

# SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

OCTOBER 2004

## An interest in Earth Day sparked formation of a new Sierra Club Group at UT-Arlington

While the younger generation may have given birth to the environmental movement in the 1960s, it soon gave it up for adoption. Organizations such as the Sierra Club are often characterized as being primarily white, middle aged, and middle income.

While that generalization is far from absolute – witness the leadership positions young adults have held at the national level for a number of years -- it does often seem that the only way to find a person under 40 at an environmental function is to attend a clean-up event on Earth Day.

How to shift the younger generation from the entry-level environmentalism of clean-up campaigns to mainstream environmentalism is a topic that has sparked discussion at the Fort Worth Group ExCom on more than one recent occasion.

But now, like any other blessed event, meet the new arrival. And Earth Day is certainly one of the parents.

The University of Texas at Arlington now has a group of the Sierra Club.

"Last year at Earth Day we became really interested in starting this organization on campus. We just waited until the fall to start up," said the group's coordinator Alia Selim, a sophomore who is an international business and French major.

Selim was present at last month's ExCom meeting as well as the general meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Group. She said she wants to coordinate efforts and events between the two

sister organizations.

Fort Worth Group Chairman Dan Smith and others, particularly Conservation Committee members, had been working closely with Larry Standlee, the campus adviser to the UTA Sierra Club Group and adjunct assistant professor of geology.

"We had a lot of people generate interest in our organization through the Activities Fair," he told the UTA newspaper, *The Shorthorn*.

He commented in that publication that "The organization will have a wide range of activities including political activism, air quality, deforestation, and water pollution. There will also be

recreational activities such as field trips, usually involving the outdoors."

He noted that the Sierra Club was the only campus organization that focused on environmental issues.

"We plan to change people's minds," Selim said in response to a question about the purpose of initiating the group.

"I feel this organization is very important because we only have one earth. We'll lose our resources if we don't take care of our planet.

"There is no environmental focus on the university so we are going to create one. This is something that has to be done," she said.

## Fort Worth Group Conservation Notes

### EPA Fish Advisories

The Environmental Protection Agency has released its 12th annual summary of fish advisories and safe-eating guidelines based upon information provided by state, territorial, and tribal officials, showing an increase in advisories nationwide.

Testing primarily involves sampling for five bioaccumulative contaminants: PCBs, chlordane, dioxins, DDT, and Mercury. The Texas Department of Health has identified five lakes in Tarrant County, including Cement Creek, Como, Worth, Echo, and Fosdic, plus sections of the Trinity River for inclusion on the list.

With the exception of Lake Worth, it is illegal to remove fish from these bod-

ies of water, but health experts strongly discourage eating fish from Lake Worth because of PCB contamination. EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt attributes the rise to increased and more efficient water testing.

"More and more of our waters are being tested, and that's protective for children and pregnant women. Emissions are down, and emissions will continue to go down as the Bush Administration takes the first-ever steps to regulate mercury from coal-fired power plants," Leavitt said.

### Toxic Material At Fort Worth Federal Center

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports

*Please see CONSERVATION, Page 3*

**On The Inside**

All unpaved roads in Big Bend National Park were closed at the end of September because of the heavy rains. That should put the desert in fall bloom for participants of the annual Big Bend van trip. Details inside. For that trip or any other, a new pack would certainly make a fashion statement and now you've got a chance to win one for a very small investment. The Fort Worth Group will be giving one away in December. Read about it on Page 2.

The Sierra Club Crier is published monthly by the

# Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club National Hotline

202-675-2394

## Web Pages

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

National [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Lone Star Chapter [www.texas.sierraclub.org](http://www.texas.sierraclub.org)

The Planet [www.sierraclub.org/planet](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet)

# You need a backpack; the group needs funds — a perfect fit

## ■ A backpack has been donated by Backwoods to help the group in its fund-raising efforts

If you're taking a chance every time you strap on your old backpack, how about taking a chance on winning a new Kelty backpack?

Even if your old pack has a few more good trips left in it, here's your opportunity to possibly win a new backpack and definitely help out your group of the Sierra Club in doing so.

The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club is raffling off a Redwing backpack by Kelty, which has been donated for that purpose by Backwoods.

All proceeds from this fund-raiser go to the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

You can cram 2400 cubic inches of gear into this pack. Loosely translated, that's about twice the weight you'd like to carry if you had any choice in the matter.

Outside dimensions are 10x13x7.5 inches.

The pack features compression straps, bungee cord, daisy chain, and ice axe loop as well as a hydration tube port to make it easy and convenient to keep hydrated as you hike.

You can organize it almost as concisely as you do a file cabinet with numerous large outside pockets, ski slots behind side pockets, organizer in the front pocket, and a zippered security pocket with key fob in top pocket.

Even if you have to stuff it with more weight than you'd like to carry on your back, it's Twin LightBeam stays curve to your back for a customized fit. The waistband easily removes for travel or around town use.

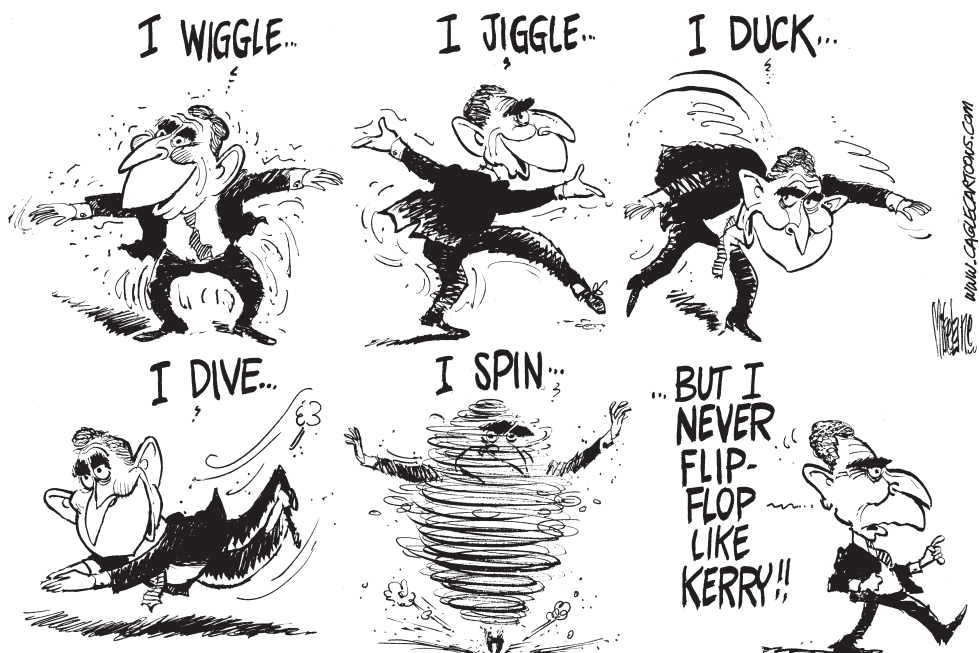
The curved shoulder straps and removable foam waist belt with stabilizer straps assure maximum comfort. The pack also features airmesh and wicking fabrics and padded back panel wraps around the body for a comfortable and supportive fit.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and can be purchased from ExCom members. A drawing will be held at the Christmas party at Tolbert Greenwood's house on Dec. 15.

It's not necessary to be present in order to win.

## 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 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.

## October 9, Saturday

Day hike. Shannon and Village creeks meander by shopping centers, residential areas, and wooded refuges on the way to Lake Arlington. Observe the effects of civilization on a once pristine area entirely within the city of Burleson that still retains much of its wild charm. First, we'll hike along the creeks where blue heron, owls, and other large and/or colorful birds are often spotted. Then, it's up the hill through stands of native trees and shrubs. Good workout for Big Bend van trip participants. Wear sturdy shoes. Shorts OK but short trial sections are overgrown. Meet in parking lot in front of Smoothie King (behind Applebee's on I-35 -- Alsbury exit) at 8 a.m. Call to confirm. Leader: James Moody, 817-688-3656, [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

## October 14, Thursday

Almost Friday Hike. Unwind with us after work and celebrate it's almost Friday! Join us for a 1 hour moderately-paced walk along the Trinity River and an optional restaurant stop afterwards. Bring water. Meet at 6:30 p.m. by the parking lot beside the Hoffbrau Steak House on University, less than a mile south of I-30 in Fort Worth. Leader: Jeneanne Carson (817) 860-1870 or email [jcars@flash.net](mailto:jcars@flash.net). No reservations needed -- just show up.

## October 15-17, Friday-Sunday

Sierra Celebration. Join Texan Sierans from all groups across the state as they meet in East Texas for a weekend of hiking, canoeing, biking, camping, and enjoying nature. This year we will be camping at Boykin Springs in the Angelina National Forest in East Texas.

October 2004

We have a nature presentation and a regional Forest Watch presentation on Saturday and a social event with music and dancing that night. 33 campsites are available for registrants. For details, contact Tolbert Greenwood, Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-8698 (email [tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com](mailto:tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com)) or check the Sierra Club website for the Lone Star Chapter.

## October 23, Saturday

Veteran's Park Hike. Enjoy a hidden treasure in west Arlington at Veteran's Park. We'll walk on the paved trail, then hike along the dirt trails of the south natural area that has slight hills and a creek, finishing up on the trails in the xeriscape/wildscape area-about 4 miles. Bring water and sunscreen. Optional lunch at local restaurant afterwards. Directions: From I-20 in Arlington, exit Green Oaks. Take Green Oaks north to Arkansas, then turn right on Arkansas. (Park is located at Arkansas and Spanish Trail.) Turn right on Spanish Trail and park in the first lot on the right. Meet at 10:00 a.m. by the bench at the pond. Leader: Jeneanne Carson (817) 860-1870 or email [jcars@flash.net](mailto:jcars@flash.net). No reservations needed -- just show up.

## October 29-31, Friday-Sunday

Backpack in Lost Maples State Natural Area. The park is an outstanding example of Edwards Plateau flora and fauna. It is a combination of steep, rug-

ged limestone canyons, springs, plateau grasslands, wooded slopes, and clear streams. We will backpack in 2 miles, set up camp and day hike Friday afternoon and Saturday. The Saturday hike is a 7-mile loop trail through the park. The park is located 250 miles from Fort Worth -- 5 miles north of Vanderpool, and takes about 4-5 hours each way. Contact Wendy Lambert, 817-251-0016 to sign up.

## October 29-31, Friday-Sunday

Note date change. Although originally scheduled for one weekend earlier, we postponed this trip to avoid sharing this island with over 200 Dallas Downriver Club campers. We will camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall in east Texas about 3 hours from Fort Worth on Friday night. On Saturday, we canoe about 1 mile to a nearby island to enjoy the seclusion and beauty of Texas' only natural lake. Saturday night meal will be a potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories. Canoe rentals are available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to reserve your canoe. Call Texas State Park Reservations at 512-389-8900 or email [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) to reserve your campsite for Friday night. This trip is open to families. Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon on Sunday. Leaders:

*Please see MORE Page 4*

## Big Bend Thanksgiving Trip (Nov. 10-14)

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ High Desert Backpack: Moderately strenuous. James Moody

\_\_\_ High Chisos Backpack: Moderate. Todd Nichols

\_\_\_ Basin Day Hikes: Moderate/Strenuous. Mike Seal

Please send your check for \$160 per person to Todd Nichols,  
200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 766018-1420.

**Deadline for reservations Nov. 1**

# Coming Events

## November 3, Wednesday

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

## October 12, 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.

## It's like voting, only different

# Register for the Big Bend trip of your choice, but register

With all the rains they've been having in the Big Bend, the Chihuahuan Desert is likely to be a wildflower showcase for participants of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club's annual Big Bend van trip.

If you're not signed up yet, it's not too late. A registration form can be found on Page 3. Check out a description of all three options on the group web site, <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/BigBend.html>.

They're rated at different levels of difficulty to accommodate virtually anyone, from day hikes from the Basin Campground to backpacking to a base camp high in the Chisos to a three-day backpack in the high desert below the South Rim.

Details of the High Desert Backpack have now been finalized with the itinerary below:

We'll begin our trek at the western

end of the Dobson Trail at the historic Homer Wilson Ranch. From there it's an up and down, 5-mile scenic hike to Fresno Creek. We'll camp in the Fresno Creek area the first night and replenish our water supply for the next day's hike.

## November 1, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Burger King, I-30 and Oakland. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

## Oct. 5 and Nov. 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.

On Day Two, we'll re-climb the hill we scampered down to reach the creek and turn southeasterly on the Elephant Tusk Trail. The trail follows the route of the creek past the landmark which gives the trail its name. It's about an 8-mile hike to the Elephant Tusk primitive campsite, where a cache of water will await us to get us through the following day.

We'll begin Day Three by hiking, sans packs, down Fresno Creek to the Mariscal Mine Historic District, where we'll wander among the ruins of the quicksilver mines and buildings that flourished in the early-to-mid 20th century.

After exploring the mine, we'll go back to the campground, pick up our packs and hike the final four miles or so down the Black Gap Road to the Glenn Springs primitive campsite, where our van will be waiting for us. We'll possibly drive to The Basin and eat food that isn't freeze dried that evening after setting up our tents at our campsite.

On our final day, we can take the short two-mile hike into Pine Canyon or take a dip in the Hot Springs.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

## General Meeting Wednesday, October 20

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 about a mile to Camp Bowie).

## October 20, 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

## More Sierra Club Outings CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Marilyn Turnage, 817-491-2382, (email: [marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com)).

## Nov. 10-14, Wednesday-Sunday

Join Sierrans on the annual trip to Big Bend National Park! Join the group for four days of hiking and sightseeing in the Big Bend. There will be a base camp trip which will take day hikes to various points of interest, and a backpack trip out to see the more exotic and remote parts. We'll leave Wednesday morning in big comfortable vans and return late Sunday evening. Trip cost is \$160 per person due by Nov 1. Check the webpage for detailed trip descriptions. Todd Nichols, 937-5217, is your tour guide for the base camp; Mike Seal, 735-4661, will lead the High Chisos backpack trip, and James Moody, 688-3656, will lead the high desert backpack trip. Must pay by Nov. 1 to reserve your place by mailing check to Todd Nichols at 200

Hibiscus Dr. Arlington, Texas 76018. See registration form, Page 3.

## GOP blocks effort to obtain Cheney Energy Task Force data

Environmental and government watchdog groups reacted angrily Thursday to a House committee vote rejecting a resolution that would have directed the Bush administration to release documents and information surrounding Vice President Dick Cheney's secret Energy Task Force meetings.

The Republican-controlled House Energy and Commerce Committee voted against a "resolution of inquiry" that called upon the White House to release the names and affiliations of anyone who met with Vice President Cheney's National Energy Policy Development Group, which developed President Bush's energy plan.

# EPA imposes gag rule on its employees

The Bush administration is noted for its strict control of “leaks” to the press and its discipline regarding perceived acts of dissent.

Now, President Bush’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered its staff to “refrain from answering” questions from the news media, according to an agency memo obtained by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). [1]

The gag order was issued by Bharat Marthur, the top EPA official for the Midwestern region. In a memo to all regional staff, Marthur forbids EPA staff from initiating contact with the press or responding to any press queries. Even EPA’s designated spokespeople must now “report their conversations” with reporters to the Office of Public Affairs.

Likewise, EPA staff in the Rocky Mountain region have been ordered not to answer any “potentially political inquiry” from the media.

The ban seems to violate not only a longstanding EPA practice of allowing its experts to talk with reporters about

matters within their areas of expertise. It also appears to violate Congressionally-enacted bans on agencies trying to impose any “nondisclosure policy,

form, or agreement” on their employees without informing employees of their rights under the Whistleblower Protection Act.

## The 2004 Sierra Club Calendars Are Coming!

### 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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# Mountain Sports

[www.mountainsports.com](http://www.mountainsports.com)

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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.*