out how to apply, [click here](#).**

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## The Fighter - Katherine Homan

by Rachel Stone, *Oak Cliff Advocate*, July 2022



### **Four Fierce Females Keeping Oak Cliff Roaring. Katherine Homan is one of the Four.**

Suing the City of Dallas for violating its own rules had to be done, if you're Katherine Homan. "I didn't have a job they could threaten," she says. "There was nothing that I was going to be sacrificing by putting my name on that lawsuit, and to me, this was about making the city acknowledge that it did something wrong and that it was overreaching its power."

She was gob-smacked during what a newspaper columnist called "the most bizarre" City Council meeting of February 2019. A last-minute shakeup allowed Council to hold a simple-majority vote, winning out against neighbors' wishes in a zoning case related to a planned fitness center at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, which would've eliminated an old pecan grove.

So Homan sued the City for violating its own rules and won a summary judgment in October 2019. The City appealed, and Homan won again this year on March 31. Attorneys for Dallas didn't appeal before the clock ran out on the case in May, meaning the City went under judgment to pay Homan's attorney fees. City Council "took an illegal vote" on the matter, Homan says, and two courts have agreed.

"But it also put the city on notice that citizens of Dallas won't stand for its flouting the rules," she says. "When something like this happens, you can't just tuck your tail between your legs and say, 'They have the power;'"

I don't. We're supposed to be watchdogs, not lapdogs. If we hadn't sued, then the rezoning would have gone through and the pecan-tree grove

would've been built over. By suing the City and saying, 'That was an illegal vote that you took,' we put a halt on the project, which the city had given them the OK for."

The Long Island, New York, native moved to Dallas with her husband, Dr. Richard Homan, in the 1970s. Dr. Homan taught at UT Southwestern Medical Center and treated patients at the VA Hospital. He died of a brain tumor in 2003, after chairing the department of Neurology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. "Can you imagine? He was a neurologist, and he died of a brain tumor," she says. She was in her 60s when her husband died, and she decided she had to "get a life."

*The Advocate* first featured Homan in 2009, in a story about her house. Built in 2001, it was the first "green home" in Dallas, and she spent years preaching the gospel of green building practices.

That threw her into the realm of urban planning, and she "started to realize how much this representative government of ours involves citizen participation." A retired history teacher, she joined the League of Women Voters, became its president within three years and was on its board for 16 years. The Fort Worth Avenue Development Group, a neighborhood nonprofit founded in 2001, caught her attention around 2008 after it had rezoned the West Commerce/Fort Worth Avenue area to attract new businesses to the corridor which, back then, was "flophouses and prostitutes and drug dealers," she says.

"An amazing game plan for becoming stewards of new Fort Worth Avenue development taught me what a well-designed new development was in order to have a walkable urban corridor lined with trees and landscaping and a vibrant mix of retail with restaurants and commercial. What you see now is 15 years' worth of that work."

Her experience working with that group, "was transformative" she says. They raised \$25,000 for bike lanes, when the City of Dallas had none, and brought public art to the corridor. More important, they stopped a plan to tear out the intersection of Beckley and Commerce, including an old-growth pecan tree. A new design for that intersection, which preserved the tree, was created by City of Dallas planner Don Raines, an Oak Cliff resident, and built in 2018.

Besides that, Homan is always one to stand up for environmental causes, such as the effort to ban fracking in Dallas city parks in 2013. And she also gets involved with big urban planning ideas -- she and Oak Cliff resident Paul Carden were the first to raise the idea for the Interstate 35 deck park, for example. Even though she'd taken the City to court, Homan was recognized recently during a women's history month luncheon at City Hall, where she was given the Outstanding Public Service Award.

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## A How-to Guide to Profitable ECOpreneurship

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



Image via [Pexels](https://www.pexels.com/)

If you're a nature lover, you likely also have a passion for environmental causes. To make good use of this personal interest, you might consider "ecopreneurship," starting a business of your own that helps to save the planet. The [Dallas Sierra Club](#) invites you to read on for a roundup of resources that can help you establish your very own startup, so you can make money while safeguarding the earth.

### Start By Researching Business Models

*Follow these tips to find a business niche that will help the environment and make money.*

- [Educate yourself](#) about possible eco-friendly business models, like organic catering, upcycling furniture, or solar panel installation.
- Do market research to see what types of environmentally friendly goods or services [are in demand](#) in your marketplace.
- Calculate your [required startup expenses](#) so you can get the business loan you need to begin operations.

### Address the Administrative Steps for Starting a Business

*These practical points are needed for any entrepreneurial endeavor.*

- [Develop a business plan](#) that outlines how your business will be operated and structured.
- [Register your business](#) with your state and, if necessary, with the federal government.
- Research possible business bank accounts and open one up, [separating](#) your personal and professional finances.

## Get the Tools You Need for Everyday Operations

*The right technology and team will be the basis for success.*

- [Invest in](#) useful tech tools for small businesses, like project management and time tracking technology.
- Hire volunteers and workers [that share](#) your values and commitment to eco-conscious causes.
- Consider outsourcing certain tasks that don't need to be in-house, [like accounting](#).
- If you can't afford an accountant, purchase [software to run accounting](#). The best platform will offer a variety of features from expense tracking to invoicing to payroll.

## Invest in Marketing to Expand Your Reach

*Follow these tips to spread the word about your eco-conscious venture.*

- Establish a strong brand that will resonate with your target audience.
- Try cost-efficient digital marketing techniques like [blogging and social media](#).
- [Make a custom logo](#) yourself using free design tools online. A customizable template enables you to create a logo that matches up with your business model.

Making money and saving the environment don't have to be mutually exclusive. You can do both. However, it will take some careful planning. Just follow the tips for ECOpreneurship described above to get started.

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## Recommended Viewing

[Eating Our Way to Extinction](#) - a video documentary, 2021, 1 hour 22 minutes

Most of us would rather not think about how a package of grocery store meat is processed for consumers. This documentary is meant to get your attention about the ugly side of raising meat for consumption and how it is impacting our food industry and important natural resources. It is meant to change your perception of food and the earth's current eco crisis.

The film includes beautifully shot footage from around the world showing our priceless forests, oceans, crop lands and water supplies. It is educational and entertaining, providing many related facts such as: over half of the earth's tropical rain forest has been destroyed, only 6% of the soy crop worldwide is used for human consumption, 33% of all fish are fed to livestock, 75% of all antibiotics are given to livestock, and trillions of gallons of water are needed to raise livestock. The film points out the benefits for reduction of meat consumption are that there will be less deforestation to grow crops for livestock, less water will be used to raise livestock and grow crops, more water will be available for humans and human crops, and less methane will be produced by livestock.

As a person who is working to increase my knowledge about climate change and what is impacting our earth, I appreciated the education this film provided, along with simple things people can do to help with our eco issues. Not all viewers will quickly change their eating habits, but many will at least be wiser about the price of meat production. I think this is a must-see film. - Pam Klich

Available on Apple iTunes, Amazon Video, VUDU and more.

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=OOefGELrWEw>

**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](https://www.goodreads.com)**

[Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park](#) by **Conor Knighton**, 2020

This is a delightful story of one man's journey through every national park in one year. From sunrise in Acadia on January 1 to sunset at Point Reyes National Seashore on December 31. A story told with humor and love for the great outdoors. - Coralie Miller  
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

[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.

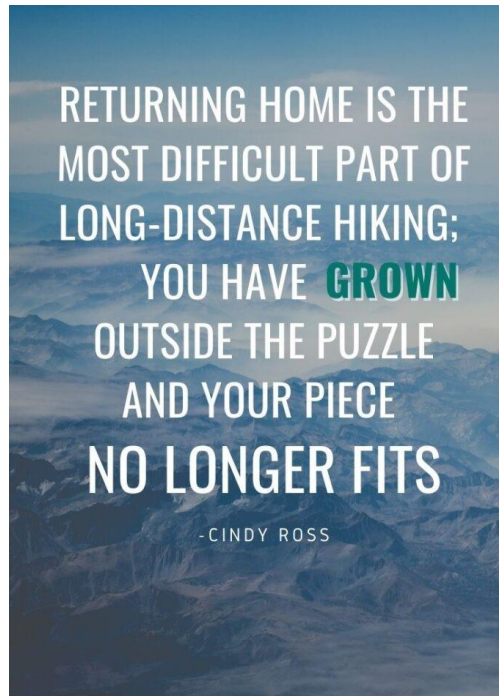
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores. [Click here](#) for Amazon.

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

**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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www.outmoreusa.com

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## Et Cetera

### Leave the road, take the trails. - Pythagoras

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike. - John Muir, *The Yosemite*

These trees are unbe-leaf-ably beautiful!

#### Limerick

When I go on a mountaintop stroll,  
There's a saying I like to extol.  
To avoid heatstroke, you  
Ought to do what I do:  
Just be careful; use climb-it control.

- 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, click [here](#).

### July 12, Tuesday - General Meeting

How to protect Dallas green spaces - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

### 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.

### August 9, Tuesday - General Meeting

The subject has not been determined.

### August 28, Sunday - Dallas Organic Gardening Club Meeting

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

### September 7, Wednesday - Dallas Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting

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