

## House shreds drilling moratorium

Ignoring Americans' demands for smart, innovative, clean energy solutions, the U.S. House voted 232-187 in late June to lift the 25-year moratorium on offshore drilling, just as millions of Americans were headed to America's beaches for the July 4 weekend. H.R. 4761 sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA), shreds the long-standing moratorium, makes states jump through bureaucratic hoops to regain protections they currently enjoy, would allow

drilling as close as 3 miles to shore if states choose, and cost the federal government billions of dollars. Solutions as simple as making cars go farther on a gallon of gas and as innovative as harnessing the power of the wind and the sun were completely overlooked.

"Americans already believe that their Congress lacks the guts to stand up to Big Oil. This vote proves they are absolutely right," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director.

The bill replaces the national moratorium with a tiered system: the moratorium line would stop at 100 miles; from 50-100 miles, states would have to actively oppose drilling every five years; states could petition for drilling within 50 miles of the coast.

"At a time when Americans are looking for answers to America's energy needs, Congress punted," said Pope. "They billed it as 'energy week,' but sadly the only idea they could muster is sticking more rigs off our coasts."

The House voted 217-203 to renew the moratorium in May as part of the appropriations process, but Pombo and the oil and gas industry plowed ahead with a bill to revoke the moratorium. Offshore drilling proposals were quickly folded into the once heralded "energy week," a promise made by Congressional leaders to spend the last week of June addressing America's energy problems. Instead of crafting and debating an array of energy proposals, however, the week has been dubbed

*Please see 'WASTED', Page 4*

### **Sentinel takes a vacation**

The current edition of *The Sentinel*, the newsletter of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club, will be the last one you will receive until September.

Because of a general lack of activities during the hot summer months in Texas, coupled with growing demands on the Group's finances, the July and August issues have been combined.

Check the Group website for outings and conservation updates as well as for any action alerts that should come up. Web address for the Group is:

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

## GFWSC Conservation Notes

### **Trans-Texas corridor public hearings set**

The Texas Department of Transportation has released its Trans-Texas Corridor public hearing schedule with three meetings slated for the Greater Fort Worth region. This public works project, the largest in the history of the state, anticipates construction of transportation lanes for motor vehicles, railways, and utilities totaling more than 4,000 miles with right-of-way requirements of 584,000 acres. A Spanish firm, Cintra, and San Antonio's Zachry Construction have been chosen to construct the initial leg of the corridor, TTC-35, which will run from the Red River to San Antonio. Cintra has suggested a route on the eastern edge of Dallas County, a move which has met with widespread opposition from Tarrant and Dallas County leaders, who prefer a more central route through the heart of the Metroplex.

All hearings will begin with an open house at 5 p.m., followed by presentations and public comment at 6:30.

July 13 - Weatherford College Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford,.

July 17 - Will Rogers Memorial Center, Exhibits Hall, Round Up Inn, 3400 Burnett-Tandy Drive, Fort Worth.

July 18 - GISD Pearl St. Conference Center, 205 E. Pearl St., Granbury.

### **Mistletoe batch plant plans shelved**

Sunmount Corporation has withdrawn its request to build a concrete batch plant near the historic Mistletoe neighborhood in the face of determined opposition by affected residents. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality had given permission for the plant to be built on Vickery Avenue just off I-30 near downtown despite overwhelming citizens' comments warning of traffic, noise, and air quality issues. Sunmount officials had no comment on their decision, but were facing a hearing before an administrative law judge in July and other legal challenges by neighborhood organizations.

### **Program Notes**

**Master Gardener Program in July: Permaculture in August:** The July program will be an introduction to the Master Gardener program and will be presented by the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association.

Dick Pierce has confirmed he will speak to Fort Worth Sierra Club for the August program about permaculture. Be sure and be present for both these informative meetings.

# 'Wasted Energy Week' puts oil interests first

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 1

"wasted energy week" as offshore drilling was the only major legislation to reach the House floor. Measures to improve efficiency standards for automobiles, buildings and appliances were left on the cutting room floor.

"Congress appears to have lost faith in the power of American ingenuity,"

said Pope. "America has incredible, untapped potential for innovation and can accomplish anything we make a commitment to. It's time for Congress to make a commitment to smart energy solutions instead of Big Oil."

New offshore drilling won't help address problems today, tomorrow or next year. It's the slowest, dirtiest and most expensive way to meet our energy needs and it would threaten our beaches with pollution and potential oil spills and destroy billion-dollar tourism and fishing industries. There are faster, cheaper, cleaner and longer-term energy solutions like energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy that will start saving families and businesses money today and protect our coastal waters, beaches and economies. In the seven years we would wait for offshore gas to come online, we could reduce natural gas demand by 8% through efficiency and renewables.

While Pombo and the Republican leadership were busy spending the so-called "Energy Week" thinking of ways to subsidize Big Oil, they ignored the biggest single step we can take toward saving consumers money at the pump, ending our dangerous oil dependence and curbing global warming: making cars and trucks go farther on a gallon of gas. CAFE was not only ignored by the leadership this week, but the Rules Committee ruled a CAFE amendment to the Pombo bill out of order, despite a call from Rep. Boehlert and 39 other Republicans to consider the Boehlert-Markey CAFE proposal during the drilling debate. That proposal would have raised CAFE to 33 miles per gallon over 10 years time, saving us more oil than we currently import from the Persian Gulf and saving the average driver more than \$500 a year.

Industry has poured millions of dollars into intense lobbying and misinformation campaigns. The first myth they promote is that oil and gas resources are "off limits" or "locked up." Yet, a close look at the numbers behind their propaganda reveals the truth: industry already has access to the vast majority of the estimated Outer Continental Shelf natural gas resources, including 4 times the amount of natural gas estimated to occur in moratoria areas by the Minerals Management Service. And of the huge resources they have access to, they have developed only a fraction of it.

The second argument is that the oil and gas industry has a good track record and can be trusted to drill in and around fragile coastal waters and wetlands. MMS assessments of the damage during Katrina and Rita show that 457 pipelines were damaged and 113 platforms destroyed. This does not take into account the smaller oil spills and air and water pollution that happen every day around offshore drilling operations. It is a common misconception that the impacts of offshore drilling are concentrated far from eyeshot. Yet offshore drilling means the industrialization of our coastal communities. What follows the rigs are the pipelines, storage facilities, refineries, tankers, liquefied natural gas terminals, and chemical companies.

"We will continue our fight to protect America's coasts and advance smart energy solutions and vigorously oppose efforts to pass similarly short-sighted and destructive offshore drilling legislation," said Pope. "At this point the Senate has not demonstrated an interest in lifting the moratorium, and there are plenty of reasons for Senators from all states to oppose this bill."

The *Sierra Sentinel* 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>

Changes of address: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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](mailto:srobinson@whitneytx.net)

Vice-chair Todd Nichols 937-5217 [toddnichols@comcast.net](mailto:toddnichols@comcast.net)

Secretary Bryan Haney [bryon.m.haney@swf02.usace.army.mil](mailto:bryon.m.haney@swf02.usace.army.mil)

Treasurer Todd Nichols

James Moody 295-1623 [jmoody166@mac.com](mailto:jmoody166@mac.com)

Glenn Ford 469-6540 [gfordfortworth@hotmail.com](mailto:gfordfortworth@hotmail.com)

Terry Jensen 817-545-0140, [updates@dfwnetmail.com](mailto:updates@dfwnetmail.com)

Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407

[shadowy\\_poet@yahoo.com](mailto:shadowy_poet@yahoo.com)

### Conservation Contacts

Chair Glenn Ford 469-6540 [gfordfortworth@hotmail.com](mailto:gfordfortworth@hotmail.com)

Bob Scott 282-1372 [roscoth@flash.net](mailto:roscoth@flash.net)

### Outings Contacts

Acting Chair Claudia Blalock 924-6242 [cpblalock@msn.com](mailto:cpblalock@msn.com)

Day Hikes Claudia Blalock

Canoeing Marilyn Turnage

Bicycling Dan Smith 410-2955 [fwsieran@aol.com](mailto:fwsieran@aol.com)

Backpacking Open

### Administrative Contacts

Membership Dan Smith 817-410-2955 [fwsieran@aol.com](mailto:fwsieran@aol.com)

Programs Glenn Ford

Lone Star Chapter Delegate Tolbert Greenwood

### Newsletter Staff

Editor James Moody 817-295-1623 [jmoody166@mac.com](mailto: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.

## More club outings

com) and Todd Nichols, 817-937-5217 ([toddnichols@comcast.net](mailto:toddnichols@comcast.net)).

### November 8-12, Wednesday-Sunday

Big Bend National Park Van Trip. Join us for a long weekend in one of the nation's most scenic national parks, about 9 hours away from Fort Worth. We'll travel by van, leaving early Wednesday morning and arriving before sunset. Todd Nichols will lead a car camping (van-camping) trip from the Chinos Basin campground. This year we will be exploring several hik-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing trails in the Big Bend Ranch State Park and various trails in the western part of the National Park. James Moody will lead a backpack into some place remote and beautiful. (For details on this trip contact him-817-295-1623). The cost remains at \$175 per person – a real bargain with the price of gas. Mail checks prior to Nov. 1, payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club, to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington 76018. For more information contact Todd at 817-937-5217.

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.

### July 22, Saturday

Need to cool off on Saturday morning? Join Sierrans for a tubing trip down the Brazos River in Glen Rose, providing that there is water release sufficient for trip. Tube rental and shuttle service will be provided by an outfitter in Glen Rose (254-897-3666). Time on river should be less than 3 hours. Only experienced swimmers are allowed and all minors must be accompanied by a parent. Lifejackets are required and provided by the outfitter. Cost of tube rental and shuttle is less than \$10 per person. Must contact trip leader to sign-up in advance due to limited group size. Will meet at Fort Worth location to be designated by trip leader for carpooling. Bring sunscreen, hat, and cooler with water. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

### July 22, Saturday, 8 a.m.

Help make our meeting place even more beautiful. Join fellow members on a one-day service project to help maintain the trails of the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Bring a lunch to enjoy a picnic lunch in the Gardens

---

# Club Outings

---

(soft drink provided) as well as canvas gloves, long sleeve shirt, and sunscreen. Contact: James Moody, 295-1623, jmoody166@mac.com.

### August 6, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. All-you-can eat plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 3104 Harwood, southwest corner of Hwy 121 and Harwood in SC with Tom Thumb, Bedford. 11:30 am - 12 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children.

### August 12, Saturday

River Legacy Dayhike. We'll hike 6 miles on a paved trail to observe the Trinity River bottom forest, wildlife and open areas east of River Legacy Park. Bring water and sunscreen. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards. Directions: From I-30 in Arlington, exit Collins and take Collins north past Green Oaks Blvd. After crossing Green Oaks approx. 400 feet, turn left into the new River Legacy Park east entrance and park at the south section (walk south from the parking lot to find the map). Meet on the bridge near the parking lot at 8:00 AM. Please no dogs. Hike cancelled if raining in Arlington. No reservations; just show

up for hike. Leaders: Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242(H) and Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H).

### August 24-27, Thursday-Sunday

Overnight backpack in the Guadalupe Mountains, Texas' highest mountain range. We'll come in through Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico and start from the seldom-seen Dog Canyon area in the extreme northern part of the park. From there we have two options, with the Upper Dog Canyon route being a little longer with a greater elevation gain. That one would take us by Lost Peak (7,890) on the Tejas Trail and on to the Mescalero campsite. It's a quick scamper up Lost Peak from the trail as we would have already gained about 1,300 feet of elevation from the ranger station. Total one-way length of that option is about 4.8 miles. The other route, the Bush Mountain Trail, has about a 900 foot elevation change, most of it on the return to the Dog Canon Ranger Station. It's 3.8 miles to the Marcus campsite, with a mile-long optional hike following West Dog Canyon to the New Mexico line. Either option is strenuous. Participants and leaders will share cost of transportation to and from the trailhead. Leaders: James Moody, 817-295-1623 (H) or 817-688-3656 (M) (jmoody166@mac.

*Please see MORE, Page 2*

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

# Mountain Sports

[www.mountainsports.com](http://www.mountainsports.com)

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 1874  
Burlleson, Texas 76097-1874

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 714  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

Return Service requested

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><b>F94QT19002</b></td><td>-1</td></tr><tr><td>F94Q W99901</td><td>Entity Code</td></tr></table>	<b>F94QT19002</b>	-1	F94Q W99901	Entity Code
<b>F94QT19002</b>	-1				
F94Q W99901	Entity Code				
Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St. 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441					

## Coming Events

### July 19 & Aug. 16, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information by mail or email. Photos of club activities encouraged. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1874, Burlleson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the general meeting, or email [jmoody166@mac.com](mailto:jmoody166@mac.com).

### July 28 & Aug. 25, Friday

Noon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month at 1 p.m. at Cup a Joe, 602 W. Abram, Arlington. Contact Bonnie Bowman, [bfbg@comcast.net](mailto:bfbg@comcast.net)

### July 31 & Sept. 4, Monday

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

### Aug. 1 & Sept. 5, Tuesday, 6:00 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.

## Seeing red whenever it comes to ozone?

Are you frustrated with our polluted air and the lack of progress towards EPA's air quality standards in the D/FW area? There are many to petition for cleaner air, but Joe Barton stands out – he has championed industry at the cost of his constituents' health all his political career.

Join us in a grassroots effort to help

Rep. Barton get the picture. Send him a red postcard every red ozone alert day! Write in your own personal remarks: "my son couldn't play outside today," "my cousin had to go to the hospital today for his asthma", or "please do something to clean our air."

Be sure to sign it with your name and address legible. He needs to hear from everyone, regardless of where they live – Barton is chair of the US House Energy Committee and his decisions affect everyone.

Arlington Conservation Council has packets of red postcards, pre-labeled with his address, and stamped with 24 cent stamps available for purchase. There are 15 to a packet. We will mail them to you at \$5.50 per packet.

Contact Donna Piercy, 817-429-4466 or [depiercy@hotmail.com](mailto:depiercy@hotmail.com). Mail checks to (and payable to): ACC, P.O. Box 216, Arlington, TX 76004-0216

Automatic notification of ozone forecasts and alerts are available through TCEQ's website: [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us) – click on "air" under subect index in the top right corner, scroll to "ozone."

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

## General Meeting Wednesday, July 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.

### Aug. 1 & Sept. 5, Tuesday

Outings Meeting immediately following the ExCom meeting. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

### Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee meets on an as-needed basis. Contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540, Earl Burnam, 244-2328, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.