

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

NOVEMBER 2003

ExCom position opposes oil and gas wells on municipal-owned property inside city

By DAN SMITH
Executive Committee Chairman

The Fort Worth City Council is hiring consultants to advise on plans to drill oil and gas wells on city owned property.

According to Mayor Mike Moncrief, the name of the game is get your straw in the ground as soon as possible. The sooner we can move forward the better.

Several sites have been identified as promising, including The Fort Worth Nature Center, Buck Sansom Park, Alliance Airport, Meacham Airport, the Rolling Hills Water Treatment Plant, and the Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Executive Committee has taken a position strongly opposing the leasing of city property for drilling on these sites or anywhere else in the city limits. The lights, noise, and traffic created by drilling operations will be destructive to wildlife habitat in the park areas, as well as detrimental to taxpayers who rely on the parks for outdoor relaxation and recreation.

Even drilling on property which is not dedicated park land is likely to have a negative effect on the surrounding areas. For example, the Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on the Trinity River and is adjacent to Arlington's River Legacy Park, one of the most popular outdoor facilities in the region.

Nearby drilling operations will inevitably impact the birds and animals

inhabiting the area.

Of equal importance is the affect drilling will have on residential neighborhoods. Many homeowners in suburban communities who have already been exposed to this industrial activity have experienced hardship, and there is no reason to think that these effects will be lessened in the more urban setting of Fort Worth.

Further complicating the issue is the

Key positions vacant in Fort Worth Group

Help wanted; immediate openings

After three years as Sierra Singles coordinator, Jenny Lehman is stepping down (she will still be active with the group) and the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club needs someone else to volunteer for the position.

Ideally the singles will be co-led by someone from Tarrant County and someone from Dallas County. Lehman had been serving as coordinator for both groups. Contact Jenny Lehman at avidhiker@killerfrogs.com or 817-263-1357 for a job description. She will help the new person(s) make the transition.

The Group is also searching for a volunteer committee chairman to help coordinate volunteer activities. This would not mean that the chairperson would do all the volunteering, but would merely help organize other volunteers for the various opportunities (such as Garden Show, Alternative Ba-

fact that the city ordinance regulating oil and gas operations on private property has not been properly enforced, leaving residents little protection against abuse.

To voice your concerns, contact your elected officials. For further background and information, call (817) 469-6540, email gfordfortworth@hotmail.com, or visit the Fort Worth Group website.

zaar, Earth Share, etc.). For information about this opportunity, contact Executive Committee Chair Dan Smith.

You're invited to a party in December

We're having a party and you're invited!

In lieu of a regular meeting in December, the Fort Worth Group is hosting its annual Christmas party on Dec. 17.

It's at a new location this year, but a familiar one to anyone who has attended a monthly meeting.

We have the atrium reserved outside the main auditorium where we usually meet. The fun will begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 8:30 p.m. Bring snack or dessert to share or a beverage.

**Program
Notes**

November Program: Wayne Owens will present the November program to the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club. His program will be Trinity Trails – the vision for the Trinity River. Don't miss this program on a topic to which we can all relate. See Page 4 for the time and location of Sierra Club meetings.

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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**SIERRA
CLUB**
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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

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

National www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

Letter to the Editor

GOP not likely to listen to anyone but big bucks polluters on environmental

While I applaud Dan Smith's reaching out to Republican voters to try to make their party more "green" (October Crier), I don't think the hard-right leadership that is in thrall to big campaign-contributing polluters will pay much attention.

My advice to Sierrans is to: (1) not support the presidential candidacy of Ralph Nader or any other green so that the catastrophe for the environment resulting from green votes in the last presidential is not repeated and (2)

support the Democratic candidate who can beat Bush whose ace-in-the-hole is national security.

The only man who can confidently trump Bush in this area is General Wesley Clark who is also pro-environment.

The former NATO Supreme Commander is also the man who can best restore ally burden-sharing for the many years ahead of Iraq rebuilding.

G. A. Laureyns
Fort Worth

Bush Administration Backroom Deal With Meat Industry

On Oct. 10, the Bush Administration issued a consent decree that proposes to give Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) immunity from the Clean Air Act and Superfund law. Environmental organizations were already aware that such a deal was to be made and have fought against it but now has it been officially made public.

The Bush Administration is endangering communities by allowing giant animal factories to pollute indefinitely. This proposal is the result of a backroom deal that gives all the benefits to agribusiness industries and places all

the burdens on citizens who live near the huge livestock facilities.

Rather than fulfill their duty to restrict harmful air emissions from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, the EPA has bowed to corporate pressure and placed many communities at risk. The consent agreement, made public to Congress today, would allow CAFOs to pay a mere \$500 fine, and buy permanent immunity from lawsuits. This is a major reduction from the current fine of \$27,000 per day.



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.

November 29, Saturday

Bike Ride on Mineral Wells Trail. Join Don Bowles and other Sierra bikers and friends on this familiar ride on a fun trail with lots of beautiful scenery and no vehicle traffic. It is a very easy 20-mile ride to Mineral Wells. We will meet at the Cartwright Park trailhead just north of downtown Weatherford at 10 a.m. The cost of the ride is \$2. This trail is for "fat" tire bikes, not road bikes. It is very rideable with some loose gravel. The surface is crushed limestone. According to park rules, we cannot ride if the trail is wet. Directions: Go west on I-20 from Fort Worth and exit on Hwy.

80/180 in Weatherford and go to the Weatherford courthouse. Turn right on Hwy. 51 and go about a mile and turn on FM 920. The park is just on the edge of town. Parking and toilet facilities are available. Drinking water is available only at the trailheads. Helmets are required. I will need to meet one or more persons with cars at the beginning of the trail at 9 a.m. to take two or more cars to drive to Mineral Wells McDonalds, just off the trail, and leave the cars for the return to Weatherford. For your reservation to ride, email Don Bowles: dbowles3708@sbcglobal.net.

Didn't their mothers teach them to clean up after themselves?

America's federal Superfund toxic waste cleanup program, aptly named for the polluter-funded trust, ran out of polluter contributed funds Oct. 1, according to a recent General Accounting Office report, leaving taxpayers to shoulder the financial burden and leaving communities across the country at risk.

President Bush has refused to push for the renewal of polluter-pays tax that expired in 1995, the first president not to support the principle that polluters

should pay to clean up the messes they create since President Reagan signed the Superfund reauthorization into law in 1986. With more than 1,000 toxic waste sites still in need of cleanup, the ramifications of a dwindling Superfund trust fund to cleanup toxic waste places our communities and environment at risk.

Already, 1 in 4 Americans lives within a short bicycle ride of a toxic waste site that is considered a Superfund cleanup priority.

"We teach our children that they are responsible for cleaning up the messes that they make; the Bush administration should demand no less of corporate polluters," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. "They are letting polluters off the hook while strapping taxpayers with the burden of cleanups."

To learn more about some specific Superfund sites, see Sierra Club's "Communities at Risk" report at <http://www.sierraclub.org/communities/>.

Coming Events

Nov. 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.

November 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

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 19

Program: See Page 1 for information on August program.

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.

December 1, 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.

December 2, 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.

December 2, 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**

Sierra Club clothing always in style

Just because weather in Fort Worth is always unpredictable doesn't mean your clothes should be

What does the well-dressed man or woman wear that's comfortable, stylish, and is environmentally friendly?

With the proliferation of synthetic-fiber based clothing over the last 20 years, many people think of wool as an endangered species. Far from extinct, wool continues to thrive.

Modern wools are exceptionally beautiful and are high performance to boot! In fact, wool has the muscle and durability to withstand all the rigors of general outdoor life. Wool also embodies characteristics no synthetic can replicate: an appealing natural aesthetic and renewable quality!

The Sierra Club's own line of apparel boasts several wool pieces for both men and women.

The women's boiled wool jacket (pictured) features a button closure as well as two buttoned pockets. This stylish jacket comes in Charcoal Heather (gray), Hedgerow (green) and Nocturne (blue).

The men's boiled wool jacket has a zippered closure and includes hand warmer pockets and buttoned chest

pockets. This plush jacket comes in the color Charcoal Heather.

Other wool pieces in the collection include a beautiful two-toned merino wool sweater for women and a crewneck sweater for men in softest lambswool. These innovative designs in old-school wool are sure to keep the wearer warm in all sorts of inclement weather whilst providing a natural breathability, whether on the trail or even on the ski slope!

Even the biggest fan of wool will agree that no winter wardrobe is complete without fleece.

This fabric, made from polyester, has become ubiquitous in the outdoor world and on the street. But being a good environmentalist and owning a fleece jacket does not have to be mutually exclusive. EcoSpun fleece is made from EcoSpun fiber which is produced entirely from post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.

Sierra Club's own EcoSpun fleece jacket is designed to layer nicely over t-shirts and crews and has an adjustable hem and neck to keep it fitting just right.

EcoSpun fleece has the same warming qualities and wind resistance of regular fleece.

No wonder it's become a favorite of every wilderness warrior.

EcoSpun fiber is not only used in fleece jackets or pullovers. The Sierra Club's Hemp Soda Pant is made from 55% hemp and 45% recycled polyester. The comfort and casual richness of this pant is unparalleled and its pedigree unique!

If you think it's time to supplement your own winter wardrobe or you need some inspiration for holiday gifts, the Sierra Club line of Fall/Winter apparel has an array of warm winter clothing that will keep you toasty during the coming outdoor season and will last for many years to come.

If you're just not up to a hike to San Francisco to purchase a wardrobe of Sierra Club clothing in person, then just sit back and let your fingers do the shopping.

A full selection of men's and women's apparel is available at: www.sierraclubgear.com.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Sierra Singles tentative calendar of events for November

On Saturday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. join us for a 7-mile aerobic hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Allow plenty of driving time for construction on Jacksboro Highway (199). Meet at the interpretive center shortly before 10:00. Optional lunch afterwards. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 join us for dinner at Ruen Thai, located at 3310 W. Rochelle (near 183 and Belt Line/ Irving Mall) in Irving. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, there's a Horse-shoe Trail Beginner's Hike. This activity is suited for those who haven't hiked much and want to enjoy a moderate pace on a shorter trail with a group lunch afterwards. We will hike 3 to 4 miles on a looped trail located in a woody area in Oak Grove Park (near the southern edge of Lake Grapevine). Occasional stops along the mostly level, mostly dirt, multiuse trail may be made for viewing of wildlife. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of Elliott's Hardware, 108 W. Northwest Hwy in Grapevine (look for large white van with DART logo). We will meet and then go to the trailhead. After the hike, we will enjoy the lunch buffet at Wilhoite's restaurant in downtown Grapevine. No reservations needed. Call or email for directions and car pool information. Leader: Allan Logan 214-763-4884, email

alogan@raytheon.com

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) on how to subscribe to the Sierra Singles listserve.

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.

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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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.