



BAYOU BANNER

Newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Volume 33, Number 8

<http://houston.sierraclub.org>

October, 2009

MOVING TO ZERO WASTE

by Frank Blake

The City of Austin and Travis County have joined a growing number of communities around the world by adopting a plan for 'Zero Waste'. The Austin plan targets a 90% reduction in waste by the year 2040. Other cities in North America that have adopted Zero Waste plans include San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, Toronto, and Vancouver.

See **MOVING TO ZERO WASTE** on Page 3.

**It's time for you to help the Houston Sierra Club defend our local environment...
...Please see the message from the group chair, and use the form on page 4.**

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY - CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES

Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) has worked tirelessly to conserve roughly 13,000 acres of irreplaceable wildlife habitat just 45 minutes west of Houston since its first land purchase in 1996. This vibrant mosaic of wetlands, prairie remnants, riverine forests, and farmland is a wildlife magnet attracting over 200 species of birds (including clouds of charismatic waterfowl), 100 species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and countless insects and native plants. Yet, the inexorable march of Houston towards the Katy-area - including new home development and associated road

construction projects - make further conservation of greenspace an increasingly difficult, costly, and pressing challenge. This presentation will pinpoint the conservation challenges on the Katy Prairie and highlight KPC's initiatives for safeguarding more land while also revealing the unique character, diversity, and utility of this timeless place.



Photo by Michael Morton

This program will be presented by Jaime González, KPC Community Education Manager, who is responsible for developing and implementing activities, events, and programs to expand public access to the prairie.

**The Annual Auction is coming...
...see Page .**

SOME THOUGHTS ON GLOBAL WARMING

by Ron Hayden

Pre-Industrial accumulations of CO₂ in the atmosphere (prior to 1860) was about 285 parts per million. Today CO₂ is 389 PPM and rising at the rate of 2 PPM per year.

James Hansen the director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Science (GISS) at Columbia University and our greatest climate scientist has stated that "to avert the worst case scenarios of runaway climate change, we must reduce CO₂ accumulations in the atmosphere to no more than 350 PPM by 2100". If we continue business as usual we will be near 600 PPM by 2100. It is critical that we reverse this trend.

The worst case scenarios include: Acidification of the oceans, extinction of more than 50% of all species on earth, the Amazon Rainforest turning to desert, the American West from Texas to California turning to desert

See **GLOBAL WARMING** on Page 4.

The Sierra Club — Houston Group
P.O. Box 3021
Houston, TX 77253-3021

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St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama
Enter one parking lot from Woodhead, the other from Sul Ross.
Before 7:00 PM, left turns to Woodhead are not allowed. If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlavy, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

**OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING
KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY
Thursday, October 8, 2009**

Join us prior to the meeting for refreshments at the hospitality table and to visit the information tables for Forestry, Outings, and Inner City Outings. Find out how you can volunteer with us.

TRIPS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

Page 2

Bayou Banner — Volume 33, Number 8 — October, 2009

Hike

OCTOBER HIKE ON LSHT VISIT TARKINGTON BAYOU

Saturday, October 3, 2009

We will hike the beautiful 8 mile Tarkington Section of the Lone Star Hiking Trail (LSHT). We will hike along Tarkington Bayou, see Longleaf Pine trees, and cross pretty seepage creeks.

Bring your day pack, water, lunch, hiking shoes, clothes to fit the weather, binoculars, cameras, and field guides. Hiking time should be about 6 hours.

We will meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot behind the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at I-45 North and Greens Road. Look for the green Nissan Mini-van. To reach the parking lot, enter the feeder off I-45 North, via the Greens Road exit, and then pass through the traffic signal at Greens Rd. Turn right into the first strip center you come to (look for Brown Sugar's Barbecue) and drive to the end of the strip center. The parking lot behind IHOP is on the right.

Contact Jane Prentiss at 713-201-5755 or Ishtrailboss@yahoo.com for additional details. Please supply your name and contact info should we need to make changes. ☎

Class

BACKPACKING BASICS COURSE

Tentative dates:

Wednesday, October 7, 2009: Classroom

October 10-11, 2009: Outing

Have you ever wanted to really experience the less traveled sections of a national park or a wilderness area, miles from civilization? Or have you ever been interested in backpacking, but didn't know where to start? Now you can take the first step by enrolling in the Houston Sierra Club's backpacking course. This course has two sections: a classroom portion (with handout) and a weekend outing. The classroom instruction will focus on backpacking equipment (with samples), clothing, water, and food preparation. Instructions on what you will need for the outing will also be explained.

The cost of the classroom portion is a donation to the Houston Sierra Club of \$30. The outing will be restricted to those who have taken the classroom portion, and will be an additional \$15 donation. Do NOT purchase equipment before the class – you may find that you paid good money for something that you don't need. This course is restricted to adults 18 years of age and over.

Instructors are Angie Langolf and Cathy Koenig (veterans of dozens of Houston Sierra Club outings). For more information, please contact Angie by email at outdoor.girl.01@gmail.com or phone 281-222-0307 or Cathy at casckoenig@comcast.net. ☎

Forest Walk

OCTOBER FOREST WALK CELEBRATES "BIG THICKET DAY"

Saturday, October 10, 2009

We will celebrate "Big Thicket Day" with the National Park Service, Big Thicket Association (BTA), and other lovers of Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP). This year marks the 35th anniversary of BTNP and the 45th anniversary of the BTA. The celebration will

take place at the BTNP Visitors' Center at 6044 FM 420 in Kountze, Texas.

We will enjoy a ribbon cutting for the new BTNP headquarters building; tour the building; hear an update on BTNP from Superintendent Todd Brindle; watch Alabama-Coushatta Indian dancers; and later in the afternoon take a leisurely hike on the Turkey Creek Trail. Lunch will be served.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and U.S. Representative Kevin Brady have been invited to attend and speak.

Bring your daypack, water, snacks, hiking shoes, cameras, bug repellent, sunscreen, field guides, and clothes to fit the weather. Long pants are highly recommended!

We will meet to carpool/caravan at 7:15 am in the parking lot just west of Starbucks (look for Becks Prime) in Meyerland Plaza. Starbucks fronts the 4700 block of Beechnut (near the West Loop South). Look for a blue Plymouth Neon with lots of bumper stickers. Be there at 7:15 am sharp because we need to get on our way quickly.

If you want to go call Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or email him at brandtshnfbt@juno.com and leave your name, address, phone number, and email. In case of trip cancellation Brandt will either email or call you. ☎

Park Visit

WILLOW WATERHOLE GREENWAY

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Willow Waterhole has been designed to serve a dual purpose: as storm water detention basin and public greenspace. The detention basins themselves are a project of Harris County Flood Control, and grants from Texas Parks & Wildlife have allowed the Houston Parks Department to construct park amenities in the project area, such as walkways, bridges, bikeways, and picnic areas. Construction on Willow Waterhole began in 2004, and when completed will total approximately 280 acres. The completed portions have already become a notable birding destination, and Houston Audubon conducts regular bird surveys. Willow Waterhole is located in southwest Houston just outside loop 610, near South Post Oak Rd. and US 90. On this outing we will explore the park and observe the bird life. We'll meet at 8am (for carpooling) and the outing will last until approximately noon. For meeting point and other details, contact Frank Blake, frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. ☎

Trail Work

PHELPS SECTION OF LSHT

Saturday, October 17, 2009

We will conduct trail maintenance on the Phelps Section of the Lone Star Hiking Trail (LSHT), in Sam Houston National Forest. The Phelps Section is about 5 miles long and crosses many small streams and some nice hardwood uplands.

Bring a lopper, machete, swing-blade, saw, or similar tool to trim branches and low growing vegetation. If you do not have a tool we have extra ones. Bring a daypack, two quarts of water, hat, lunch, and hiking shoes. Long pants are highly recommended!!!

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at I-45 North and Greens Road. Look for a green Nissan mini-van.

To get to the parking lot, enter the feeder off I-45 North via the Greens Road exit and then pass through the traffic signal at Greens

Road. Turn right into the first strip center you come to (look for Brown Sugar's Barbecue) and drive to the end of the strip center. The parking lot behind IHOP is on the right.

Call Jane Prentiss at 713-201-5755 or email her at Ishtrailboss@yahoo.com for more details. Please supply your name and contact information should we need to make changes. ☎



At Martin Dies, Jr. State Park Rob McCorkle, © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Sierra Celebration

SIERRA CELEBRATION

MARTIN DIES JR. STATE PARK

October 23-25

This year's annual Sierra Celebration will take place at Martin Dies Jr. State Park in East Texas. The park has extensive shoreline on Steinhagen Reservoir, with opportunities to canoe or kayak, and a variety of hiking trails in a forest that features magnolia, beech, and maple. The Chapter plans various activities including a Saturday evening East Texas Catfish Fry (separate fee). A list of activities for the weekend will be posted to the Lone Star Chapter website in September.

The Houston group will be organizing a group and reserving several campsites. We also have tentative plans for some hikes outside the park (possible options: Sawmill Hiking Trail at Boykin Springs; Turkey Creek Trail at Big Thicket NP). To sign up for a camping spot with the Houston Group, contact Lorraine Gibson raineygib@aol.com or 281-384-4104. Well behaved pets ok with permission of leader.

Participants can also reserve a camping spot through the Chapter, or on their own. ☎

NOAA estimates that Mexican shark fishermen annually take more than 55,000 sharks from U. S. waters. This is depleting the shark population in the Gulf of Mexico. Sharks are an essential species for the ocean ecosystem. The driving force behind this is the price of shark fin soup, sold at \$100 (U. S.) per serving to Hong Kong businessmen. More info at <http://www.texasobserver.org> - search for "sharks."

See the outings calendar at our website

<http://houston.sierraclub.org>

for possible additions to schedule.

Click **Calendar**, then

scroll down to **Quick Links**.



Lion hunters resting on the Gila River - 1927 National Park Service Photo by F. L. Kirby

New Mexico

GILA NATIONAL FOREST

October 28-November 1, 2009

Our annual fall trip is being planned. The destination is the middle of the Gila Wilderness in the Gila National Forest of southwestern New Mexico. The Gila Wilderness which was established in 1924 as the first designated wilderness in the country. Elevations range from 4,200 to 10,900 feet and cover four of the six life zones. Flora and fauna are diverse. Ocotillo and cactus are found in the lower elevations, and juniper, pine, aspen, and spruce-fir forests are plentiful in the high mountains. Wildlife such as the black bear, mountain lion, elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and wild turkey inhabit the Forest while the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and the red-tailed hawk soar in the wind.

As usual, we plan to have both base camping and backpacking groups. We will fly to El Paso on Wednesday afternoon, then drive in minivans to the Gila. Return will be on Sunday. Participants will purchase their own airline tickets and pay a reasonable amount (tentatively, \$185 per person, including the cost of renting the minivans, and some profit) to the Houston Sierra Club. The profit supports the mission of the club, which has no paid staff. Contact George Batten at BayouBanner@gmail.com to make a reservation. 📍

Car Camping

DOUBLE LAKE RECREATION AREA FAMILY CAMPOUT

NOVEMBER 6 - 8, 2009

A weekend of fall camping in the Sam Houston National Forest. Join us Friday night at Double Lake Recreation area near Cleveland. Saturday morning we will shuttle to the Big Creek Scenic Area where there are several loop trails for moderate hiking. Or hike through the Scenic Area back to Double Lake along the Lone Star Trail (about 5 miles). For the little kids we can play some games around the campground. This area is habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species. Sunday morning is an opportunity to enjoy Double Lake's many other attractions: canoeing, fishing, hiking & biking. Cost is \$25 donation to the club. Space is limited. Please contact Tony King at 713-669-0837 home, 281-804-6896 cell or kingt8@comcast.net. 📍

MOVING TO ZERO WASTE

Continued from Page 1.

San Francisco has reportedly achieved close to a 70% reduction to date. One can review the Austin Zero Waste Plan at the city's website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/0waste.htm>

"Zero waste" is at once both the concept and the goal of eliminating waste altogether. Just as there is no waste in nature, proponents argue that the very idea of waste is unnecessary. Waste is a design flaw, and one that can and must be solved if we are to create a sustainable future.

Trash and landfills are much more than unappealing eyesores. They are leading contributors to global climate change (from methane generated by landfills), air, soil and water pollution, and unsustainable consumption patterns. Zero waste is part of a solution beyond our current recycling efforts that is being embraced and implemented by governments and businesses worldwide. Of course, advocates don't expect literally no waste at all, but often use a 90% reduction as a benchmark.

You may not realize it when you're tossing that water bottle into the recycling bin, but the bottle itself only represents a tiny fraction of the total waste generated. It's the tip of the "wasteberg" – about 70 times more waste was created in the process of getting that product into your household. This is why increasing recycling is only part of the zero waste solution. Here are some other components of zero waste:

Zero Waste Has Five Basic Tenets

from the Grassroots Recycling Network

- **Redesigning products and packaging:** Planning in advance to limit product resource consumption, toxicity, and waste, and recovering materials through reuse, recycling, or composting — designing products for recycling, not for the dump.
- **Producer TakeBack:** Manufacturers are held responsible for the waste and environmental impact their product and packaging creates, rather than passing that responsibility on to the consumer. The end result is that manufacturers redesign products to reduce materials consumption and facilitate reuse, recovery and recycling.
- **Investing in Recycling, Not Landfills or Incinerators:** Rather than using taxes to build new landfills and incinerators, communities can continue to invest in recycling facilities designed to take the

place of a landfill or incinerator.

- **Ending Taxpayer Subsidies for Wasteful and Polluting Industries:** Pollution, energy consumption and environmental destruction start at the point of virgin resource extraction and processing. Manufacturers use virgin resources for raw material partly because tax subsidies and other social policies make this a cheaper and easier alternative than using recycled or recovered materials. Additional public subsidies exist to keep "disposal" costs through landfills and incinerators artificially low by not assigning significant costs to the harmful emissions produced by these facilities.
- **Creating Jobs and New Businesses from Discards:** Wasting materials in a landfill or incinerator also wastes business opportunities that could be created if those resources were preserved. According to the Institute for Local Self Reliance's report *Wasting and Recycling in the United States 2000*, "On a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables alone sustains ten times more jobs than landfilling or incineration." The report adds, "Each recycling step a community takes locally means more jobs, more business expenditures on supplies and services, and more money circulating in the local economy through spending and tax payments."

For more information on zero waste, one can visit the websites of the Grassroots Recycling Network, Eco-cycle, and Zero Waste International Alliance. Information in this article was sourced from the website of the Texas Campaign for the Environment. For questions on recycling issues, contact Frank Blake at frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896. 📍

HOUSTON MAYORAL CANDIDATES GREEN FORUM SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 11 AM KTRK CHANNEL 13

The only televised environmental forum with all 2010 major mayoral candidates:

Annise Parker, City Controller
Peter Brown, City Councilmember
Gene Locke, Partner at Andrews Kurth LLP
Roy Morales, Harris County Board of Education Trustee

Panelists **Matthew Tejada**, GHASP/MfCA; **David Crossley**, Houston Tomorrow; and **Leo Gold**, The New Capital Show, 90.1FM
KPFT will pose questions focusing on
environmental concerns and green initiatives.

FEATURES

Message from the Chair

The Houston Sierra Club Needs You

Dear Houston Sierra Club Member,

It's time for the Houston Sierra Club's October fundraising drive again. It takes both volunteer dedication and money to keep our local work going. The Houston Group usually receives only 50 cents per member in dues subvention from the national Sierra Club. The total of about \$2,500 covers the printing and mailing costs of just two of the ten issues of the "Bayou Banner," which still leaves the other eight issues, paying for meeting room & telephone, and of course our vital conservation work. This year, however, the expected subvention is zero. The Houston Sierra Club is one of the strongest defenders of our local environment. We speak – we write – we act – we volunteer in defense of clean air and water, forest protection, a strong park system, trustworthy floodplain maps, and a healthy future for people and our patch of the Earth. And this year is especially important because of the our law suit to prevent the construction of Segment E of the Grand Parkway.

Help us to continue our work with your contribution, payable either to the Houston Sierra Club or the Sierra Club Foundation. Your gift to either will greatly help our local efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me at 713-748-8133 or at ezz@pdq.net. Please use the enclosed envelope to help.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams

Chairperson, Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club

You can donate online: go to <http://houston.sierraclub.org/join/contribute.htm>.

Cut out and mail with check

YES, you can count on me. I'll gladly do my share.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Here's my contribution.

Environmental Supporter	\$1 - \$100	\$ _____
Environmental Defender	\$101 - \$250	\$ _____
Environmental Advocate	\$251 - \$500	\$ _____
Environmental Champion	\$501 and up	\$ _____

IMPORTANT: Please check one of the following.

I don't need a tax deduction. My check is payable to "**Sierra Club/Houston**" (contributions and gifts to the Houston Sierra Club are NOT tax-deductible. They support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts).

I prefer to have a tax deduction, so my check is payable to "**Sierra Club Foundation**" (contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions because they support grants for public education, research, and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals).

We will recognize donors in our February 2010 of the Bayou Banner.
If you prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate by checking HERE.

Thank you for your generosity!

Mail to:
The Sierra Club - Houston Group
P. O. Box 3021
Houston, TX 77253-3021

GLOBAL WARMING

Continued from Page 1.

(like the Sahara Desert), extreme flooding in wet areas, severe and continuing drought in dry areas, collapse of food systems worldwide, average global temperatures rising by as much as 9 degrees C (13 degrees F), with the ultimate result being the melting of all the ice on the planet and sea levels rising by more than 200 feet over present levels and the resulting inundation of coastal cities and communities worldwide. Our world will be forever changed from the one that we have lived on and thrived in for the past 100 thousand years. This process (melting of all the ice and rise of average global temperatures) may take 100 or 200 years, but it will continue to get worse and worse with each passing year if we do not stop putting CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Currently coal produces about 35% of the excess CO₂ worldwide, about 35% comes from auto emissions (planes, trains, ships, trucks, etc.) and about 30% comes from the burning of the rainforest and agricultural processes.

Emissions from coal is the one source that we can (except for politics) control in a relatively short time. If I were King of the World, I would have a crash program similar to the US mobilization for WWII, to build renewable power plants. These power plants would consist of solar, wind and geothermal power plants; plants that do not pollute and plants that use renewable fuel, like the sun, the wind, and the heat from the mantle of the earth. As these new power utilities come on line, I would shut down the coal plants starting with the worst polluters. Studies cited in Scientific American Magazine have shown that we could produce 20% of our electric power needs from wind. A solar array that is 100 miles long by 100 miles wide could produce enough electric power to supply the entire United States. There are enough geothermal hot spots in the US to produce about 20% of our electric power needs.

Consider this. We have 254,000 miles of electric transmission lines (the large galvanized steel towers that carry our electric cables). If we put a solar panel array on each of these towers we could eliminate our need for coal. There would be no need to develop new land areas; we already have the easements for the towers. There would be no need to develop new transmission lines as the power source would be on the existing transmission lines.

Would this cost a lot of money? Yes it would; but the cost is relatively low compared to the cost to

move and rebuild the cities of Miami, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington DC and Houston, when sea levels rise to inundate these coastal communities.

We have the technology and the capacity to shut down the coal fired electric power plants, (about 600 of them), and to reduce our CO₂ pollution by 35%. The afore mentioned solar arrays on the transmission towers would cost much less to install and operate than the cost to convert 600 polluting coal fired electric power plants to new "clean coal" IGCC power plants with carbon capture and sequestration. What is needed is the political will to make the switch; and therein lies the problem. A wise benevolent king could make it happen. Our congress is another story. Unfortunately, greed and special interest money call the tune in Congress. Our representatives in congress are apparently unable to (or choose not to) see the big picture; the planet is melting down before our eyes. It appears that they are more concerned about receiving money from their corporate sponsors that they are about making the tough decisions needed to save the earth as we know it.

Will the people of the earth ultimately be wise enough to save our planet from catastrophic runaway climate change? 🌍

STATE PARK RESERVATIONS

Want to make a reservation for a Texas State Park? Call 512/389-8900 instead of using the Internet. You can reserve more than one campsite at a time. 🌐

E-WASTE RECYCLING

For information on where to recycle computers, TVs, and other e-waste, visit the website of TexasTakeBack.org at <http://www.texastakeback.com/>. 🌐

BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE! SWITCH TO REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

CLEAR LAKE WALKERS

Every Saturday morning at 7:30, rain or shine

A group of Sierra Club members and friends in the Bay Area meet weekly for a three-mile walk, conversation and breakfast. Much of the walk is along the water and we often see a variety of shore birds.

Where: Nassau Bay, meeting in the Dollar Store parking lot across from the Post Office.
Contact: Betty Armstrong at 281 333 5693.

Editor's note: The Clear Lake Walkers have been active for 17 years. 🌐

ANNUAL AUCTION

DECEMBER 10, 2009

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

We will hold our fundraising "Live and Silent Annual Action" along with our Holiday Gathering at our December monthly General Meeting, Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m.

This is one of the club's biggest fundraising events. All proceeds will be used to support our local conservation and educational programs including the printing and mailing of our newsletter. We had many successful auctions in the past years, thanks to all our donors, volunteers and bidders, and we are looking forward to another successful event.

We are beginning to accept donations for the auction. An early response is needed so we can publish the auction items in the upcoming issues of our Bayou Banner. Suggestions for donations would be rentals for cabins, rooms, sailboats, canoes, bicycles, etc.; gift certificates or gift cards for services, performances, merchants or restaurants; and goods such as camping equipment, crafts, artwork, or autographed books.

We need volunteers prior to the event to help solicit for auction items, pick up donated items or help promote and advertise the event. Additionally we will need many volunteers on the day of the event to help with our refreshment table and setting up the event.

To donate, volunteer or for more information about the auction contact Arlene Diehl at 281-252-4639 or arlenediehl@peoplepc.com. 🌐

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.
2. Practice and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.
3. Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
4. Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Houston Sierra Club gets a small part of your membership renewal fee (the rest of it is used by the National Sierra Club and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club). The amount passed to the Houston Sierra Club is more if you use a credit card and renew on line through our website than if you mail a check.

Do you think we use the plan for "Zero Waste?"

Where do we do that?

Not all of that is discarded.

But we do have landfills.

What about "producer takeback?"

Ok, we're doing most of it!

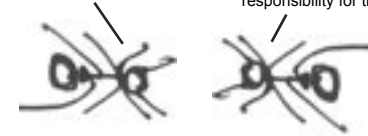
Well, we certainly have use discards. The jobs are long standing.

At picnics.

Oh, it might be later. Also, we don't take any subsidies.

Yes, but I like to think of that as using recycled material for housing.

We are producer and consumer, so we do have responsibility for the waste.



NOTICES

Sierra Club is a California non profit corporation, with "California Seller of Travel" registration number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>, or contact the Outings Department at the national Sierra Club office at (415)-977-5528 for a printed version. 🌐

KROGER NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

If you shop at Kroger you can help support the Houston Sierra Club financially by linking your Kroger Card to support the Houston Group. This year Kroger re-organized their community giving process, and to participate in the new program shoppers need to get the Houston Sierra Club 'bar code' and have that scanned and linked to their Kroger c+ard. This can reportedly be done by any Kroger cashier in a check out line.

You can obtain a copy of the instructions and the Houston Sierra Club bar code (in a PDF file) by contacting Frank Blake, frankblake@juno.com or 713-528-2896; or Lorraine Gibson, raineygib@aol.com or 713-436-1833. 🌐



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

BAYOU BANNER

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Volume 33, No. 8

<http://houston.sierraclub.org>

October, 2009

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website: <http://houston.sierraclub.org>

Opinions stated are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Houston Sierra Club.

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FEATURES

ACRONYMS

Sometimes the acronyms and abbreviations appearing in the Bayou Banner seem overwhelming, so this list is included to help our readers (and the editor). -Ed.

Specific to this Issue of the Bayou Banner

IGCC Integrated Gassification Combined Cycle
PPM Parts per million

General

ExCom Executive Committee
FS U. S. Forest Service
HSC Houston Sierra Club
LSHT Lone Star Hiking Trail
NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PDF Portable Document Format (computer file)
SHNF Sam Houston National Forest
TCEQ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TTC Trans-Texas Corridor
TxDOT Texas Department of Transportation

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Special Volunteers Needed in addition to our monthly trail work

1. I need volunteers who have carpenter skills to repair bridges that have been damaged on the LSHT. No dates have been set, I would call each individual with information which Saturday these events would take place.

2. I need volunteers who have carpenter and power tool experience to make signs for the LSHT. I would gather the materials, we would meet here in Houston, and make wooden signs for the trail.

3. I need volunteers the last weekend in October to assist students with the Inner City Outing Group conduct trail work on the Trail Between the Lakes.

If you are interested in any of these projects, call Jane Prentiss, 713-201-5755 or lshttrailboss@yahoo.com.

HOW TO PRINT THE BAYOU BANNER IN COLOR

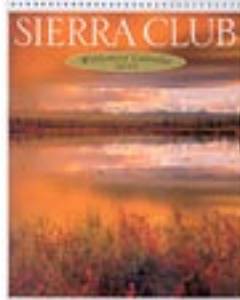
The web version of the Bayou Banner (which is a PDF file; see News at our web site) has some color pictures. You can print it on letter-size paper using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. After you click "Print", select "Reduce to Printer Margins" from the "Page Scaling" window.

WANT BREAKING NEWS?

Check our website:
<http://houston.sierraclub.org/>.

Since the print copy of the Banner takes several weeks from editorial deadline to members' mail boxes, some late-planned activities appear only on the web site.

2010 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



Wilderness Wall Calendar
Best seller for over 31 years
All the grandeur of the
North American wilderness



Engagement Calendar
Most popular nature calendar ever published
Stunning images of flora and fauna
Week-by-week format with 57 full-color
photographs

Available at the monthly General Meeting sales table, or order by mail using the form below.
If you are interested in volunteering for calendar consignment sales, contact Lorraine Gibson at 281-381-4990 or raineygib@aol.com.

2010 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

Order By Mail

1) Fill in your name, address, and telephone number:

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

2) Fill out the order form below, selecting the quantity and total ordered of each calendar:

DESCRIPTION	CALENDAR PRICE	SHIPPING	TOTAL EACH	# ORDERED	TOTAL ORDER
(Prices include all applicable Texas state and local sales taxes.)					
2010 Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$14.00	\$3.00	\$17.00	_____	_____
2010 Engagement Calendar	\$15.00	\$3.00	\$18.00	_____	_____

3) Add the total order column to determine the total:

ORDER TOTAL

(Questions - Contact Lorraine Gibson: raineygib@aol.com or 281-384-4104 cell.)

Thank you!

4) Clip and mail this order form along with your check payable to:

Houston Sierra Club
c/o Lorraine Gibson
3010 Norwich
Pearland, TX 77584

(We are unable to accept credit card orders. Please do not send cash.)

Your order will be processed as soon as your check is received. Calendars will be mailed to the address supplied unless you give us other instructions. All orders are subject to final acceptance. Checks will be returned for orders that cannot be filled. Quantities are limited.

“TAKE ME OUTDOORS HOUSTON”
Free, Family-Oriented Festival of the Outdoors
Saturday, October 10
9am - 4pm at Discovery Green

At a time when people in big cities are becoming increasingly disconnected from the world of nature and the outdoors, “Take Me Outdoors Houston” on Oct. 10 at Discovery Green will offer Houston’s first free, family-oriented festival of the outdoors.

Exhibitors will provide hands-on activities, booths and opportunities to engage audiences who haven’t ever or don’t often get exposure to the great outdoors – especially the resources located right in Houston’s big backyard.

“By introducing Texans, especially urban adults and kids, to outdoor recreation, our woods and waters and natural places become more relevant and important to them,” said Heidi Rao, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hunter education coordinator in Houston. “We believe recreation leads to conservation. If they’re out there enjoying the natural world, they come to care about it and finally to care for it.”

“Take Me Outdoors Houston” is sponsored by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Discovery Green, and will consist of a variety of exhibitors clustered in topical zones. The Houston Sierra Club plans to participate as an exhibitor.

The Nature & Environmental Zone will include the TPWD State Parks Division, TPWD Texas Outdoor Family Program, Houston Zoo, Texas Master Naturalist Program, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Houston Wilderness, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center, Wildlife

Rehabilitation, Nature Heritage Society, and the Sierra Club.

The Hunting & Wildlife Conservation Zone will include the TPWD Hunter Education Program, TPWD Wildlife Division, Houston Gulf Coast Safari Club International, Gulf Coast Quail Forever, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Texas Wildlife Association, and the Junior Anglers and Hunters of America.

The Target Zone will consist of the Texas National Archery in the Schools Program archery range and the Laser Shot Shooting Simulator.

The Fishing & Aquatic Conservation Zone will include the TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD Angler Education Program, TPWD Boater Education Program, and Landry’s Downtown Aquarium in Houston.

There will also be two educational demonstrations of live hawks and other raptors in flight by master falconer John Karger of “Last Chance Forever – the Bird of Prey Conservancy” based in San Antonio.

For more information about “Take Me Outdoors Houston”, visit the Discovery Green website or call (713) 400-7336. For general information about ways urban families can reconnect with nature and the outdoors, see the “Life’s Better Outside” website of Texas Parks and Wildlife at www.lifesbetteroutside.org.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
JANE PRENTISS

Jane, a Sierra Club volunteer, has organized monthly service trips and hikes on the Lone Star Hiking Trail for the past two years. In addition, Jane has worked with Boy Scouts and other young people to implement service projects on the Lone Star Hiking Trail and has introduced many people to the beauty and joys of Sam Houston National Forest.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
Laura Bateman

Laura is a Sierra Club volunteer who attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. During the summer of 2009 she came home to Houston and called the Sierra Club and offered her volunteer services. Laura has prepared three fact sheets about the Upper Texas Coast including Basic Coastal Processes and Habitats, Problems With the Proposed Ike Dike, and Alternative Solutions to the Ike Dike.

INFORMATION FOR ADVERTISERS

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club (also known as the Houston Sierra Club). It is published 10 times per year, with single issues for July-August and December-January. All advertising must be compatible with the mission of the Sierra Club, and it must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. The circulation is over 5,000 per issue.

Discounts are applied only if an order for all issues is made in advance. Back page and preferred pages may not be available in some issues.

Contact George Batten, Editor:
 BayouBanner@lonestar.sierraclub.org
 713-665-1505

Rate Schedule

1/3 page	\$160.00 per issue
1/4 page	\$125.00 “ “
1/8 page	\$ 75.00 “ “
1/18 page	\$ 45.00 “ “

(1/18 page is business card size)

Discounts

2 issues	3%
3 issues	5%
4 issues	6%
6 issues	10%
10 issues	15%

Additional

Back page (if available)
 +50%

Preferred page
 (other than front or back page)
 +25%

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 Join or Give/Membership Benefits

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 Get a FREE rucksack
 See it online

Part of your payment
 comes back to support the
 Houston Sierra Club



MAP: GETTING TO THE GENERAL MEETING

Some activities shown on this page are not managed by the Houston Sierra Club.

OUTINGS NOTICES

If you are interested in getting reminder notices of the bike rides and other outings please email John Berlinghoff at johnb@hal-pc.org.

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING:

Second Thursday monthly in Pecore Hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama. Enter parking lot from Woodhead. The meeting opens at 7:00 PM, and the program starts at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Before 7:00 PM, left turns are not allowed at Woodhead.

If you are going west on W. Alabama, turn right at Dunlay, then left to Marshall, then left to Woodhead.

CONSERVATION:

Third Tuesday monthly, 7:00 PM. Call for new location. Contact Evelyn Merz, 713-644-8228, elmerz @ hal-pc.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Fourth Thursday monthly, 7:00 PM, Houston Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline. Contact Jim Williams at ezz @ pdq.net.

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO):

Normally the second Tuesday every month, 7:00 PM, at a place to be determined. Please contact Angie Langolf at 713-467-6875 or outdoor.girl.01@gmail.com for more information.

OUTINGS:

Usually the third Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Whole Foods store on Bellaire near Wesleyan. Help us plan regional day outings, weekend trips, and air/bus trips to exciting outdoor destinations across the country. Please call to confirm meeting date. Frank Blake, 713-528-2896, frankblake@juno.com.

AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Subcommittee will meet on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at 5431 Carew.

RECYCLING RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON RECYCLING

The City of Houston has several drop off sites (note: some are specialized for certain items), and provides curbside recycling in many neighborhoods. Principal drop off locations are the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark, and the self serve site at 3602 Center Street in the Heights. For other locations and a complete list of recyclable items, consult the City's recycling web page. One can also phone the City's 311 hotline with recycling questions, or connect to

www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html

BELLAIRE, TX RECYCLING CENTER

4402 Edith, Bellaire Tx 77401

Open for drop offs: 8am-5pm, 7 days a week Accepts a good range of items, consult web page for details: www.ci.bellaire.tx.us/index.asp?SID=289.

BELLAIRE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

This group has a useful website, with a variety of info on recycling activities in the Houston area. Committee phone line is 713-662-8173. bellairerecycles.org/index.html.

HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's recycling facility — north of town on the I-45 access road — takes cardboard, paper, tin and aluminum cans, glass, used oil, plastics, and has a warehouse for reusable donated construction materials (doors, windows, tile, wood etc). One employee is available Monday-Friday to help you unload; it is self-service on Saturday. The web site is http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/residents/trash_and_recycling/recycling.asp.

PEARLAND RECYCLING CENTER

5800 Magnolia Road in Pearland, Texas, 77584, 281-489-2795. Takes most recyclable wastes: PC's, TV's, plastics, bottles, cans, paper, etc.

WEST UNIVERSITY RECYCLING CENTER

5004 Dincans (just south of Westpark near Kirby)

Open for drop offs 24/7; www.westu.org.

More available at <http://www.h-gac.com/>, especially at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/waste/resources/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2009

- 7 Backpacking Basics: Classroom
- 8 General Meeting
- 10-11 Backpacking Basics: Outing
- 23-25 Sierra Celebration
- 28-Nov 1 Gila National Forest Trip

November 2009

- 12 General Meeting

December 2009

- 10 General Meeting: Annual Auction

Houston Sierra Club E-MAIL ALERT LIST

Subscribe to the Houston Sierra Club's E-mail alert list to get timely alerts on Houston area conservation issues, and occasional announcements of interest to Houston Sierra Club members. *(Whenever you want to drop from the list it is easy to unsubscribe yourself—those instructions will be included.)*

INSTRUCTIONS:

Send FROM the E-mail address to which you want to direct the messages. Subscribe by sending to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Subject: [this line may be left blank]
Message Body:
SUBSCRIBE
LONESTAR-HOUSTON-ANNOUNCE
YourFirstName YourLastName

(Insert YOUR name in place of "YourFirstName YourLastName")

That's it. You will receive confirmation messages. from the listserve. Thanks for your interest. If you have any difficulty, contact frankblake@juno.com.

The Bayou Banner is the newsletter of the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club. It is published 10 times a year, with single issues for July-August and December-January. Circulation is 5500 issues that are mailed to members and distributed through various outlets.

EDITOR: George Batten
email: BayouBanner@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Telephone 415-977-5633 or send address changes to Sierra Club Membership, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322, or via email to address.changes@sierraclub.org.

Include both old and new addresses and allow 6 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Please DO NOT CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

SUBMISSIONS: The deadline to submit articles is the last Thursday of the second month before the month in which the articles are to run. All submissions must have the author's name, and contact information (including phone number) even though it will not be printed. Articles may be edited for clarity, accuracy, and space considerations. Opinions stated are those of the author and not necessarily that of the Houston Sierra Club. Send articles via email to BayouBanner@gmail.com; if sent as attachments, the preferred format is RTF. Preferred formats for pictures are PDF, JPEG, and TIF (300 dpi or greater resolution). No MS Publisher (PUB) files, please.

HOUSTON REGIONAL GROUP 713-895-9309 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Williams	ezz @ pdq.net
(Chair and Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	
George Batten	BayouBanner @ gmail.com
(Vice-chair and Bayou Banner Editor)	
Lorraine Gibson (Treasurer)	raineygib @ aol.com
John Sims (Secretary)	JohnSimsJr @ sbcglobal.net
Tom Ivy	TomIvy @ swbell.net
(Alternate Lone Star Chapter Delegate)	
Frank Blake	frankblake @ juno.com
Ronald Hayden	rhayden7 @ comcast.net
Evelyn Merz	elmerz @ hal-pc.org
Doug Peterson	dougpeterson @ earthlink.net

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Beach Cleanup	Rita Davis	281-486-4462
Conservation	Evelyn Merz	elmerz @ hal-pc.org
		713-644-8228

Conservation Subcommittees

Air Quality	Brandt Mannchen	713-664-5962
Coastal Issues	Page Williams	page.williams @ gmail.com
Energy and Global Warming	Ronald Hayden	rhayden7 @ comcast.net
Forestry and Big Thicket		

	Brandt Mannchen	713-664-5962
		brandtshnfbt@juno.com
Recycling	Frank Blake	frankblake @ juno.com
Watershed	Evelyn Merz	elmerz @ hal-pc.org
		713-644-8228

Classes	Angie Langolf	outdoor.girl.01@gmail.com
		713-467-6875

Hospitality	Carol Lee	713-523-2294
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Inner City Outings	Angie Langolf	outdoor.girl.01@gmail.com
		713-467-6875

Lone Star Chapter Delegate	Jim Williams	ezz @ pdq.net
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Membership	Arlene Diehl	arlenediehl @ peoplepc.com
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Outings	Frank Blake	frankblake @ juno.com
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Political	Doug Peterson	dougpeterson @ earthlink.net
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Programs	Tom Douglas	713-869-6026
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Webmaster	houston.webmaster @ lonestar.sierraclub.org	
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See the *Bayou Banner* on the club website:
<http://houston.sierraclub.org/news/index.htm#banner>