

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - August, 2022



[Follow us on Facebook](#)



[Check out our website](#)

In this issue . . . (scroll through the newsletter or click a numbered link below)

1. [August Meeting - in person](#)
2. [Outings](#)
3. [Announcements](#)
4. [Book Review - \*Gloryland\*](#)
5. [Video - \*Engine Trouble\*](#)
6. [Note from the Chair](#)
7. [Recommended Viewing](#)
8. [Recommended Reading](#)
9. [Poster](#)
10. [Et Cetera](#)
11. [Let Us Know](#)
12. [Videos of Prior Meetings](#)
13. [Outreach Speakers Program](#)
14. [Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

## Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting **IN PERSON** - Tuesday, August 9

### Trinity River Audubon Center

Please join us in welcoming Jake Poinsett, Program Manager at the Trinity River Audubon Center, to discuss his work in local conservation, preservation, and environmental programs. Formerly a park ranger for Texas Parks and Wildlife, South Carolina State Parks, and the National Park Service, Jake will share his unique perspective on his travels, advocacy, and how the Dallas area can broaden its positive environmental impact city-wide.

Jake creates and presents environmental programs for all ages, leads habitat restoration projects, and manages volunteers. In his spare time, he loves to go birding, look for snakes, and hang out in the yard with his pups.

FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, August 9, 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

### **Pecos Wilderness Report, August 1, 2022**

For decades, the Pecos Wilderness has been one of the Dallas Sierra Club's recurring outing destinations. This preserve in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains between Santa Fe, Taos, and Las Vegas New Mexico features one of the more vast networks of wilderness trails in the Southern Rockies. A diverse ecosystem spans elevations from 7,000 feet at Cowles to 13,102 at Truchas Peak.

Fire raged in the eastern half of the wilderness in May and June of 2022. Fortunately, most areas west of the Pecos River, excepting its uppermost reaches, were not damaged. At the end of July, however, the Jacks Creek Campground and all trailheads in the Pecos Basin accessed by New Mexico Route 63 remained closed. A reopening date remains uncertain.

Four DSC backpackers, including me, learned in the fourth week of July that hikers were recently allowed access to the Pecos Wilderness from its southwest edge, via the Aspen Basin Trailhead, near the Santa Fe Ski Basin. We spent three nights and four days in the Pecos Wilderness, camping at Puerto Nambe, an 11,050-foot meadow beneath Santa Fe Baldy and at Stewart Lake on the Skyline Trail. There was no smoke. We saw no recent fire damage. There were many day-hikers near the trailhead, but only one other camper at normally popular Stewart Lake, four miles from the Cowles Trailhead and ten miles from Aspen Basin.

We observed changes to the wilderness since previous visits. Bark beetles have killed spruce and fir trees, perhaps 50% of them in some areas. There was more deadfall than usual and there will be more as standing dead trees fall, blocking trails, requiring trail maintenance. Bark beetles thrive on trees weakened by drought years and warming temperatures. The slopes on the west side of Puerto Nambe seemed to support more healthy stands of spruce and fir than the eastern slope. In the roughly fifteen years since I'd first come to Puerto Nambe, much of the sloping meadow has yielded to conifers that will eventually remake the meadow into a forest. The disappearing meadow and the conifers dying from beetle infestations are reminders that ecologies evolve, sometimes quickly.



---

## **Announcements**

### **BACKPACKING 101 CLASS is BACK! - Sunday, October 2**

Has the pandemic made you psyched to spend more time outdoors, perhaps an overnight in the wilderness (or two or three)? Do your outdoor skills need refreshing? Plan to spend the afternoon learning all the basics to get you geared up, keep your tummy happy, plan your trip, and have a fun and safe time on trail. More details and reservation information will be posted on the Outings page of our website next week. Class Coordinator: Liz Wheelan, Lizwico@aol.com

### **CLUB OPEN HOUSE PICNIC IN THE PARK - Sunday, October 9**

Time for some in person fun! Mark your calendars now to join us for an open house of sorts, a fun afternoon at Churchill Park. We've been long overdue to welcome new members, invite non-members to check out all the Club offers, just hang out and get back to socializing with new and longtime friends. Learn about our environmental activities, outings, volunteer opportunities and more. We'd love to meet you, find out your interests and how you may want to get involved (or just hang out). We'll supply the main dish (grilled goodies); bring a dish to share if you want. We'll give away raffle prizes and enjoy gathering and laughing in person. Picnic time: 2:00 - 6:00 pm. Churchill Park Pavilion, 7025 Churchill Way, Dallas 75230. Reservations not required but an email letting us know you're coming and if you're bringing a dish would be greatly appreciated for food planning. Send email to Liz Wheelan, Lizwico@aol.com.

### **Colorado Bend State Park Campout - October 21-23 - Reservations Opening Next Week!**

Heat got you down? Dreaming of a cool night in your tent under the stars, trails to explore, natural springs, even a waterfall? Our campout October 21-23 has it all! Complete trip information and reservation forms will be posted on our Outings page next week for our fall weekend at beautiful Colorado Bend State Park. It's a true gem of a park, located in the hill country about a 3 1/2-hour drive southwest of Dallas. Space is limited so talk with your family and friends and make your reservations soon. Perfect outing for beginners and experienced campers alike, singles, families, friends, everyone will enjoy Colorado Bend! Trip Coordinator: Liz Wheelan, Lizwico@aol.com.

---

## **A Glorious Book**



[Gloryland](#) by Shelton Johnson

If you watched Ken Burns' *National Parks* mini-series, you will recognize the author, Shelton Johnson. His historical fiction novel is the story of a Black man growing up after the Civil War, becoming a Buffalo Soldier, and eventually patrolling the newly created Yosemite National Park. It is an uplifting book that touches on a variety of subjects: justice, prejudice, the beauty of the outdoors, and more. His profound imagery of Yosemite and the Sierras is lyrical -- poetry in prose. I savored the book, one of the best that I have read. - Kirk Miller

Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

---

## Video - *Engine Trouble*



[Click here](#) to watch this six minute video which should be good for children because it delivers its message in a way that kids can understand. And perhaps, just perhaps, the video can explain things in a way that climate deniers will understand.

---

## Note from the Chair

by Dan Moulton

**Top 6 Things You Didn't Know About Solar Energy**



Installing a concentrating solar power system in Gila Bend, Arizona. The curved mirrors are tilted toward the sun, focusing sunlight on tubes that run the length of the mirrors. The reflected sunlight heats a fluid flowing through the tubes. The hot fluid then is used to boil water in a conventional steam-turbine generator to produce electricity. Photo by Dennis Schroeder.

*The solar industry is changing rapidly as it experiences unprecedented growth. Here are 6 facts that may surprise you about this increasingly popular source of power.*

6. Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth -- 173,000 terawatts of solar energy strikes the Earth continuously. That's more than 10,000 times the world's total energy use.
5. The first silicon solar cell, the precursor of all solar-powered devices, was built by Bell Laboratories in 1954. On the first page of its April 26, 1954 issue, *The New York Times* proclaimed the milestone, "the beginning of a new era, leading eventually to the realization of one of mankind's most cherished dreams -- the harnessing of the almost limitless energy of the sun for the uses of civilization."
4. The space industry was an early adopter of solar technology. In the 1950s, the space industry began to use solar technology to provide power aboard spacecraft. The Vanguard 1 -- the first artificial earth satellite powered by solar cells -- remains the oldest manmade satellite in orbit -- logging more than 6 billion miles.
3. Today, demand for solar in the United States is at an all-time high. The amount of solar power installed in the U.S. has increased more than 23 times over the past eight years -- from 1.2 gigawatts (GW) in 2008 to an estimated 27.4 GW at the end of 2015. That's enough energy to power the equivalent of 5.4 million average American homes, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. The U.S. is currently the third-largest solar market in the world and is positioned to become the second.
2. As prices continue to fall, solar energy is increasingly becoming an economical energy choice for American homeowners and businesses. Still, the biggest hurdle to affordable solar energy remains the soft costs -- like permitting, zoning and hooking a solar system up to the power grid. On average, local permitting and inspection processes add more than \$2,500 to the total cost of a solar energy system and can take up to six months to complete. The SunShot Initiative's soft costs program works to make it faster and cheaper for families and businesses to go solar.
1. California's Mojave Desert is home to Ivanpah Solar Power Facility, the world's largest operating solar thermal energy plant. It uses concentrating solar power (CSP) technology to focus 173,500 heliostats, each containing two mirrors, onto boilers located in three power towers. The plant, which came online in 2014, has a gross capacity of 392 megawatts (MW). CSP technology is unique in that it allows for solar energy to be stored for use after the sun sets -- a key focus for our recent research and development efforts -- which addresses some of the concerns over delivering solar power when and where it is needed most.

Explore our projects in solar energy on the Sunshot Initiative's project map and study up on Solar Energy Basics.



ERIN R. PIERCE

---

## 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=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)

---

## 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)



## Et Cetera

**In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful. - Alice Walker**

**Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life. -Immanuel Kant**

**This hike really peaked my interest.**

### Limerick

On a hike, a steep hill we did see,  
And I said to my wife, "I think we  
Should go hike to the top."  
She replied, "I must stop."  
She just wasn't inclined to agree.

- 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](mailto: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](#).

### **August 9, Tuesday - General Meeting**

Trinity River Audubon Center - Click [this link](#) to see details on our home page.

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

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

### **August 31 - September 4 (Wednesday - Sunday) Pecos Wilderness, New Mexico**

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

### **September 7, 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.

### **September 13, Tuesday - General Meeting**

The subject has not been determined.

### **September 25, Sunday - Dallas Organic Gardening Club Meeting**

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

### **October 2, Sunday - Backpacking 101 Class**

Details and reservation information will be posted on the Outings page of our website soon.

### **October 5, 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.

### **October 9, Sunday - Club Open House Picnic In The Park**

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Churchill Park Pavilion, 7025 Churchill Way, Dallas 75230 - Details will be on our website soon.

### **October 11, Tuesday - General Meeting**

The subject has not been determined.

### **October 21-23, Friday - Sunday - Colorado Bend State Park Campout**

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

---

---

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



