

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

MARCH 2005

National Club election ballots coming

■ Three ballot questions as well as board candidates will be on ballot that will come in the mail

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. This month, you will receive in the mail your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates for the Board of Directors as well as three ballot questions to be decided.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels that requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to run the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership. The same responsibility rests with the membership when ballot questions on major policy issues are to be voted upon.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates or the background of the ballot questions and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: www.sierraclub.org/

bod/2005 election. This site provides links to much more information about candidates, their background and views and also additional information on the ballot questions.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate and

the pro and con statements on the ballot questions. Then make your choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage!

Fort Worth Group Conservation Notes

Clean Texas lobby day

Alliance for a Clean Texas (ACT) will host a Clean Texas Lobby Day on March 8, 2005 at the Capitol in Austin. Organizers of the event will schedule appointments with your Legislators from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm for discussions on ways to protect our water, clear our air and expand use of wind and solar power. Check-in and briefing will be at 8:30 am with a noon press conference and rally on the Capitol steps. Registration forms can be found at <http://texas.sierraclub.org/>, or call Donna Hoffman, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club, (512) 477-1729.

Trans-Texas Corridor Advisory Committee

The Texas Transportation Commission will appoint an advisory committee to help guide development of the Trans-Texas Corridor, a network of 4,000 miles of toll roads, railroads and utility lines proposed by Governor Rick Perry. The first segment of the corridor would be a tollway beginning in Dennison, running east of Dallas to San Antonio. The committee will report directly to the Director of the Texas Department of Transportation and will be composed of consumers and critics of the program as well as industrial representatives. Any resident of the state may apply for a place on the Advisory Committee by calling (512) 463-8585 or e-mail corridor@dot.state.tx.us. Application deadline is March 14, 2005.

Trinity Parkway Thoroughfare Study

At the January meeting of the City of Fort Worth Parks Board consultants Kimley-Horn and Associates recommended approval of a thoroughfare plan to connect 7th St. to University Drive. While several alternative routes were studied, the chosen plan will require using a section of Trinity Park, with an elevated segment of the highway dominating much of the view to the west.

The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, along with the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County and other environmental organizations, oppose the taking of parkland when other viable options are available, as is true in this case.

After further review and approval by the Parks Board, the alignment proposal will be sent to the City Council for action, possibly within the next 30 days.

**Program
Notes**

Many members of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club have participated in one of the various outings each year at Lake Mineral Wells. For those who haven't, as well as those who have already enjoyed the many benefits of that state park's varied experience, the march program will be "Restoration of a Rail Trail; Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway." The program will be presented by a representative of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Coming Events

March 16, 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 or email accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater)

The *Sierra Club Crier* is published monthly by the

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, TX 76097-1874 817-588-1167
<http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>
(Phone numbers below are Area Code 817 except as noted)

Executive Committee

Chair Susan Haney 254-582-8228 srobinsn@whitneytx.net
Vice-chair Todd Nichols 937-5217 toddnichols@comcast.net
Secretary Jeneanne Carson 817-860-1870 jcars@flash.net
Treasurer Todd Nichols
Bryon Haney
James Moody 295-1623 jmoody166@mac.com
Glenn Ford 469-6540 gfordfortworth@hotmail.com
Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407
shadowy_poet@yahoo.com

Conservation Contacts

Chair Glenn Ford 469-6540 gfordfortworth@hotmail.com
Bob Scott 282-1372 roscott@flash.net

Outings Contacts

Acting Chair Claudia Blalock 924-6242 cpblalock@msn.com
Day Hikes Claudia Blalock
Canoeing Marilyn Turnage
Bicycling Dan Smith 410-2955 fwsieran@aol.com
Backpacking Open

Administrative Contacts

Membership Open
Programs Glenn Ford
Lone Star Chapter Delegate Tolbert Greenwood

Newsletter Staff

Editor James Moody 817-295-1623 jmoody166@mac.com
Ad director Open
Circulation dir. Steve Turner 457-7131



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, March 16

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.

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

April 4, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's,

More outings

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.

Thursday-Sunday, May 12-15

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.

6770 Bridge St. at 6:30 p.m. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

April 5, 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.

April 6, 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.

April 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.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

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)

Support our printer

Alpha and Omega 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.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

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. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you must sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630. No pets, firearms, or radios are allowed. Children 17 years or less must be accompanied by a parent. 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.

Saturday-Sunday, March 26-27

Lake Mineral Wells State Park, Hike and Bike/Car Camp – Camp at Lake Mineral Wells SP, a beautiful park featuring steep hills, deep ravines, open savannah and a lake surrounded by timber-covered hills. Saturday we'll bike the State Trailway to Weatherford, a fairly easy 30 miles round trip, although shorter rides are possible. A Sunday hike of one of the park's scenic trails will be optional. Plan to camp

Friday night or arrive Saturday by 10 am for the bike ride. Bring your bike, helmet (required), repair kit and water bottle. Pot luck for Saturday night dinner. Call 512-389-8900 or visit the Texas State Park website for campsite reservations. You need to reserve your own site now. Campsites fill up fast. Leader Linda Zombeck – 817-431-2346 or zombeck@charter.com to sign up.

Saturday, March 26 — River Legacy Park West, Arlington

Come hike with us for 6 miles in the older section of River Legacy Park in north Arlington. We'll walk a moderately fast pace on a paved trail to observe the Trinity River, surrounding forest and wildlife. Bring water and sunscreen. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards. From I-30 in Arlington, exit Collins and take Collins north. At Green Oaks Blvd., turn left. Take Green Oaks west, almost 1 mile. Pass River Legacy Living Science Center on right (703 NW Green Oaks), then turn right into park entrance (under arched entry) and left at first park road. Meet at 10 a.m. on sidewalk by playground. Leader: Jeneanne Carson, 817-860-1870 or email jcars@flash.net No res-

ervations needed-just show up.

April 2-3 Saturday/Sunday: Car camp at Mother Neff State Park

Texas' oldest State park is located 15 miles northwest of Temple. Easy day hike Saturday afternoon (3-5 miles) exploring the park with group cookout and campfire that evening. Trip limited to 12 participants - no pets please. Co-Leaders Emily Haeussler and Dave Roberts. Cost is \$7 per participant (\$5 Sierra Club fee plus \$2 campsite fee) payable to the trip co-leaders plus entrance fee to the park. To sign up, contact Dave at 817-561-5616 or davibarton@sbcglobal.net.

Sat.-Sun., April 16-17 — 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.

Friday-Sunday, Apr 15-17 — Bike/Car-camp at Caprock Canyon State Park

On Friday evening arrive at the state
Please see MORE Page 2

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1925
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

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Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

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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Entity Code

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.