

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - February, 2023



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Act NOW to Support Critical EPA Rules to Reduce Methane and Harmful Emissions from Fracking

There are only a few days left to comment on the EPA's proposed Supplemental rules which can make a huge difference in reducing climate-changing methane and other harmful emissions from oil and gas operations for our region.

The EPA's Supplemental rules would reduce methane emissions from thousands of existing sources for the first time and applies to new, modified, and reconstructed oil and gas sources.

The Supplemental proposal's aim is to update, strengthen and expand on rules originally proposed in 2021, requiring companies to do a better job monitoring and reducing methane leaks from drilling operations.

But to ensure these standards are adopted we must make our voices heard. You can send your comments via a click and send letter at tinyclub.com/LAFWWQRcode directly to EPA. Or you can also visit Liveable Arlington's website at <https://www.liveablearlington.org/> to see data as it relates to DFW, recommendations on how to strengthen these rules even further, and a sample letter.



Comment now on these important rules before the February 13 deadline. Environmental organizations are vying to get in 650,000 comments. Please make your voice heard on this important issue and share this email with your friends and family.

For more information, [click here](#).

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, February 14

Dallas' Racial Equity Plan

Learn about the City of Dallas' racial equity plan and its advancement of environmental justice.

Dr. Lindsey Wilson, Director of Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), and Carlos Evans, Director of Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS), will discuss the City of Dallas' Racial Equity Plan (REP) and its advancement of environmental justice. The REP, adopted by Dallas City Council on August 24, 2022, provides City leaders with actionable levers by establishing short-, mid-, and longer-term goals to minimize inequities and to inspire and sustain Dallas' commitment to economic inclusion and shared prosperity. The REP includes a number of goals including those related to: economic, workforce, and community development; infrastructure; public safety and wellness; housing; and environmental justice. OEI leads the implementation of the REP. OEQS plays a leadership role in meeting the REP's environmental justice goals.



FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 14 10 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

Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, March 14

Ways to combat climate change, water pollution, and species extinction

Stephen Sturdivant will go over several important ways we can combat climate change, water pollution, and species extinction, as well as proven common sense measures to minimize food waste and source sustainable ingredients. Please join this live discussion and Q&A.



Stephen Sturdivant is an environmental engineer and Regional Coordinator for the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6's Sustainable Management of Food Program. He has worked for the agency for over 16 years..

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April 14-16 Campout for Beginner Backpackers Now Open for Reservations!

Do you enjoy the luxury of camping by your car but long to enhance your outdoor skills to overnight in the wilderness? Calling all beginner backpackers - We have a fun spring outing designed specifically for you! This weekend is perfect for those from the Beginner Backpacking class and others wanting to base camp and also spend some time practicing their skills, checking gear, hiking, and learning to backpack. We'll share our reserved campsites at Eisenhower State Park, a popular park nestled on the bluffs along the south side of Lake Texoma, just 90 minutes north of Dallas. Saturday after breakfast we'll discuss and practice packing your backpack, then spend part of the day on easy, wooded trails so those wanting to can get the feel of carrying a backpack while hiking. Reservations are required and space is limited. Sorry, no pets. For more details and reservation information, [click here](#).



Thoughts from the Chair

by Victoria Howard

As we become immersed in the month of February and get back into the magic of "ordinary days" (sans the build up and let down of the holidays), I'm pondering the process and success of creating new positive habits, environmental and otherwise.

As I'm sure many of you do, I have my own list of personal New Year's Resolutions (listen more/talk less, practice the piano every day, only speak kindly, etc.) and also my list of environmental resolutions (recycle more, drive less, don't buy things in plastic, etc.). As you may have guessed, my positive, life-changing resolutions are not becoming habits quite yet; rather, they are quickly becoming another aspect of my life that receives a big "sigh" of resignation whenever thought of. Alas, it is so easy for our best intentions and resolutions to become points of resignation and self-recrimination rather than new steps towards a changed reality...Or at least this is what I say to comfort my lachrymose self.

Luckily for us all, there are some definite positive changes happening all around us! Our Dallas Sierra Club partners, The Lane Plating Citizens Advisory Group (Lane Plating CAG), had a huge success in their work to advocate for the most clean and thorough remediation of their neighborhood Superfund Site. After years of working with the EPA, their diligence was rewarded with a profound first step: the demolition of contaminated buildings on the site. While there is still lots more to do and a long road ahead for both the CAG and the EPA, this is a resounding and rewarding step. (If you're interested, you can read more here <https://www.dmagazine.com/frontburner/2023/01/after-years-arden-terrace-neighbors-see-toxic-waste-site-demolished/>)

Another positive change occurring is that with the support of Dallas' Environmental Commission, the City of Dallas has just launched a new program called *Whole Home Dallas* to help residents become educated about resources already available to make their homes more energy resistant to extreme weather. As climate change causes more and more manic extremes of temperature, updating our homes and lifestyles is an imperative! (For more information, check out their website wholehomedallas.com).

Even though my own personal resolutions of change have stalled, there is much to celebrate in our local environmental world in addition to the achievements listed above. If you'd like to learn more about the environmental good that's transpiring and resolving into concrete action and change, please reach out to me at victoria@dallassierraclub.org and follow us on our social media platforms to hear about and celebrate all of those who are resolute in exacting change.

Cheers,

Victoria

Profile - Lynn Marple

I joined the Dallas Sierra Club in 2006 to take Wilderness First Aid and to go on my first bus trip (to the Weminuche Wilderness). I have lived in the Dallas area since 1981. I grew up in southeast Pennsylvania, went to grad school and worked at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico, and lived in Paris (France) for a year. My main activities in nature are hiking, camping, and backpacking. I am a North Texas Master Naturalist. I monitor water quality in Duck and Prairie Creeks for the Texas Stream Team. I am a teacher of both yoga and mat pilates, and the photo is me doing goat yoga.



Oak Cliff Earth Day - April 16

A celebration of People and Planet

This is an annual community event celebrating nature, the environment, and the majesty of our planet.

Noon - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 16

Lake Cliff Park, 300 E Colorado, Corner of Zang & Colorado, Dallas

Remember: The Earth is the one thing we all have in common. - [click here](#) for details

Oak Cliff Earth Day

People - Planet - Purpose

16 April 2023 - Sunday
Lake Cliff Park • 12 noon - 5pm
corner of Zang & Colorado

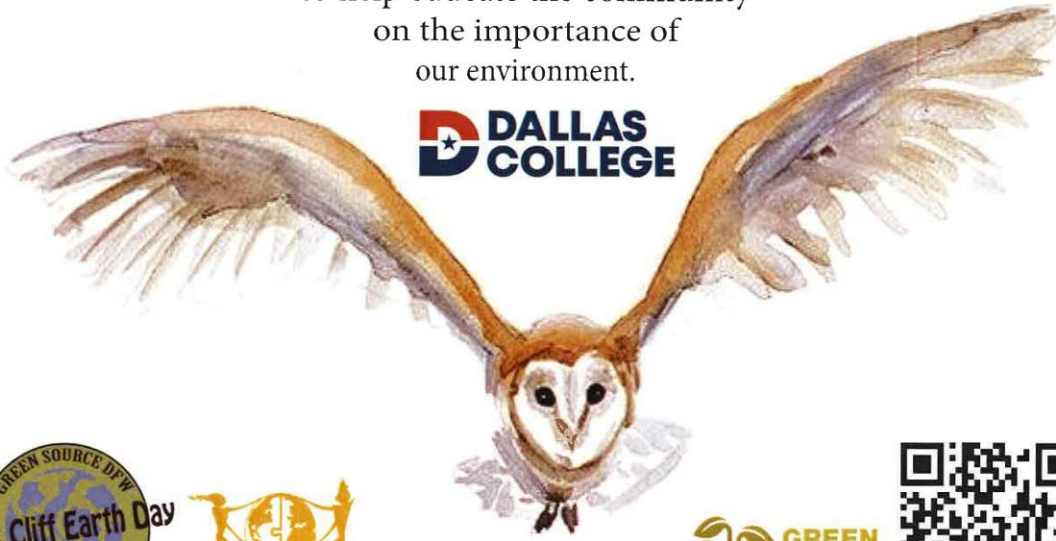
**EATS • ENTERTAINMENT • EDUCATION • VENDORS
ARTISTS • DANCERS • MUSICIANS**

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY:

**Booker T Washington Jazz Band
W.E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy
Bandan Koro African Dance & Drum Ensemble**

Founded in 2007 by a grassroots group
to help educate the community
on the importance of
our environment.

 **DALLAS
COLLEGE**



Rain ...or Shine.



www.oakcliffearthday.com

Ford Lightning Owner Powered Home Essentials for Two Days During Massive Storm

On Christmas morning thousands of Canadian residents woke up without electricity after a massive winter storm swept through. One Ontario resident kept his lights on for nearly two days by plugging in his Ford F-150 Lightning, and even had battery left when the power came back on.

"Ford was the first in the US to offer bidirectional charging capabilities on an electric truck with Intelligent Backup Power, which 'provides full-home power for up to three days or as long as ten days,' depending on energy usage."

The Ford Lightning included something called Pro Power Onboard, which provides up to 9.6 kW of power that is spread across 11 outlets. Ford says this truck is the smartest, most innovative F-150 that they have ever built, and it shows.

- TeXTRA - Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance



Launching a Green Building Business: A Step-By-Step Guide for Entrepreneurs



Image: [Pexels](#)

Starting a green building business is an important endeavor. By investing in the right technology, materials, and processes, you can create a successful company that will benefit both people and the environment. From exploring entity options to finding the perfect software programs for managing projects and customer relations, there are steps needed to ensure that your business succeeds. With dedication and drive, you can turn your dream of starting a green building business into reality!

This article is too long to include here in its entirety. Click [this link](#) for the entire article, which discusses:

- Researching Relevant Local and Governmental Regulations
- Defining Your Vision and Mission for the Business
- Forming an S corp
- Creating a Unique Competitive Advantage
- Developing a Comprehensive Marketing Strategy
- Learning About Materials Used in Green Building Design
- Exploring Helpful Software
- Identifying Potential Customers and Creating Relationships With Suppliers
- Compiling Information Regarding Various Financing Options

A green building business can be successful with a little planning and forethought. With our guide, you'll know the right moves to make whether you're researching local regulations, developing a marketing strategy, or researching supportive software. With these tips in mind, you can develop a successful green building business.

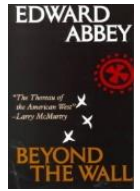
- by David Dixon

Recommended Reading

Click on a book's title (below) for a link to information about the book at goodreads.com

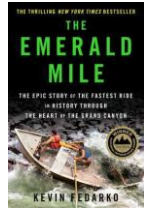
[Beyond The Wall](#) by Edward Abbey, 1971

In this wise and lyrical book about landscapes of the desert and the mind, Edward Abbey guides us beyond the wall of the city and asphalt belting of superhighways to special pockets of wilderness that stretch from the interior of Alaska to the dry lands of Mexico. Available at local and online bookstores



[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

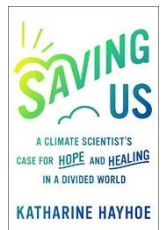


[Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World](#) by Katharine Hayhoe, 2021

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



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

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

Recommended Viewing

[Click here](#) for a 5 minute video on how trail designers build hikes.

[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.

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

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

Et Cetera

The mountains are calling and I must go. -- John Muir

I have a therapist. Her name is hiking.

Searching for the mountain of youth

Limerick

Man's infected with mountain fever
And is really a true believer
That Mount Everest peak
Is a goal he will seek.

The man did. He's a high achiever.
- 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](#).

February 14, Tuesday - General Meeting

Dallas' Racial Equity Plan - [click here](#) for details.

February 18, Saturday - Goat Island Trail Hike

Day hike - Explore the Trinity River floodplain and woods of southeast Dallas County's Goat Island Preserve. [Click here](#) for details.

March 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.

March 14, Tuesday - General Meeting

Ways to combat climate change, water pollution, and species extinction - [click here](#) for details.

March 25, Saturday - LBJ National Grasslands Hike

Day hike - Hike through forests and grassy glades. [Click here](#) for details.

April 1-2, Saturday - Sunday, Ouachita Trail in Oklahoma

Hike 6 miles Saturday and 4.6 miles Sunday. [Click here](#) for details.

April 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.

April 11, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details will be posted on our website soon.

April 14-16, Friday - Sunday, Camp/Hike at Scenic Eisenhower State Park

Hike and-or practice backpacking. [Click here](#) for details.

April 16, Saturday - Oak Cliff Earth Day

Annual community event celebrating nature, the environment, and the majesty of our planet - [click here](#) for details

April 20-23, Thursday - Sunday, Eagle Rock Loop, Arkansas

Hike the scenic Eagle Rock Loop. [Click here](#) for details.
