

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - December, 2022



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### Dallas Sierra Club Holiday Party - Sunday, December 11



Our annual Holiday Party will be held at El Fenix Restaurant at 255 Casa Linda Plaza (SE corner of Garland Rd and N Buckner Blvd). We'll party on Sunday, December 11 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. [Here is a Google map.](#)

Club members and guests are invited to come and share the holiday spirit, some great Mexican food, and the company of others at our annual holiday get-together. Join us for some camaraderie, **the best raffle ever, one free margarita or glass of wine**, and perhaps some surprise speakers. We'll celebrate some of our outstanding volunteers and have plenty of time to mingle. Invite your family and friends. The entire menu will be available so you can order whatever you want to eat or drink, including liquid spirits. So come on out for a great party, low price, no clean up, and lots of like-minded people. You can relax and share a laugh or get serious and talk about issues of the day -- air, water, climate change, politics, outings, fracking, coal, nuclear, whatever strikes your green fancy. What could be better? Nothing. See you there, and bring your appetite. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss it. Happy Holidays!!

**Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, December 13**

### **The Climate Reality Project**

Please join us in welcoming Alex Holland, Vice Chair of Dallas / Fort Worth's Climate Reality Chapter, as she addresses the danger of climate change locally and beyond.

Texas is facing many threats from climate change. Hurricanes, drought, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and other problems are all associated with a warming planet. Alex will dive into how we're all seeing the effects of climate change and environmental pollution in Texas, as well as what Texans can do to mitigate climate change and work towards a healthier environment for everyone.

Alex Holland (LMSW) is a trained Climate Reality Leader (2020) and Vice Chair of the Dallas / Fort Worth chapter of The Climate Reality Project. Coming from Texas, Alex is all-too aware of the problems presented by climate change and environmental pollution. As a social worker interested in public health, Alex studies how exposure to environmental harms, such as pollution and extreme heat, negatively affect community health outcomes, especially in low-income communities and communities of color. During her free time, Alex can be found gardening, resuscitating her sourdough starter, and enjoying copious amounts of Food Network.



FREE. 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13 via Zoom

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:**

<https://zoom.us/j/99535860396>

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,99535860396#

Dial in: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 995 3586 0396

Go to <http://dallassierraclub.org/> for details.

Everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member.

For more information, contact Victoria Howard, 214 855 1580 [Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org](mailto:Victoria@DallasSierraClub.org)

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## **Chapter and Group ExCom Elections Are Underway**



Voting for the Lone Star Chapter Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Committees of the Alamo, Austin, Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi), Dallas, Golden Triangle, Greater Fort Worth, and Houston is now open! The last day to vote is January 2, 2023. [Click here](#) to vote and to get information about voting.

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### **Note from the Chair**

by Dan Moulton

I am now completing four years as Chair. Starting in January, a new Chair will be taking the helm. We have come through a difficult period. I wish to thank all the club officers, committee chairs and co-chairs, and other unsung heroes for all the help they have rendered. I hope all of you have a wonderful Holiday Season. Don't forget the club holiday party is Sunday, 12/11, at 6:00 p.m. at our usual Casa Linda El Fenix (check website for details).

Thank you all.

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## **Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, January 10**

## The Ned Fritz Legacy

Please join us as the Dallas Sierra Club welcomes Amy Martin and Kristi Kerr Leonard who will discuss their new project: The Ned Fritz Legacy featured at [NedFritz.com](http://NedFritz.com)

Ned Fritz, one of Texas' most impactful environmentalists, and his wife, Genie, built a coalition that defeated the Trinity River barge canal and brought initial attention to the Great Trinity Forest. In addition, they added crucial organizational and legislative acumen that led to the creation of Big Thicket National Preserve.

As the first acquisitions chair of The Nature Conservancy Texas and co-founder of the Texas Land Conservancy, Ned (with Genie's help) started the state's land trust movement; and with their group, Texas Committee on Natural Resources (now Texas Conservation Alliance), they fought clearcutting in East Texas national forests and shepherded several wilderness areas into being.

Journalist Amy Martin won an award from Ned's Texas Committee on Natural Resources and she has enjoyed a 45-year career writing for local and national publications, alternating between entertainment and environmental journalism. She is currently senior features writer for GreenSourceDFW. Her third book, *Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas-Fort Worth*, will be published in late summer 2023 by Timber Press.

Kristi Kerr Leonard leads restoration efforts on the Ned and Genie Fritz Texas Buckeye Trails in the Great Trinity Forest. After receiving an MBA from the American School of International Business, Kristi enjoyed a long career at The Richard's Group advertising agency. She now uses her business skills to manage estates of high-net-worth individuals and serves as marketing director for C3 Financial Services and The Bottoms Group.

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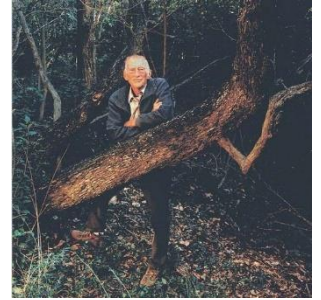
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## BACKPACKING 101 CLASS – Great Holiday Gift!

Searching for a thoughtful gift for an adventurous someone in your life, or yourself?! Sign ups are now open for this extremely popular, interactive class designed for never-ever backpackers and people who want to refresh or enhance their backpacking knowledge and skills. Taught by Dallas Sierra Club trip leaders with years of backpacking knowledge and experiences, the class is a fun way to hear tons of information, helpful hints, and ideas to help get you into the backcountry. The class is Saturday, January 28, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For complete details and to register, just go to the Outings page or calendar on our website ([dallassierraclub.org](http://dallassierraclub.org)). Questions? Send email to [Lizwico@aol.com](mailto:Lizwico@aol.com). We're happy to provide a gift card if you want to give the class registration as a present!



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## ICO OUTREACH - new Partner Agency, January volunteer training!

It's an exciting time for Inspiring Connections Outdoors ("ICO"), our program to connect underserved youth with nature. We're thrilled to announce a new partnership with Wesley-Rankin Community Center, an organization which has been helping youth in West Dallas for over 100 years. ICO adult volunteers will be hosting trips taking Wesley-Rankin youth to fun local destinations such as nature preserves, state parks, and more. Volunteers are the core of our ICO



program. Sound like something you'd enjoy? Send email to [Lizwico@aol.com](mailto:Lizwico@aol.com) for more information. Volunteer orientation and training (required) will be held in January so sign up soon! Donations also welcome and needed to support our activities.

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## Big Bend National Park Outing - February 8-12

A detailed description of Dallas Sierra Club's outing to camp and hike at Big Bend National Park is ready for viewing by [clicking here](#). Big Bend has been an annual destination for the Dallas Group for decades. This year's outing offers a choice of three itineraries, including one suitable for beginner backpackers with good fitness. There's another option with just day hikes, returning to the same camp with tables and toilets each night.

All trippers will arrive by car or carpool at group campsites we have reserved in the Chisos Basin Campground by late afternoon on Wednesday, February 8, to explore Big Bend for three days, then depart for home on Sunday morning or late Saturday. Each itinerary option has limits for participation, so early registration is advised.



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## Life but Greener

**100% solar community endured Hurricane Ian with no loss of power and minimal damage.**

Babcock Ranch calls itself "America's first solar-powered town." Its nearby solar array -- made up of 700,000 individual panels -- generates more electricity than the 2,000-home neighborhood uses, in a state where most electricity is generated by burning natural gas, a planet-warming fossil fuel.

When Hurricane Ian came barreling toward southwest Florida, it was a true test for the community. The storm obliterated the nearby Fort Myers and Naples areas with record-breaking surge and winds over 100 mph. It knocked out power to more than 2.6 million customers in the state, including 90% of Charlotte County.

But the lights stayed on in Babcock Ranch.

[Click here](#) to read the intriguing article.



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## Do You Wishcycle? It's NOT a Magical Thing.

You might not know what [wishcycling](#) is, but you probably do it often. Wishcycling is when you place a questionable item in the recycling hoping that it will be recycled. This could look like throwing a plastic item with the number 6 on it even though your area doesn't recycle this type of plastic. Wishcycling is harmful because incorrectly sorted recyclables can damage machinery at recycling plants or waste the time of the workers being sorted out.

Wishcycling can also create more waste. For example, a greasy pizza box put into recycling can contaminate other paper products or even an entire batch of cardboard recycling.

To avoid this, make sure you clean items before putting them in your recycling, or leave out items that could contaminate others. Look up what types of plastics (marked by numbers) are recyclable in your area, and only recycle those.



Once you've taken a bit of time to develop these habits, you'll no longer be a wishcycler -- which means you're creating less waste and living more sustainably. [Click here](#) for more information about Wishcycling.

## Mini Wind Turbines Are Designed For Rooftops



Because they sit on the edge of roofs, they pair well with solar panels. If a building also has batteries to store the energy, it could be totally self-sufficient.

A typical wind turbine is massive -- roughly as tall as the Statue of Liberty, with blades that stretch wider than a football field. By contrast, a new 10-by-10 foot turbine is relatively tiny. And without moving blades, it isn't immediately recognizable as wind energy tech.

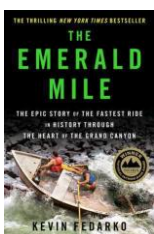
[Click here](#) to read the interesting article.

## Recommended Reading

**Click on a book's title (below) for a link to information about the book at [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)**

**NEW** - *The Emerald Mile* by Kevin Fedarko

This is the thrilling true tale of the fastest boat ride ever, down the entire length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon, during the legendary flood of 1983. I read this book at the urging of some friends, even though it didn't seem to appeal to me, and I'm glad that I did. Great book, easy read, difficult to put down. - Kirk Miller



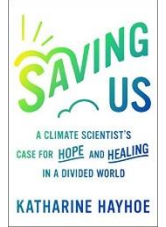
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores

*Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by **Katharine Hayhoe, 2021**

In *Saving Us*, Hayhoe argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research and personal stories, Hayhoe shows that small conversations can have astonishing results. *Saving Us* leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change.

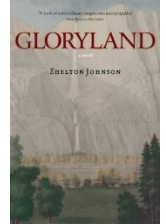
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores



*Gloryland* by **Shelton Johnson, 2009**

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



**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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## Recommended Viewing

**NEW** - [Click here](#) for a 4 minute video on how furniture is made from recycled plastic

[Click here](#) for a one minute video about the Sierra Club's values.

WTF - Boat is 100% energy self-sufficient, 4 minutes, [click here](#)

**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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## Et Cetera



**It is thought great to be born in palaces, surrounded with wealth -- but to be born in Nature's wide domain is greater still! - George Copway (Kahgegahbowh)**

**Always hike with someone in worse shape than you. The bears out there will know.**

**Wood you like to go camping with me?**

**Limerick**

Love of camping for me is immense,  
So each weekend it makes lots of sense  
That I ought to camp out  
In the woods. There's no doubt  
That the weekends will be so in tents.  
- 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.



## 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](#).

### December 11, Sunday - **Holiday Party**

[Click here](#) for details.

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

The Climate Reality Project - [click here](#) for details.

### January 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.

### January 10, Tuesday - **General Meeting**

The Ned Fritz Legacy - [click here](#) for details.

### January 28, Saturday - **Backpacking 101 Class**

[Click here](#) for details.

### February 1, 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.

### February 8-12 **Big Bend National Park Outing**

[Click here](#) for details.

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