

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

DECEMBER 2003

Four members vie for three seats on Fort Worth Group ExCom



There's not much time for voting this year so you'd better make your list and check it twice quickly

This is not the year to procrastinate if you want to be a part of selecting those who will be making the decisions for the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club in the upcoming year.

Normally the ballot is in the November newsletter, giving group members over a month to put off marking their votes and getting it in the mail.

Surprise! It wasn't in last month's newsletter because the ballot was not yet set by deadline time.

That means you'd better be faster than ol' St. Nick when it comes to making a list (of your preferred candidates) and checking it twice. Than, you'd better make post haste to the post office and get it in the mail.

Or better yet, why not plan to come to the annual Fort Worth Group Christmas Party on Wednesday, Dec. 17, and bring your marked ballot (and maybe a dessert or dip) along with you?

That way you'll get to participate in the election process as well as have a good time with your fellow Sierrans.

You'll find this year's ballot on Page 5 of this issue of *The Crier*. There are two boxes beside each name. Individual members get one vote and should check only one box.

Those with joint memberships have one box for each member to check.

This year's slate of candidates have each prepared a short biographical sketch to help voters become more familiar with them. Their statements follow:

BRIAN HANEY: I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 10 years. I would be honored to be a member of the Greater Fort Worth's Executive Committee. I have a degree in computer science and a master's degree in environmental science. I have been active in various environmental causes such as recycling, composting, and sustainable farming. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, backpacking, and bicycling.

GLENN FORD: Glenn Ford, a native of Killeen, has been a member of the Greater Fort Worth Group since his arrival in this city two years ago and is currently the Conservation Committee Chair. He began his interest in the Sierra Club while living in Waco, where he served as Outings Chair for the Two Rivers Group along with playing an active role in their conservation program. He has recently completed the Sierra Club Training Academy, an intensive workshop on grassroots organizing conducted by staff members of the national Sierra Club.

He first became involved with environmental issues in 1986 as vice-president of the Texas River Recreation Association, an organization working toward the protection of state rivers for the benefit of canoeists and kayakers. He also served as president of the Heart

of Texas Pack and Paddle Club, an organization dedicated to conservation and outdoor activities in central Texas.

His favorite spare time enjoyment is camping with his children and grandchildren, and he always manages to find three or four long weekends each year for backpacking in Big Bend National Park and the Guadalupe Mountains. Glenn is employed in outside sales as a manufacturer's representative for Plumbmaster, Inc. He and his wife Randy live in Fort Worth.

Todd Nichols: I've been a member since the 80's. I've gone on many outings and lead some others.

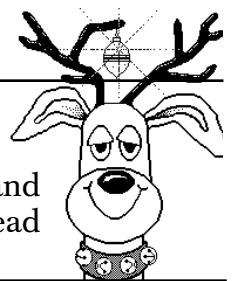
Along with other trip leaders, I've coordinated an annual trip to Big Bend National Park.

I helped establish our group's web page. I've served on several committees as member and chair. I've served two terms on the Chapter (state) Executive Committee (ExCom) and have been appointed to our group ExCom. Because I've benefited by the outings and enjoyed the speakers at the general meetings and felt the Club serves a positive influence in Fort Worth, perhaps it is my turn to help.

CHARLOTTE HUGHART: Charlotte Hughart, a former Public Citizen of the Year, is the latest member to agree to be on the ballot for ExCom. Her biography had not been received by presstime.

Program Notes

December Program: No program; no reports; just a good time. In lieu of the regular December general meeting, it's the annual Fort Worth Group Christmas Party. This year's fling is at a new location (and not even at the site listed in last month's newsletter) so be sure and read all the information inside.



The Sierra Club Crier is published monthly by the

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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817/588-1167

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Web Pages

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

National www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

Bush administration must update clean air standards for new power plants

Lawsuit settlement will force the EPA to protect communities from air pollution from new plants

New power plants will have to meet stricter clean air standards, thanks to a court decree that settles a lawsuit filed by two environmental groups against the Bush administration.

According to the decree, the Bush administration must develop and enforce stronger pollution control standards for new power plants within two years.

This will have important consequences for the flood of new power plants expected to be constructed over the next decade.

At the same time, the groups vowed to continue fighting the Bush Administration over its recent weakening of clean air standards that protect communities from the oldest and dirtiest power plants and factories across the country.

Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) and Sierra Club sued EPA in February 2003 because EPA has failed to update pollution standards for new power plants as required by the federal Clean Air Act.

EPA has not updated the standards, allowing new power plants to use 20-

year old technology. This lapse has allowed new power plants to spew hundreds of thousands of tons of additional pollutants into the air that new technology could have prevented.

"This is an important decree," said Tiffany Schauer, Executive Director of Our Children's Earth. "Until EPA reviews and updates these standards, new power plants across the country are being built without modern pollution controls. Some of these rules haven't been reviewed for more than 20 years."

"We have forced the Bush administration to start reducing pollution from new power plants," said Pat Gallagher, Director of Environmental Law for the Sierra Club.

"However, at the same time, the Bush Administration is bending over backwards to let the oldest and dirtiest power plants continue spewing pollution unchecked. The Bush administration cannot pick and choose which parts of the Clean Air Act it wants to enforce. Communities deserve strong clean air protections for all power plants, not just new ones," said Gallagher

According to the consent decree, EPA must immediately evaluate and
Please see AIR, Page 4



Greater Fort Worth 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.

December 14, Sunday

Interlochen Holiday Lights Hike. We'll hike at a moderate pace along the residential streets of Arlington's Interlochen area. We'll have a chance to view some spectacular holiday decorations in this area of residences and canals and will end up with hot chocolate and/or cider. Meet at Arlington's Randol Mill Park (Off Randol Mill Road, just west of Fielder, (Fort Worth MapsCo 82B) at 5:30 p.m. Take the first left after entering the park and park in the lot at the end of the drive. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a small flashlight.

No reservations needed, just show up. Leader: Don Callaway, 214-674-5636 (H).

January 23-25, Friday-Sunday

Car camp and Dayhiking at Brazos Bend State Park. This park is located about 30 miles south of Houston and is about a 5-6 hour drive from Fort Worth. The park has lakes for fishing, 21 miles of hiking trails, a small nature center with alligators, a short .5 mile nature trail, and contains the George Observatory with three telescopes. On Saturday night we will visit the Observatory, provided weather is clear. We will hike on Saturday for longer distances (10 miles) and again on Sunday morning. The pace of the hiking is moderate to slow with opportunities for observation of plant and wildlife and for photography. This is not a trip for speed hikers. On Saturday night, we will have a cookout. Bring your meat and a dish to share with others. To register, call Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. You must pay \$10 in advance to cover your share of the campsite prior to Jan. 15 after contacting Claudia. Trip is limited to 10 persons. Park website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/brazos> Coleader: Martha Ohlson.

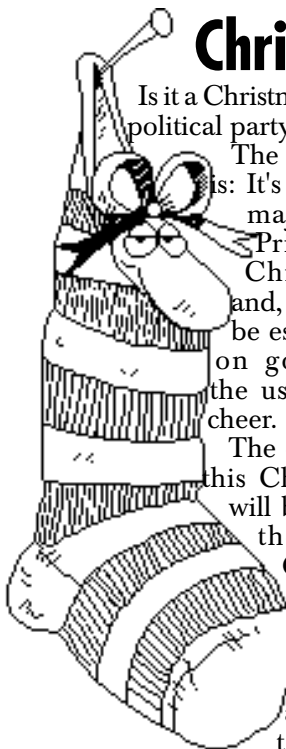
January 17, Saturday

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge bird watching and hiking. The year 2003 was the 100th year celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge system, and yet many people in the Metroplex have not visited our closest refuge, just south of Lake Texoma. Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge is a 11,320 acre refuge created to provide food and protected habitat for migratory waterfowl. There are hiking trails on the refuge and the maze of roads through the area were created mainly to service all of the oil wells on the property. From an environmentalist's viewpoint, the multiple use of the refuge is an interesting counterpoint.

This Saturday trip will be mainly for the birds, and participants should bring binoculars if possible, although some extras might be available. We will also hike some of the trails, the longest of which is 3 miles, with 6 miles roundtrip, weather permitting.

After we leave the refuge, we will go to Tioga to eat at the famous barbecue place located in that small town.

Contact Marilyn Turnage for information on meeting place, and other details (marilynturnage@msm.com).



Christmas party Dec. 17 in lieu of general meeting

Is it a Christmas party? Is it a political party? Is it both?

The correct answer is: It's both, but with major qualifiers.

Primarily, it's a Christmas party and, as always, will be especially heavy on good will and the usual Christmas cheer.

The only politics of this Christmas party will be members of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club turning in their ballots for the candidates that are running for the Executive

Committee.

That means most of the party will be



spent eating, drinking, and lying about the ghosts of backpacking trips past with fellow Sierra Club members.

There's no formal program. In fact, there's not even an informal one.

Former Group Chair Tolbert Greenwood is hosting this year's event since the Miller Brewery Hospitality Room is no longer available.

The party is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 17 beginning at 7 p.m. at Greenwood's house, 6728 Kirkwood, in Fort Worth.

This is a pot luck dinner – BYOB as well as a favorite holiday treat. Soft drinks and tea will be provided.

Calendars and Sierra gifts will be for sale. Also, don't forget to bring your marked ballots for the ExCom election to the party.

Directions to Tolbert Greenwood's home: West on Camp Bowie from IH 30. Turn left at Riskys BBQ (south) on to Wellington; go two blocks, then turn right on to Kirkwood.

6728 Kirkwood is on the right about mid block (see Fort Worth MAPSCO page 74P). 6728 is west of Clayton Road East and is not connected to Clayton Road East). Phone 817-737-8698 or 817-455-3302 for directions.



Coming Events

Dec. 9 & Jan. 13, 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.

Dec. 17, 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

General Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Program: No program. It's the annual Christmas party!

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

Jan. 5, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

Jan. 6, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, 1700

S. University Dr. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Dan Smith, 410-2955.

Jan. 6, Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Outings Committee Meeting at 6 p.m. at Panera Bread on University Drive, 1 block south of I-30 intersection. If you go past the zoo, you are too far south. Discuss and plan past and upcoming outings with leaders. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-9698.

**Plan now to
Attend the
Sierra Club
Christmas
Party Dec. 17**

-Air pollution may trigger asthma attacks CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

establish more stringent limits on pollutants like particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide in light of technological advances in pollution control technology. EPA's delay also has meant that emissions standards for other harmful pollutants like mercury have not been updated, despite considerable advances in pollution technology, and in scientific research showing a clear link between air pollution and

human health.

Multiple studies show that air pollution causes premature deaths and increases the frequency and severity of asthma attacks. See for example "Asthma in exercising children exposed to ozone: a cohort study," *Lancet*, 359:386-91 (2002) and "Effects of Air Pollutants on Acute Stroke Mortality," *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110:187-91 (2002). In Chicago, a 2002

Harvard study found that the area's nine grandfathered coal plants cause 21,500 asthma attacks and 315 premature deaths every year.

Another recent study published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, entitled "The Impact of Air Pollution on Infant Mortality: Evidence from Geographic Variation in Pollution Shocks Induced by a Recession," indicates that air pollution has inflicted a heavy toll on infant health.

EPA now must propose new emission limits for power plants within one year, and issue final regulations within two years.

Visit us on-line

Keep up with the latest outings and read the newsletter at least a week earlier than it comes in the mail. Fort Worth Group's web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>.

The newsletter can generally be read online two-four weeks before it is delivered to you by mail. Up-to-date outings information is also displayed.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

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

Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

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Mail to Sierra Club, P.O. BOX 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

BALLOT

2004 Executive Committee
(Vote for up to 3)

Brian Haney

Glenn Ford

Todd Nichols

Charlotte Hughurt

Individual members, check one set of boxes. For joint memberships, each member is entitled to vote for up to three candidates. Use both sets of boxes. Mail ballot on or before Dec. 13, or bring to the December meeting/Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

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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

... dedicated to the conservation and appreciation of our natural world.

Reuse, but don't recycle Christmas cards, other decorations

Reusing holiday wrapping paper is a great way to recycle it – just don't put holiday paper and other decorations in the blue recycling cart.

Wrapping paper, greeting cards, ornaments and other decorations are not accepted in Fort Worth's curbside recycling program.

Why? Greeting cards often have a plastic coating that prevents them from being recycled, and the rich colors in wrapping papers can't be removed in the recycling process. Metallic finishes, glitter and other ingredients in decorative paper cause additional problems.

Do put envelopes in the recycling cart, as long as they don't have metallic or other decorative liners or imprints.

Glass, metal and plastic decorations such as tree ornaments, tinsel and fake greenery cannot be recycled. Holiday lights, just like light bulbs, are not accepted in the blue cart.

While many holiday items are not accepted in the city's curbside program, there are still many ways to recycle over the holidays:

–Wrap gifts in newspaper, especially the colorful Sunday comic section.

–Donate old greeting cards to charities that refurbish them for fund-raising projects.

–Reuse packing cartons and shipping materials such as shredded paper, bubble wrap and foam peanuts. Or drop off extra packing materials at private mailing centers that accept them.

Save wrapping paper, gift bags, bows,

and other decorations to use next Christmas.

For details about what can be recycled at the curb in Fort Worth, call 817-392-EASY (3279) or visit <http://www.fortworthgov.org/dem> on the Web.

Upcoming Sierra Singles Events

Sierra Singles events have slowed down during the holidays.

December 15 at 7 p.m. join us for a potluck Christmas party and dinner at the home of Celeste Boden in Garland. It is easy to find but please call Celeste at 972-485-5623 (h) or 214-969-4768 (w) for directions and to RSVP. Bring an entree, dessert or drink to share.

January 10, Amon Carter Museum Tour. Meet in front of the gift shop at 10 a.m. and be prepared to see some of the best in western art. More details forthcoming. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trail head. 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 national Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263 1357 or avidhiker@killerfrogs.com.

See the Dallas Sierra Club home page (www.dallassierraclub.org) for instructions on how to subscribe to the Sierra Singles listserv.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club