

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

APRIL 2005

Coming soon to a highway near you

■ If you think a low-level Radioactive waste dump in West Texas couldn't have any affect on you, you'd better think again

Last year the state legislature cleared the way for a private company to license a low-level nuclear waste dump in Andrews County (just north of Odessa in West Texas). This dump will be allowed to accept waste from nuclear facilities all over the country and, in fact, the more the merrier where a private company is concerned. After all, the name of the game is all to often profit instead of safety with many private organizations.

Low-level waste is actually a misnomer. To put it in simple terms: low-level waste is everything radioactive in a nuclear plant except for the high-level reactor fuel core. One of the so-called low-level radioactive wastes, cesium-137, could give a lethal dose of radiation to an unprotected person three feet away in 18 minutes.

In case you're thinking that such a dump way out in West Texas is someone else's problem, you might want to consider just how the waste will get to West Texas.

The answer is simple: on a highway near you.

With limited amounts of nuclear waste traveling through Texas, there have already been accidents – and don't forget the truck carrying 22 tons of the stuff that was "lost" somewhere in Texas in 2001.

Lobbyists and legislators friendly to industry interests have also seen to it

that the ultimate responsibility for the waste dump lies not with the company reaping the profits, but with the state itself.

Some of these radioactive wastes will be dangerous for thousands of years to come. Many will be buried in shallow trenches. Thanks to a loophole in the law, unlimited amounts of waste can be

shipped and disposed of in Texas.

A slate of commissioners to oversee this project will soon be appointed by Gov. Rick Perry.

For more information on nuclear waste dumping in Texas, pick up a flier (prepared by the Lone Star Chapter) at the April 20 meeting of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

Fort Worth Group Conservation Notes

Power from renewable resources

Bills have been introduced in the Texas Legislature to increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), a state-legislated requirement that all investor owned utility companies generate a specified percentage of electric power from renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro, solar or biomass.

The current RPS in Texas is 2.7% by 2009, with the recommendations under consideration ranging from 4.2% by 2015 to 20% by 2020, as proposed by Senator Judith Zaffirine. We urge that you contact your legislators to ask their support of the Zaffirine bill (Senate Bill 1075). Of the twenty-two states with an RPS as law, Texas presently ranks forth from last, but passage of strong legislation such as SB 1075 would put us among the leaders and show our states' commitment to clean air.

Radioactive waste storage in Texas

The State of Texas has approved a request by a Dallas Company, Waste Control Specialists, to increase the amount of radioactive waste that it is allowed to store in its Andrews County facility in West Texas. The first shipments will likely be from an extraction plant in Ohio with an estimated 3,500 tanker trucks transporting the material, primarily down Interstate Highway 20. Approval of the transfer will probably be granted by the Department of Energy in April, 2005. help guide development of the Trans-Texas Corridor, a network of 4,000 miles

A Sierra Club meeting for the lunch crowd

Ever wish there were an alternative to evening Sierra Club meetings?

Well, now there is. A new group that Bonnie Bowman will be overseeing will be meeting the last Friday of each month, 12 noon-1:00, at Local Color Art and Coffee, 208 W. Main St., Arlington. Drinks and sandwiches can be purchased. Purpose of the group is to give people a chance to gather with like-minded folks and discuss the issues. It's primarily aimed at people who are unable for one reason or another to attend general meetings, but anyone is welcome to attend.

**Program
Notes**

The April program for the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will be presented by Mark Hansen, Chief, EPA Toxics Enforcement Section, Region 6. His subject will be EPA air enforcement policies and interaction with state agencies. For meeting time and location, please see Page 3.

Coming Events

April 20, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail or email accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if

The *Sierra Club Crier* is published monthly by the

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, TX 76097-1874

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

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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 environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

General Meeting

Wednesday, April 20

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north to Camp Bowie). See program notes on Page 1.

submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

April 29, Friday

Noon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month, 12 noon-1:00, at Local Color Art and Coffee, 208 W. Main St., Arlington. Boonie Bowman will be

heading up this meeting.

May 2, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's, 6770 Bridge St. at 6:30 p.m. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

May 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

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

May 4, Wednesday

Outings Meeting at the Great Outdoors Sub Shop, 3204 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth at 7 p.m. to plan new outings and reminisce about old trips. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 to verify.

May 10, 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.

More outings

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

erra Club by hiking trails in the Fort Worth Nature Center. Meet at just after 9:00 AM at the Fort Worth Nature Center Hardwicke Interpretative Center. The park opens its gates at 9 AM so be there promptly. We will hike a 4 mile section of trails. Bring water and raingear, but no pets please. You can join us for a picnic lunch at the picnic tables within the park afterwards. Each person should bring their lunch and beverage. In celebration of National Trails Day, a drawing for camping equipment and related gear will be held after the hike. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled.

June 10-12, Friday-Sunday

Camp and water fun on South Llano River near Junction, Texas. We will camp on Friday and Sat. nights at South Llano River State Park in the walk-in area camping area. You need to reserve your campsite in the walk-in camping area as soon as possible by calling the Texas State Parks and Wildlife office at 512-389-8900 or visit their website. Hiking and tubing are options on Saturday on the Llano River. On Sat night, we will visit the James River Bat Preserve which requires a high

clearance vehicle to visit. We can car-pool for this event. The Llano River is a spring-fed river, flowing over limestone rocks with great scenery. There is wonderful scenery and wildlife in this park which is 250 miles from Ft. Worth via Hwy 377 and takes about 4-5 hours each way. Two good websites: tpwd.state.tx to access the South Llano River SP site, and Canoeman.com for great information on the river. Contact Marilyn Turnage at 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com to sign up and for more info.

Support our printer

Alpha and Omega Printing and Graphics reduces our newsletter print cost by 10% of every job Fort Worth Group Sierra Club members refer to it.

Owner Mark Shippey is one of the few printers in this area who actively encourages the use of recycled paper and soy-based inks. This newsletter is always printed on environmentally-friendly paper.

Alpha and Omega is located at 2705 Eighth Ave., Fort Worth. For more information, call 921-3670.

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

No pets, firearms or radios are allowed on Sierra Club outings. All children (17 years or less) must be accompanied by a parent on any outing. All overnight trips require preregistration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.

Thursday, April 14

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 and flashlight. Meet at 6:15 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. No reservations needed – just show up.

April 16-17, Sat.-Sun. — Beginner Backpack on Little Missouri River, Ark.

This easy hike on relatively flat terrain is along the scenic Little Missouri River in western Arkansas. Total distance is about 6 1/2 miles. There will be several stream crossings, so be prepared to get your feet wet. Leader: Marcos Jorge, 972-394-2546; email: mjorge@ustgolfshaft.com.

Apr 15-17, Friday-Sunday — Bike/Car-

camp at Caprock Canyon State Park

On Friday evening arrive at the state park and bike along the Caprock Canyon Rail Trail on Saturday. The bike trip will be 20-25 miles long and will traverse beautiful Caprock Canyon country including scenic canyon lands, numerous old railroad trestles and the Clarity Tunnel. Sunday morning will include a short day hike. Trip is limited to 12 bikers. Reservations secured with a \$10.00 deposit with checks payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club. Mail checks to Dan Smith 589 Dove Creek Circle Grapevine, TX 76051. **FAT TIRE BICYCLES ONLY.** This trip is not appropriate for road bikes! Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous due to distance, trail surface, (and a few big hills if you complete the last 5 miles). Last 5 miles are optional. Contact Dan Smith: 817 410-2955 or fwsieran@aol.com for information or reservations.

May 12-15, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe a section of the Buffalo National River in central Arkansas on Fri and Sat for a total distance of < 20 miles on this national wild and scenic river. The canoe route goes from Wollum to Tyler Bend for the first day, and Tyler Bend

to the outfitter on the second day. Hiking options are available after canoeing on Saturday with a celebratory dinner at the Riverside Inn on Saturday night. Evening meal on Friday is potluck in the campground. This river is crystal clear and surrounded by beautiful cliffs and trees. Camp each night at Tyler Bend Park located at the midpoint of the canoe trail. You must leave on Thursday by noon due to the 7 hour drive to the campsite. Shuttle service and canoe rental must be arranged in advance by contacting the outfitter at 870-439-2888. The number of canoes available is very limited. The website is www.gilbertsstore.com. Shuttles for personal canoes may be provided by the contacting the canoe outfitter; contact them to arrange this. This trip is open to experienced canoeists and requires approval of trip leader. This is not a technical river, but there is a current and prior canoeing skills are needed. Leader: Marilyn Turnage, 817-491-2382 (e-mail marilynturnage@msn.com).

June 4, Saturday

Celebrate National Trails with the Si-

Please see MORE Page 2

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Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed	
Name _____	
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Zip _____	Email _____
Phone (optional) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$35) <input type="checkbox"/> Joint (\$43)	
Annual dues include subscription to F94QT19002 -1 <i>Sierra</i> (\$7.50) and chapter publications F94Q W99901 Entity Code (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.	

New email address for newsletter

Please note the new email address, jmoody166@mac.com, for Crier editor, James Moody. The previous email address is no longer operational.

Lone Star Chapter plans trip to Davis Mts. Preserve

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club plans a Memorial Day Weekend trip May 26-30 to the Nature Conservancy of Texas open house at its Davis Mountain Preserve, north of McDonald Observatory.

This area, which includes Mount Livermore, the highest peak in the Davis Mountains (and one of seven Texas mountains exceeding 8,000 feet), and from which on a clear day (which are becoming rarer and rarer) you can see the entire Texas Trans-Pecos from the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park to Guadalupe Peak in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

This area is not regularly open to the public and is a spectacular site. We will camp together (and it is only about 45 minutes from Fort Davis if folks want motel accommodations). While they have some scheduled activities, including a Mount Livermore hike (very steep, but spectacular and not incredibly long), there will be lots of free time for shorter hikes, bird watching, visiting the Chihuahuan Desert Research

Institute, or going to San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea.

It would be very easy for us to go to a star party at the observatory. Plans haven't yet been finalized for this year, but often there are program on topics such as falconry, wildfire prevention, or cattle-herding with dogs.

The Preserve is an inviting place, and

the weather is likely to be cool even in May – indeed the preserve is well over a mile high. The Davis Mountains Preserve has a web-site at: <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/preserves/art6647.html>. To participate contact Sandra Grimes at sgrimes@grandecom.net or 512-472-3774.

Population Connection sets Earth Day program

Population Connection, an advocacy and awareness group in Washington, D.C., is coming to the Metroplex to help celebrate Earth Day 2005. In observance of the day, Population Connection field organizers Kelly Rand and Catherine Goodrich will give a talk, "Texas: Can We All Fit?" 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at the Borders Bookstore, 4613 S.Hulen.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, which is Friday, April 22. In the last 35 years, there have been many victories. But there is still much work to be done. For example, did you know that the current world population of 6.4 billion people is projected to double in less than 60 years? Can anything be done about it? Come to this Earth Day celebration to find out how you can make a difference. Admission is free.

For more information on Population Connection, visit their web site, www.populationconnection.org. And there are multiple web sites with information on Earth Day.