



**SIERRA CLUB**  
DALLAS GROUP

EXPLORE, ENJOY, **PROTECT THE EARTH.**

## Dallas Sierra Club Newsletter - June, 2023



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## Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday, June 13th

### Bees in the City

Ryan Giesecke will talk about the history of native bees in the U.S., the immigration of European and African bees, and how we can join the rising urban beekeeper movement.

Ryan is the president of the Texas Association of Professional Bee Removers. He has been past president of the Trinity Valley Beekeepers Association in Dallas and the Metro Beekeepers Association in Fort Worth.

### FREE. 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 13th 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.

Register in advance for this meeting by [clicking on this link](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



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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## 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 Saturday, June 10, 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.



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## Next Month: July General Meeting



Please join the Dallas Sierra Club as we welcome Dallas Water Conservation Manager Alicia Lee, as she explains the history of water conservation in Dallas and what we can all do to conserve one of our most vital resources.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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## Musings from the Chair

by Victoria Howard

As we welcome June, and the ensuing heat, we are all reminded of the importance of a clean, green environment. With North Texas reporting multi "Ozone Alert" days where the air is unhealthy to breathe, we feel the results of pollution. There are, of course, things we can all do to help reduce the impact. We've heard time and time again: drive less, don't let your car idle for long periods, no outdoor fires, etc. These are all good "steps" that go without saying to environmentalists like you and me. However, I would like to suggest bigger "steps" that we make part of our life's routines.

Although it may not seem intuitively impactful, following your local City Council, Planning & Zoning Agenda, and TCEQ (Texas Commission On Environmental Quality) Calendar of Public Hearings/Permitting Cases each week is a huge help in sussing out potential businesses causing industrial air pollution. Being proactive is always better than being reactive, and curtaining problems before they happen is always the best possible outcome.

To create this in my own life, I've made it a habit to check my local City Council's website every Friday, and I've also signed up to receive email updates from the TCEQ. Even though these are minor changes in my routine, they can create big changes! If you'd like to do the same, finding this information is easy. All cities must post information and agendas for their public meetings, and many cities are now live-streaming these meetings (which makes following and attending them even easier). A quick Google search will take you to your city's information. If you'd also like to view the TCEQ's Calendar of Public Meetings, you can view it/sign up for notifications here: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/decisions/hearings>

Cheers,

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## Wave of the Future: Floating Solar Panels

by Isabella O'Malley



**Putting systems on water instead of land is catching on. Attach solar panels to rafts that float on top of the water in lakes. Some of the benefits:**

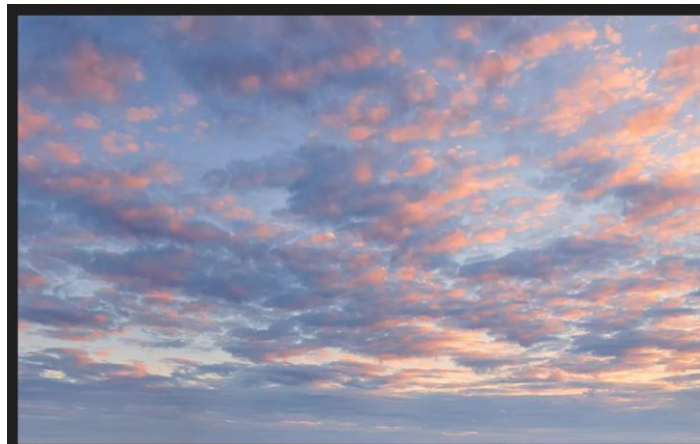
- Conserve water by preventing evaporation
- Provide clean power
- No land footprint
- Generate more electricity than land-mounted panels

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

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## The Future of Clouds

by Sara Novak



Their little-understood role in regulating the earth's climate is the difference between an uncomfortable future and an unlivable one

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

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## Recommended Reading

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

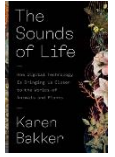
[\*The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants\*](#) by Karen Bakker, 2022

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.

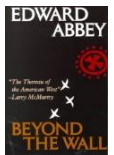
The subject matter is fascinating, and the author writes in language that is easily understood. Check it out! - Kirk Miller  
Available at local libraries and at local and online bookstores



[\*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.

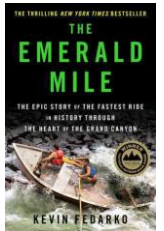
Available at local and online bookstores



[\*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](mailto:newsletter@dallassierraclub.org)

## Recommended Viewing

[Click here](#) for a 3 minute video about how one man cleaned up an entire lake

[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.

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)

## Et Cetera

**Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. - John Muir**

**Do more things that make you forget to check your phone.**

## Hiking really Alps clear my mind.

### Limerick

I was hiking along muddy trails  
When I stepped on some slugs' slimy tails.  
But the slugs were not harmed,  
So do not be alarmed.  
All those slugs seemed to be tough as snails.  
- 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](#).

#### June 10, 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.

#### June 13, Tuesday - General Meeting

A honey of a program about bees. [click here](#) for details.

#### July 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.

#### July 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.

#### July 11, Tuesday - Dallas Sierra Club General Meeting

Dallas Water Conservation Manager Alicia Lee explains the history of water conservation in Dallas and what we can all do to conserve one of our most vital resources.

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

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

#### August 2, 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 5-12, Saturday - Saturday, Pecos Wilderness Outing, New Mexico

5 days of hiking with the first and last day used for traveling. [Click here](#) for details.

#### August 8, Tuesday - General Meeting

Details not yet determined.

#### September 6, 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 12, Tuesday - General Meeting**

Details not yet determined.

**October 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.

**October 10, Tuesday - General Meeting**

Details not yet determined.

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

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

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