

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

MAY 2005

Scales tipping toward cleaner vehicles?

The New York Times broke a story recently that the Governor of Oregon will administratively adopt clean car legislation, bringing the percentage of new cars sold in the United States and Canada that must meet the nation's strongest pollution standards to over 35% – and pushing the auto industry a big step closer to making all of their cars clean vehicles.

“With Oregon, Washington and Canada signing up for clean cars, we are now approaching the tipping point where automakers will need to make all of their cars clean vehicles,” said Dan Becker, Washington Director of the Sierra Club's Global Warming Program. “The automakers will find it financially impossible to make one clean set of cars for 10 states and Canada, and a dirty set for the rest.”

Oregon's action – which follows in the footsteps on similar rules passed in Washington and adopted by Canada in March – would improve Oregon's air quality by requiring vehicles sold in the state to meet tailpipe pollution standards more stringent than Federal standards. Under the Clean Air Act, individual states are given the option of following federal tailpipe standards or they can choose to adopt California's stronger standards in order to make greater strides to improve air quality.

State clean car rules generally follow a two step process. The first step adopts California's smog reduction provisions. The second step is the adoption of California's Pavley law – the nation's first tailpipe standards to reduce global warming pollution. Under Oregon law, the governor has the power to adminis-

tratively implement these rules. These Pavley standards are currently being finalized in California. When that is completed, they will come into effect in Oregon and the other states that have adopted the California standards.

Oregon's adoption of these standards will mean that over 35 percent of the vehicles sold in the United States and

Canada must meet the strongest pollution standards.

Currently, U.S. auto companies are losing market share and profits to foreign competitors – like Toyota and Honda – that use better technologies and designs. Additionally, as gas price hit record highs, consumers are shun-

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Fort Worth Group Conservation Notes

Region C Water Planning Group

Final proposals to update strategies to meet North Texas water needs are being considered by the Region C Water Planning Group. Region C, which includes Tarrant and Dallas Counties, is one of 16 planning groups established by the Texas Legislature and charged with the responsibility of devising plans to meet the long-term water requirements of Texas through the year 2050.

Along with plans for water reuse, conservation measures, and additional supplies from existing lakes, the local group is studying the construction of three new reservoirs: Marvin Nichols, on the Sulphur River; Fastrell, near Palestine; and Ralph Hall, in Fannin County. Opposition to construction of these lakes is widespread, including the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, farm and ranch owners who will be displaced, and timber interests. The opponents feel that more stringent conservation measures and greater use of existing lakes will give the same results without the expense, destruction of habitat, and displacement of family farms that would occur with the new dams.

Region C meetings are open for public comment, and dates are posted on the group's webpage, Regioncwater.org or call (817) 735-7353.

TXI Contested Case Hearing

The State Office of Administrative Hearings will conduct a formal contested case hearing on a request by TXI Operations, LP, owners of a cement plant in Midlothian, Texas. The hearing concerns a TXI permit modification which will allow the company to turn off certain pollution control devices during the November – April “non-ozone” period. Environmental organizations and many Midlothian residents are strongly opposed to the modification, since it is undisputed that harmful emissions will be increased. The company contends that the increased pollutants will not cause a violation of the Clean Air Act, and that cost savings justify the shutdown. The hearing will be held at 10 a.m., June 7, at the City Council Chambers, 401 South Rogers Street, Waxahachie, Texas, and is open to the public.

**Program
Notes**

The May program for the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will be presented by the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, with emphasis on their research and wildlife conservation efforts. The Group meets the third Wednesday of every month. For meeting time and location, please see Page 3.

Coming Events

May 18, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

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

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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, May 18

7:00 Main Auditorium, Univ. of N. Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north to Camp Bowie). Program notes on Pg. 1.

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.

May 27, 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 30, Monday

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

June 7, 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 Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

June 7, Tuesday

Outings Meeting immediately following the ExCom meeting to plan new outings and reminisce about old trips. See location above. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

June 14, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. All members are welcome. For meeting location, contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540 or Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Cleaner Autos

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

ning gas guzzling pickups and SUVs. The clean car efforts underway in Oregon, Washington, California, the Northeastern states, and Canada could be a boon for automakers – forcing them to make the hot selling hybrids and other clean cars that consumers want.

“Hybrids and other clean car technologies offer U.S. automakers a chance to make a clean break with their gas guzzling past,” continued Becker. “If they embrace clean car technology, they can staunch their bleeding market share and begin to rebuild their strength and U.S. jobs.”

More outings

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

us inside. We'll try to have a visible Sierra sign. Music starts at 7:30. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, food, and drinks. Concessions available. For more info, www.soundoflewisville.com and mingofishtrap.com. Contact Sue Schaeffer, 972-304-0974 or (cell) 972-979-8555 or sueschaeffer@comcast.com.

June 5, Sunday

Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes, Waxahachie. The 37th Annual Gingerbread Tour of Homes, Arts & Crafts Festival as well as the 3rd Annual Chautauqua Antique Market celebrate the rich history of Waxahachie. Meet in front of the historic Texas Theatre, 110 W. Main Street at 1 p.m. Look for the Sierra Singles sign. Tickets can be purchased in advance (\$3 discount for adults) or on the day of the event for \$15. Tour takes 2-3 hours with free bus transportation between homes. The courthouse and several other historic

buildings will be open for tours. Optional dinner available after the tour. For more information and tickets, visit www.rootsweb.com/~txecm/ginger/htm. Leader: Kathy Rushing, 972-938-1784 or kathyushing@evl.net.

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.

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.

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 re-

Club Outings

quires 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 Sierra Club by hiking trails in the Fort Worth Nature Center. Meet at just after 9 a.m. at the Fort Worth Nature Center Hardwicke Interpretative Center. The park opens its gates at 9:00 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. Bring lunch and a 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 Fri. and Sat. nights at South Llano River State Park in the walk-in camp-

ing area. Reserve your campsite in this area as soon as possible by calling the TP&W office at 512-389-8900 or visit its website. Hiking and tubing are options Saturday on the Llano River. On Sat night, we will visit the James River Bat Preserve which requires a high clearance vehicle. We can carpool for this event. The Llano River is a spring-fed river, flowing over limestone rocks. There is wonderful scenery and wildlife in this park which is 250 miles from Fort Worth via Hwy 377. 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 signup and for more info.

Sierra Singles Events

May 24, Tuesday

Free outdoor concert. Sounds of the Lewisville Concert with Mingo Fishtrap, named by the Austin Music Awards as the "Best Jam Band" and "Best Funk Band." Meet us between 6:45 and 7 p.m. under the green brick pavilion near the entrance plaza of the Vista Ridge Amphitheatre in Lewisville, located off the 121 bypass, west of I-35E. From 121, turn left onto Lake Vista Dr. The amphitheatre is on the left. If you arrive after 7 p.m., look for

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Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone (optional) _____

Individual (\$39) Joint (\$49) Senior/Student (\$25)

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

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