

Explore,
Enjoy,
and
Protect the
Planet

Happy New Year! Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
**APRIL
2006**

Variety of volunteer positions open

■ 10 ways to contribute to a healthier planet by giving your time to the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

If you want to be more involved in the Fort Worth Sierra Club but have limited time to do so, consider helping in one or more of the following 10 categories. Email sierra@dfwnetmall.com with your volunteer preferences or contact Claudia.Blalock@AlconLabs.com to volunteer for outings.

Here are ways you can help

1. Education: Community Outreach at local events--Pass out leaflets, talk to attendees. Time: 2 to 4 hours

2. Education: Speak to community groups, church groups, PTAs, etc.

Time: 1 hour

3. Education: Start a book discussion group in your area with choice of 6 subjects from www.nwei.org. Time: 2 hours a week for 9-10 weeks.

4. Outings: Lead or assist leader: Hiking, camping, backpacking. Time: 2 hours to week-end plus prior leader training.

5. Host: Host club socials or singles events in your home, in restaurants, or public places. Time: 2 to 4 hours

6. Host: Sustainable Sunday restaurant events. Help seat people, be nice, smile, chat. Time: 2 hours

7. City Hall/Political Support Attend public meetings, help with endorsed candidates' campaigns. Time: Varies

8. Write Letters to Editor: Write letters to editor about conservation or

other issues. Time: 1 to 2 hours

9. Write Meeting Announcements: Send short meeting announcements to newspapers, other media. Time: 1 to 2 hours

10. Your Special Contribution: If you have a special volunteer activity to contribute to the Sierra Club, please let us know the details.

It's deja vu all over again with Artic Wildlife Refuge

The Senate has voted to once again include drilling revenues from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the federal budget, despite their defeat on a similar measure just months ago. Ignoring warnings about America's oil addiction, a recent oil spill just to the west of the Arctic Refuge, and staunch opposition to sneaking the controversial provision into the budget, the Senate voted 51-49 in favor of the Budget Resolution which includes a speculative \$3 billion to the federal treasury from Arctic drilling. The House, where Arctic drilling was blocked just last year, has yet to act.

In a move to limit debate and opposition, drilling-obsessed politicians like Senator Stevens (R-AK) and Pete Domenici (R-NM) -- aided by Budget Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) -- are

Please see ARTIC, Page 4

GFWSC Conservation Notes

Mountain top removal coal mining

The states of West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia are being devastated with increased usage of a coal mining technique known as Mountain Top Removal (MTR). As described by Appalachian Voices, an activist organization working toward MTR control, the procedure involves clear-cutting native hardwood forests, using dynamite to blast away 800-1,000 feet of mountaintop, and then dumping the debris into nearby valleys. Meanwhile, the communities near these mining sites are forced to contend with continual blasting from mining operations that can take place up to 300 feet from their homes and operate 24 hours a day, air pollution,

and floods that have destroyed homes and property values.

Appalachian Voices has begun a national tour to alert the country to the dangers of this practice and to work toward passage of the Clean Water Protection Act, a bill currently before Congress which will sharply curtail this type of mining. They will be making a multi-media presentation to the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club at the April 19 general meeting.

Contributions still needed by Group

While the initial response to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club fund raising appeal was encouraging, the Group needs additional financial commitment on the part of its membership to help continue our efforts on behalf of the environment. Please respond to the appeal by returning the form on Page 2.

Program
Notes

Born On A Mountain Top No More?: Davy Crocket may have been born on a mountain top in Tennessee, but that option may not be available long for new borns. The program for April will be a presentation by Appalachian Voices on Mountain Top Removal coal mining. It will include a multi-media program, plus first-person accounts from West Virginia residents. For more information, see the Conservation Notes above.

Support our printer

Alpha and Omega Printing and Graphics reduces our newsletter print cost 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.

Call 921-3670 for information on pricing, pick-up, and delivery.

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

Changes of address: address.changes@sierraclub.org

(Phone numbers below are Area Code 817 except as noted)

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**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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.

Campaign 2006 Commitment

YES, I want to help the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Group continue working for clean air and water in North Texas

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please accept my commitment to the environment for the amount indicated:

Protector \$1,000 + \$_____ Conservator \$500 - \$999 \$_____

Promoter \$100 - \$499 \$_____ Explorer \$50 - \$99 \$_____

Observer \$1 - \$49 \$_____

Please indicate type of funds committed:

_____ I don't need the tax deduction

My check is payable to Greater Fort Worth Sierra Group

Contributions to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Group are not tax-deductible. They support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

_____ I want the tax deduction

My check is payable to Sierra Club Foundation

Contributions and gifts to Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable contributions as they support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals.

Donors will be recognized in the Sierra Sentinel in late 2006. If you do not wish to be recognized in this honor roll, please check here:

For information, call Susan Haney, 254-582-8228

Mail commitment form with check payable to Great Fort Worth Sierra Group or Sierra Club Foundation to:

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1874

Burleson, TX 76097-1874

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.

April 8, Saturday

Sustainable Saturday brunch and dayhike at Spiral Diner, 817 332-8834, 1314 W. Magnolia at 6th Av, NE corner, Fort Worth. This all-you-can-eat pancake buffet is served from 10 am to 11:30 am. \$5.55. Separate table for Sierra Singles. Walk it off with an optional hike at noon in Botanic Garden, Fort Worth. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com

April 14, Friday

TGIF Evening Hike. Unwind with us after work and celebrate the weekend! 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 Dr, less than a mile south of I-30 in Fort Worth. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. No reservations needed—just show up. Please no pets. Hike cancelled in case of rain.

April 23, Sunday

Celebrate Earth Day and Sustain-

Club Outings

able Sunday from 12 noon to 2 pm at Cosmic Cafe, 214 521-6157, 2912 Oak Lawn, Dallas. Order from menu. No reservation needed. Separate table for Sierra Singles. Walk it off with an optional hike at nearby park at 2:30 pm. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com

May 11-14, Thursday-Saturday

Canoe a section of the Buffalo National River in central Arkansas on Fri and Sat for a total distance of < 20 miles over 2 days on this national wild and scenic river where no motorized boats are allowed. A celebratory dinner at the Riverside Inn is planned for Saturday night and a potluck for Friday evening. 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 or 870-439-2386. The number of canoes available is very limited. The website is www.gilbertstore.com. Shuttles for personal canoes may be pro-

vided by the contacting the canoe outfitter to arrange this. This trip is open to experienced canoeists and requires approval of trip leader. This is not a technical river, but current and prior canoeing skills are needed. Leader: Marilyn Turnage, 817-491-2382 (e-mail marilynturnage@msn.com).

May 21, Saturday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch & Dayhike. Plant-based buffet with a large variety of food selections at Celaborelle, 817 922-8118, 2257 Hemphill just north of Elizabeth Blvd, Fort Worth. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. \$7. Separate table for Sierra Singles. Walk it off with an optional hike at 2:30 pm. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

June 4, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch & Dayhike. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Walk it off with an optional urban hike at a nearby park at 2:30 pm. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

An updated list of outings can be found on the GFWSC web site.

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

Mountain Sports

www.mountainsports.com

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1874
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Membership					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed					
Name	_____				
Address	_____				
City	_____ State _____				
Zip	_____ Email _____				
Phone (optional)	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$39) <input type="checkbox"/> Joint (\$49) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student (\$25)					
Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.	<table border="1"><tr><td>F94QT19002</td><td>-1</td></tr><tr><td>F94Q W99901</td><td>Entity Code</td></tr></table>	F94QT19002	-1	F94Q W99901	Entity Code
F94QT19002	-1				
F94Q W99901	Entity Code				
Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St. 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441					

Coming Events

April 19, 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 (150 dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1874, Burlson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

April 28, Friday

Noon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Red Room at the Tin Cup, 1025 W. Abram, Arlington. Bonnie Bowman will be heading up this meeting.

May 1, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's,

General Meeting Wednesday, April 19

7:00 Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center Complex. Going north on University, take the 2nd entrance into Botanic Gardens. The Garden Center is straight ahead. Program notes on Pg. 1.

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 Spiral Diner, 1314 W. Magnolia. For more information, contact Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

May 2, 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.

Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee meets on an as-needed basis. All members are welcome. For meeting information,

contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540, Earl Burnam, 244-2328, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Arctic Wildlife Refuge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trying to sidestep the normal Senate rules by making this an "Arctic only" budget bill: the only instruction Sen. Gregg sent was to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The next step is the Senate Energy Committee which will craft legislation to authorize opening the Arctic Refuge to oil drilling. That language will be folded into the overall Budget Reconciliation bill which must be passed by the entire Senate. The Senate will then have to conference its version with the House which has not yet taken up a budget resolution this year.

Last year, a similar attempt failed to pass the House of Representatives where objections from moderate Republicans forced leadership to strip Arctic drilling language from a larger budget package. In a desperate move, Senator Stevens attached Arctic drilling to a defense spending bill, a move that was repudiated by the Senate.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club