

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

DECEMBER 2004

Volunteer opportunities abound at both the chapter and group level of the Sierra Club

By CHRIS WILHITE
*Southern Plains Region
Sierra Club*

In 2005, Sierra Club is leading a campaign to protect our federal recreation and wildlife lands from industrial development.

Most of the campaign this year will focus on the drilling on Padre Island National Seashore, but Sierra Club is dedicated to fighting for protection on all our federal lands as well, including Big Thicket National Preserve, Sam Houston National Forest and the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

This next year Sierra Club will ramp up our Campaign to Stop the Drilling on Padre by building broader coalitions, educating our Congressional delegates, and stepping up our outreach program. We will also have a whole lot of fun doing it. We'll have pizza parties, house parties, camp-outs and crab-boils.

And there will be multiple volunteer and leadership opportunities in the coming year. If there was ever a time to make the decision to be more active, this is it!

This year, the Southern Plains Regional Office is sponsoring two events on Padre Island National Seashore and one on Sam Houston National Forest. If you would like to volunteer to help lead in these events, please contact Chris Wilhite at 512-472-9094 or chris.wilhite@sierraclub.org. Below are some volunteer job descriptions for our spring events.

Padre Celebration and Lunada!

On April 23, or thereabouts, Sierra Club will host a great event on Padre Island National Seashore to honor all the volunteers who have worked on this campaign and to get everyone who has signed the petition together.

When I was growing up near South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach, folks around there would have things called "Lunadas," which vaguely means moon light party in Spanish and which always included a big 55 gallon drum of boiling blue crabs.

While our event is still in the plan-

ning phase, there will be some fun components: Crab (and vegetarian alt.) boil and moonrise watch with live music and a beach cleanup in the morning. We'll need some lead volunteers to pull this off and make it a really good time. The following are some volunteer job descriptions:

Volunteer Coordinator: Organizes volunteers for phone banking events (pizza parties) and delegates tasks to volunteers at the event, like trash collection, kitchen help, etc.

Outings Leaders: We'll need two
Please see CHAPTER, Page 2

Opportunity, like charity, begins at home

There are plenty of opportunities to serve right here at the local level. In fact, no less than five volunteer positions are either open or will become open in the very near future within the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

Among the more pressing needs of the Group are program chair, membership chair, volunteer chair (for coordinating volunteers at such events as bazaars, etc), treasurer, and fundraising chair.

The program chair is responsible for finding someone to give the program at monthly meetings and then sending that information to the newsletter editor.

The membership chair should plan to be present at most meetings to welcome newcomers and provide them a

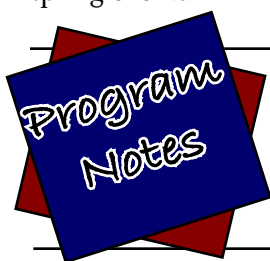
brief introduction to the Sierra Club.

The volunteer chair makes sure that the group has the proper staffing level at area events. Signup sheets are passed around at every meeting when such an event comes up.

The treasurer issues checks and provides a written report to the ExCom each month.

The fundraising chair is a new, and vitally important, position. Without funding sources, not only would the treasurer not have anything to do, but we couldn't pay for the newsletter mailing and printing, rent on the meeting room, or other expenses incurred by the group.

For more information, or to volunteer for any of these positions, contact Dan Smith, 817-410-2955.



BYOB: Bring your own ballot for the ExCom election AND your own bottle to the Christmas Party, Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. It's a potluck dinner with soft drinks and tea provided. The party, at 6728 Kirkwood Rd., two blocks south of the Kings Liquors/Riskies BBQ on Camp Bowie, is hosted by Tolbert Greenwood, 817/737-8698. Turn left off Camp Bowie (as you go west) on to Wellington. Kirkwood is the 2nd street on the right. His house is on the right at the top of the hill next to the fire hydrant. Tickets are \$3 in advance through any ExCom Member or \$5 at the Door.

Coming Events

January 5, Wednesday

Outings Meeting at the Great Outdoors Sub Shop, 3204 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth at 7 p.m. to plan new outings and reminisce about old trips. Contact Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-8698, tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com. Call to verify.

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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817/588-1167

<http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>

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Ad director Wendy Lambert 817-251-0016

Circulation dir. Steve Turner 817-457-7131



Mission statement

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

General Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

7:00 Main Auditorium in use. We'll meet at Everett Hall until January, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north to Camp Bowie).

January 11, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For meeting location, contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540 or Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

January 19, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings

or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

January 3, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's, 6770 Bridge St. at 7 p.m. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

January 4, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, 1700 S. University Dr. For more information, contact Dan Smith, 410-2955.

Wine Tasting, Sunday, February 20

Learn about wine at a wine tasting fundraiser at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn on Sunday, Feb 20 at 5 p.m. Please register by sending a check for \$20 made out to Fort Worth Sierra Club and your e-mail address to Jeneanne Carson, 906 E. Timberview Ln, Arlington, Texas 76014 by Feb 15. For further information, please contact Todd Nichols at 817-937-5217. Email: toddnichols@comcast.net.

Chapter has volunteer needs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

certified Sierra Club outings leaders to co-organize the camp out. Specific duties include coordinating the canopy, latrines, and first-aid.

Food Coordinator: With the use of Sierra Club funds, will purchase all the food (blue crabs and vegetarian options, drinks, etc.), coordinate plates and utensils, and coordinates the crab boil.

Steering Committee: Committee of about 5 volunteers that will collectively guide and organize the activities during the event, including promotion, logistics, etc. This committee should include the above volunteer leaders.

Alternative Spring Break 2005

Sierra Club will host its second Alternative Spring Break at Padre Island National Seashore.

This event will probably be a three-day event, like last year's during the week of March 14 and will include various programs, such as birding, natural history, grassroots organizing, and a daily dose of the Padre Campaign to stop the drilling.

It will take some great volunteers to

make this event fun and successful. The following volunteer jobs are needed:

Volunteer Coordinator: Organizes volunteers for phone banking events (pizza parties) and delegates tasks to volunteers at the event.

Outings Leaders: We'll need two certified Sierra Club outings leaders to co-organize the camp out. Specific duties include coordinating the canopy, latrines, first-aid, and guided hikes and/or bike rides.

Student Coordinator: This person will in charge of recruiting students from College Campuses nationwide. A solid connection with the Sierra Student Coalition is recommended.

Program Coordinator: Coordinates the various activities of the event each day. Schedules speakers to talk on issues.

Steering Committee: Committee of 5-10 volunteers that will collectively guide and organize the activities during the event, including promotion, logistics, etc.

This committee should include the above volunteer leaders.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

Sunday, January 2

Dayhike Trinity Trail. Start off the New Year with a day hike on the Trinity Trail. Meet at 4 p.m. at the parking lot beside the Trinity River at Hoffbrau Steak House on University Drive in Fort Worth approximately one mile south of I-30 and University Drive. Bring water and appropriate clothing. Dogs are welcome. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Optional dinner

afterwards. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

January 8, Saturday

River Legacy Park hike – east. Let's walk off the holiday pounds on the newly-opened trail in north Arlington. We'll hike six miles on a paved trail to observe the Trinity River bottom forest, wildlife, and open areas east of River Legacy Park. The river and wildlife (herons, egrets, beaver, turtles and more) are more visible on this section than along the west trails of River Legacy Park. Bring water and sunscreen. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards. Directions: From I-30 in Arlington, exit Collins and take Collins north past Green Oaks Blvd. After crossing Green Oaks approx. 400 feet, turn left into the new River Legacy Park east entrance and park at the south section (walk south from the parking lot to find the map). Meet at 10 a.m. by the large park map and drinking fountains. Leader: Jeneanne Carson (817) 860-1870 or email jcars@flash.net No reservations needed—just show up.

Friday-Sunday, January 21-23

Campout Friday and Saturday evening at LBJ National Grasslands near Decatur for the polar bears in the group, or just come out for the day on Saturday. Day hike of about 10-12 miles on Saturday. Hike will begin at 9 a.m. for those wishing to drive out for the day. (Possible two-mile night hike on Friday night if the weather is decent.) Camp and trailhead at Black Creek Lake. Drive time from Fort Worth is about one to one-and-a-half hours depending on where you live. Contact Dan Smith at 817 410-2955 or FWSierran@aol.com to sign up.

Friday-Sunday, March 4-6

Carcamp at Kisatchie Bayou, near Nachitoches, Louisiana (about 5 hours drive from Fort Worth). You will need to drive to La on Friday. Dayhike 7 to 9 miles in the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness on Sat. Sunday, day hike 2 to 4 miles along scenic Kisatchie Bayou. Leaders: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 and Martha Ohlson phone: 972-727-5778, e-mail: mjohnson@drs-irtech.com

Fort Worth Group Conservation Notes

TREE-CUTTING MORATORIUM

At its regular meeting on November 16, the Fort Worth City Council declared a 30 day moratorium on clear-cutting trees on tracts one acre or larger.

The action provides for a fine of \$175 per diameter inch for removal or damage of trees six inches or more in diameter or a \$500 fine per offense. The moratorium passed by a vote of 6-2, with Councilmembers Clyde Picht and Chuck Wilcox opposing the measure.

The Greater Fort Worth Realtors Association and local developers also voiced objections.

The move was prompted when citizens objected to the clearance of trees on the city's east side for residential and commercial development. The Council has appointed a nine-member committee to write temporary rules while a more comprehensive tree preservation ordinance is studied.

Preservation supporters have pointed out that most large cities in Texas have such an ordinance and see passage as

the only way to protect the remaining stands of trees in the city. Opponents cite increased development costs, and Councilman Picht said "we are showing a lot more respect for trees than we do for the rights of people who buy property and try to develop it".

TRINITY RIVER FUNDS

Congress has authorized \$110 million to begin a massive transformation of Fort Worth's north side known as the Trinity River Vision. The centerpiece of the development will be a diversion channel for the river and creation of a town lake, a project expected to take 10-12 years to complete at a total local, state and federal cost of \$360 million dollars.

The location contains numerous sites with potential pollution problems, such as old tanneries, petroleum storage tanks, and metal-processing plants, and \$21 million is estimated as the minimum cost to clean up those areas.

Work on the project will begin in 2005 with design work on the by-pass channel and lake, plus completion of a Corps of Engineers environmental

impact statement.

LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE

On Jan. 11, 2005, the 79th Texas Legislature will convene in Austin. Important environmental issues will be on the agenda, including financing of state parks, radioactive waste storage, permitting and enforcement practices of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and many other topics of concern to the environmental community and all Texans.

Water quality and supply is certain to be examined at length, with questions involving inter-basin transfers, marketing of water rights, sale and transportation of groundwater, leasing of state water rights under public lands, and the role of Groundwater Conservation Districts to be among the many water issues studied.

Get involved!

Make your voice heard! Find out how to get Take Action Alerts and other important Sierra Club messages by email at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/email>

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1925
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Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Phone (optional) _____

Individual (\$35) Joint (\$43)

Annual dues include subscription to **F94QT19002** -1
Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications F94Q W99901 Entity Code
(\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

The 2005 Sierra Club Calendars Are Coming!

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