

Explore,
Enjoy,
and
Protect the
Planet

Happy New Year! Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
FEBRUARY
2006

National Sierra Club Board of Directors ballot will come your way next month

■ No petition candidates qualified for inclusion on the ballot; nominating committee names seven

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway.

In March, you will receive in the mail your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels.

The Club 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 operate 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.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates 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: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2006election>.

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

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

Location, location, location

Have you checked out our new Botanic Garden meeting site?

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club now meets in the Azaela Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center Complex (see directions, on Pg. 3) and apparently the change of location was a popular one with our members. Attendance was the highest in months in January (and besides a great program, we're offering snacks this month (see below).

GFWSC Conservation Notes

Clean Air Planning

In February the North Central Texas Council of Governments will submit to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality its recommendations to bring the nine-county Dallas/Fort Worth region into compliance with the Clean Air Act.

After review and possible alterations, TCEQ will then present a plan to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval. If the plan is not sufficient to bring the area into compliance by 2010, severe sanctions could be imposed, including loss of federal highway funds.

An integral part of the plan will be control of emissions from industrial sources.

Citizen's Clean Air Network, an alliance of environmental organizations

including the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, proposes that TCEQ adopt stringent rules governing Ellis County cement kilns and East Texas coal-fired power plants, both existing plants and those currently in the permitting stages.

The Network asks that the kilns make 85% emission reductions by utilizing proven smog-reducing technology, and that existing power plants reduce emissions by 70% by applying the rules now in effect in the Houston area.

The Network also asks that no new power plants be permitted until these requirements are in place. For further information on the air planning process and to learn how you can be a part of the solution, visit dfwairplan.org.



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION: Since the industrial revolution began in the 1800s, the world, and particularly our country, has been on an unprecedented consumption binge. How can individuals stop this binge and consume sustainably? Find out at our February program. Terry Jensen, Fort Worth Sustainable Consumption Chair, Susan Horn, District 2 Director of Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, and Elizabeth Samudio, owner of Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden, present a program on sustainable consumption. Come early for sustainable snacks at 6:30.

Coming Events

February 15, 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

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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)

Executive Committee

Chair Susan Haney 254-582-8228 srobinson@whitneytx.net

Vice-chair Todd Nichols 937-5217 toddnichols@comcast.net

Secretary Jeneanne Carson 817-860-1870 jcars@flash.net

Treasurer Todd Nichols

Bryan 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

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, February 15

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.

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, Burleson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

February 24, 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 head-

Choices for sustainable living are good for us and for our planet

On Feb. 20, a Sierra Club environmental discussion group begins in Bedford.

The group meets for 10 weeks on Monday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., at Thai Jasmine Restaurant, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121.

Purpose of the group is to explore the meaning of sustainability and the ties between our lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth.

The group is limited to 10 participants. Book cost is \$17 with advance registration required. Register with Terry Jensen at ss@dfwnetmall.com or 817 545-0140.

Session themes are:

1. A Call to Sustainability: The goal of a sustainable society is popular, but difficult to define. How does the way our society functions affect the earth, and how can we be "a blessing to the planet?"

2. Ecological Principles: Some argue that the earth is the best teacher of sustainable practices. How can nature's organizing principles be applied in design, production of goods, and everyday living?

3. Sustainable Communities: The more resources we use in the course of daily living, the larger our "ecological footprint" is. By looking at our actions

ing up this meeting.

February 27, Monday

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

March 7, 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.

March 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.

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.

within the framework of communities, we can learn to shrink that footprint and gain a simpler, more balanced lifestyle.

4. Sustainable Business and Economy: Is a growing economy equivalent to a healthy economy? What are other ways of measuring success, and how can we encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices and perspectives?

5. Sustainable Food: According to one author, our food travels an average of 1300 miles before reaching our plates. How can we lessen our impact on the earth through conscious choices about the way we eat?

6. Sustainable Buying: Daily messages tell us to buy, buy, buy. How can we escape from these cultural pressures, and instead only purchase what we truly need, from the most sustainable sources available?

7. Home, Health, and Leisure: How can we build, teach, and live, in our homes and with our families, in greater harmony with the natural world?

8. Visions of Sustainability: Choices we make today are shaping the world of tomorrow. What are the possible outcomes, and how can we create the most sustainable society for ourselves and our children?

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

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.

February 19, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday. † Celaborelle Restaurant will open from noon until 2 pm only to serve the Sierra Club and friends an all-you-can-eat plant-based buffet of incredible variety, including some organic dishes. Dedicated Chef-Owner Joseph Hedary even grows some of the food he serves. \$7. No reservation needed. Table for Singles. 2257 Hemphill just north of Elizabeth Blvd, Fort Worth. Walk It Off with an optional urban hike at 2:30 pm. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen at ss@dfwnetmall.com† or metro 972 988-8687, ext3101.

February 26, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday. Mediterranean plant-based buffet at Dunes Mediterranean Grill, 214 441-1342, 3401 W Airport Fwy at Beltline, Irving, from noon to 2:00 pm. \$7 special price for Sustainable Sunday attendees. Table for Singles. No reservation needed. Walk it off with an optional urban hike at a nearby park at 2:30. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

Club Outings

March 5, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday. First Sunday of the month plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Table for Singles. Walk It Off with an optional urban hike at a nearby park at 2:30 pm. No dogs please. Leader: Terry Jensen at ss@dfwnetmall.com† or metro 972 988-8687, ext3101.

March 11-12, Saturday-Sunday

Carcamp at Copper Breaks State Park near Quanah, Texas (around 80 miles past Wichita Falls). This scenic park is close enough to Fort Worth to allow us to drive there Saturday morning. Trip will start at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Hike Saturday afternoon on the scenic trails in the park. Optional potluck group meal Saturday night. Hike again Sunday morning before heading home Sunday afternoon. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Co-leader: Martha Ohlson, 972-727-5778, e-mail: mjohlson@drs-irtech.com.

March 26, Sunday

Learn about wine at a wine tasting

fundraiser at Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas at 2904 Oak Lawn on Sunday, March 26 at 5 p.m. Please register by sending a check for \$20 made out to Fort Worth Sierra Club and your e-mail address to Jenny Lehman, 7504 Meadow Creek Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76123 by Mar 20. For further information, please contact Todd Nichols at 817-937-5217. Email: todd.c.nichols@lmco.com or Jenny at avidhiker@killerfrogs.com.

April 21-22, Friday-Saturday

Annual Caprock Canyon Rail-Trail Bike Ride at Caprock Canyon State Park about 4-5 hours from Fort Worth in the Panhandle of Texas. Ride departs on Saturday AM and is about: 20-25 miles on the Rail-to Trail bike route. Need fat tired bike. Trip is rated moderate to strenuous. Riders must have trip leader's permission to participate and is limited to 12 persons. Helmets and extra tubes and/or patch kits required. Leader: Dan Smith, fwsieran@aol.com or (817) 410-2955.

Still curious about outings?

Want more information on the outings program offered by the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club?

You're in luck. On Pg. 4 of this issue is a comprehensive look at the local program. Take a look at it and join us on an upcoming outing.

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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 | | | | | |

Outings: everything you wanted to know — and more!

The Sierra Club has over 700,000 members and part of our mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth. Our volunteer-run outings program supports the Sierra Club's conservation mission by connecting people with the natural world and with the Club. By taking others on Sierra Club outings, we hope to impart our love of these special places and a commitment to protect them.

The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club offers many types of outings, from one of only several hours to a multi-day trip. Types of outings include urban day hikes, bicycle rides, canoe trips, wilderness backpacks, sea kayak tours or overnight car camping. Leaders volunteer their time to receive training, plan trips, and to lead these outings. Outings are not-for-profit and support the mission of the Sierra Club. All trips are conducted in accordance with the National Sierra Club Outing Program.

Our outings are open to members and nonmembers. A list of upcoming outings is in each newsletter and on our web site and includes information about the event and a contact person.

Most trips require pre-registration and leader approval as indicated in their description. For others you just show up. Contact the leader for details.

All participants are required to sign a standard liability waiver. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and a liability waiver must be signed by the parent or guardian. If you would like to read the liability waiver, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Outings Leaders may limit the number of participants on a trip, and may choose to screen potential participants for experience, conditioning, and suitability for participation. The Outings Leaders' decisions are final. Depending on the strenuous nature of the trip, not all interested people have the necessary skills and conditioning to have an enjoyable trip.

Each outing officially begins at the trailhead. The trip leader cannot assign carpooling for trip participants, but may help to coordinate ridesharing. Some outings to state/national

parks or wilderness areas may require an entrance and/or camping fee; each participant will be responsible for paying his own expenses. No radios or firearms are allowed. Pets are not allowed unless indicated in the trip description.

Each participant is responsible for providing his own equipment. The trip leader will provide details about equipment and supplies needed. Classes such as map reading and compass instruction, beginner backpacking, and canoeing may be offered to assist members in increasing their outdoor skills. All our outings encourage and practice "leave no trace" and low impact to the environment outdoor practices.

In general, overnight trips or outings to wilderness areas are usually limited to approximately 12 persons and require reservations. If you must cancel, inform the leader as soon as possible. Urban day hikes are usually not limited to 12 persons.

If you have questions about the Fort Worth Sierra Club Outings Program or wish to become an outings leader, contact the chairperson at 817-924-6242.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club