

Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - April, 2023



[Follow us on Facebook](#)



[Check out our website](#)

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

1. [White Rock Lake Cleanup](#)
2. [April Meeting](#)
3. [April 14-16 Campout - Make Reservations Now](#)
4. [Musings from the Chair](#)
5. [Oak Cliff Earth Day](#)
6. [Recommended Reading](#)
7. [Recommended Viewing](#)
8. [Et Cetera](#)
9. [Let Us Know](#)
10. [Videos of Prior Meetings](#)
11. [Outreach Speakers Program](#)
12. [Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

White Rock Lake Cleanup

Walk and talk while helping to pick up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. Meet this Saturday, April 8, at 8:30 a.m. at the Dallas Sierra Club's adopted section of the lake. Our area includes one of the wonderful prairie restoration areas, so there are always birds and wildflowers to enjoy. The lake and your karma will thank you. [Click HERE](#) for details and directions.



Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, April 11

Earth-Kind Gardening

Jeff Raska will talk about Earth-Kind Gardening, which combines the best gardening principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility, thus creating beautiful, easy-care landscapes while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment.



Jeff is the Urban Horticulturist for Dallas County assigned to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. He has been in Horticulture for 35 years, the last 13 as an Extension Educator for A&M.

FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 11 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

April 14-16 Spring Campout - Make Reservations Now!

Join us for a wonderful weekend at Eisenhower State Park, a popular park nestled on the bluffs along the south side of Lake Texoma, just 90 minutes north of Dallas. Pitch your tent and relax in our reserved campsites. This is a perfect outing for beginner campers, including those wanting to base camp and also spend some time practicing their skills, checking gear, hiking and learning to backpack (optional). Saturday after breakfast we'll discuss and practice packing your backpack, then spend part of the day hiking easy, wooded trails. Carry a daypack with water and snacks or a packed backpack to get the feel of carrying a backpack while hiking – your choice. Sorry, no pets. For more details and reservation information, [click here](#).



Musings from the Chair

by Victoria Howard

April not only begets showers that bring May flowers, but it also brings with it Earth Day and all of the celebrations and events that go with it! Dallas Sierra Club members will be at several events this month including: Oak Cliff Earth Day (April 16th), Collin College Earth Day-Frisco Campus (April 18th), and more! If you're wondering if we will be at a celebration near you, please visit our website and social media platforms for a complete list of what events we, and our supporting partners, are participating in.

If you happen to be attending one, or all, of these events, please stop by and see us! We want to meet you and hear about your environmental concerns, advocacy, and what you think needs changing in our communities! Not going to any of the above events? No problem! We still want to see and hear from you! Please consider attending one of our monthly General Meetings which always hosts a different environmentalist each month who educates us on a different aspect of their work. All of the information can be found on our website (www.dallassierraclub.org) and all of our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok). Or if all else fails, call or email me at victoria@dallassierraclub.org. I'm always happy to chat with you and welcome an earful of what's on your mind!

Cheers,
Victoria

Oak Cliff Earth Day - April 16

A celebration of People and Planet

The beautiful and historic Lake Cliff Park will once again be the site for the 2023 event, which is made available through the generosity of Dallas Park and Recreation. Every year they go out of their way to assure our event runs as smoothly as possible and is a success. A special thanks to the Friends of Oak Cliff Park volunteers for their tireless efforts year-round in caring for the park in its many beautification projects and making sure that Lake Cliff is spruced up and ready for Oak Cliff Earth Day. Please mark your calendar with the date and location below.

When: Sunday, April 16, 2023; 12noon to 5pm

Where: Lake Cliff Park, 300 E Colorado, Dallas, TX 75201

(Corner of Zang & Colorado)



Recommended Reading

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

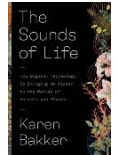
[*The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants*](#) by Karen Bakker, 2022

All sorts of creatures can hear and make sound along a wide range of the sonic spectrum, often well beyond human hearing. Since scientists could not hear sounds, they concluded that animals, creatures, and plants did not make sounds and could not hear sounds. Boy, were they wrong!

Advances in technology with digital bioacoustics shows that animals once believed to be silent can hear, make music, and exchange information.

Just as the microscope revealed another world of animalcules, digital bioacoustics is acting like a sonic microscope to reveal a universe teeming with hitherto unknown sound, from teeny corals to gigantic whales in the ocean, from tiny bees to huge elephants on land -- enabling us to interpret their language and better understand the Tree of Life.

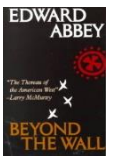
The subject matter is fascinating, and the author writes in language that is easily understood. Check it out! - Kirk Miller
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores



[*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.

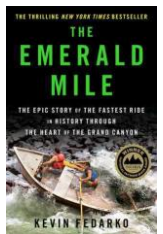
Available at local and online bookstores



[*The Emerald Mile*](#) by Kevin Fedarko, 2013

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



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](#) and [here](#) for 1 minute and 3 minute videos about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

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

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

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

Et Cetera

Hiking is not escapism; it's realism. The people who choose to spend time outdoors are not running away from anything; we are returning to where we belong. - Jennifer Pharr Davis

Take only memories, leave only footprints. - Chief Si'ahl

Come hill or high water, we'll keep hiking

Limerick

Top of mountain the hikers did seek.
It was cloudy; their chances looked bleak.
 When the clouds once parted,
 To the top eyes darted
And they then got a peek at the peak.
- 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](#).

April 8, Saturday - White Rock Lake Cleanup

Walk and talk while picking up trash and recyclables at the Sierra Club's adopted section of White Rock Lake Park. [click here](#) for details.

April 11, Tuesday - General Meeting

Earth-Kind Gardening. [click here](#) for details.

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.

May 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.

May 9, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details will be posted on our website soon.

May 17-21, Wednesday - Sunday - New Mexico Hikeapalooza

Day hikes with base camping [Click here](#) for details.

June 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.

June 13, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details will be posted on our website soon.

July 14-17, Friday - Monday, Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, Colorado

Three days of backpacking. [Click here](#) for details.

October 20-22, Friday - Sunday, Colorado Bend State Park

Camp and hike in the hill country. [Click here](#) for details.

