

Explore,  
Enjoy,  
and  
Protect the  
Planet

# Happy New Year! Sierra Sentinel

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

## Pledge to kick oil habit Bushwhacked

*Statement of Carl Pope,  
Executive Director of the Sierra Club*

In last month's State of the Union address, President Bush admitted that the United States is suffering from an oil addiction. Less than one week later, he was already having a relapse. At that time, the President released his 2007 federal budget request to Congress- and once again, it includes revenues from drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Americans are ready for a new energy future, and greeted his state of the union vision with enthusiasm. Bush's request for one more destructive fix is a disappointment. The President is

### ***Buddy, can you spare a dime?***

Or maybe a bit more than that, since a dime won't even buy a cup of coffee anymore. And, instead of financing a trip to Starbucks, the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club needs your financial commitment to help us continue our efforts on behalf of the environment. Please respond to the appeal on Page 4.

squandering a historic opportunity to lead America out of its energy crisis.

Rather than decisively putting clean, cheap, smart energy solutions to work, the President's budget is little more than a repackaging of the same old wish-list for corporate lobbyists that fails to provide America with adequate

environmental protection, security, or job creation.

By investing in modern technology, America could cut its dependence on dirty fossil fuels while saving consumers money, preserving treasured places, and keeping Americans safer. An energy policy that puts our families ahead of corporate lobbyists would invest in smarter technology to lower energy bills and create jobs, invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and raise fuel economy standards to save more oil than the United States currently imports from the entire Persian Gulf or could ever take out of the Arctic Refuge.

President Bush's drill-it-all approach is a tired scheme that was defeated in last year's budget. In 2005, drilling advocates tried every trick in the book to advance the controversial proposal to drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They attached the measure to the House-passed energy bill, inserted it into the Federal budget, and Senator Stevens even made a last-ditch effort to add it to the must-pass Defense Appropriations bill.

Despite Congress's rejection of these back door tactics, the Bush Administration continues to push a failed energy policy. This year's blueprint includes four billion dollars in anticipated rev-

*Please see ARTIC, Page 4*

## GFWSC Conservation Notes

### **Cowtown community clean-up**

The City of Fort Worth will hold its annual Cowtown Community Clean-up on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club will be working in Trinity Park, University Drive at I 30. All volunteers are asked to meet at the Fort Worth Botanic Center parking area at 8:45. Trash bags and gloves will be furnished, and participants will be rewarded with a t-shirt. A Release of Liability for each worker will be required by the City, so please call the GFWSC at (817) 731-8382 no later than March 26th for details and registration.

### **Industrial Polluters**

Are you concerned that the State of Texas is considering permitting seven new coal-burning power plants before new rules can be put in place to limit emissions? Are you disgusted that our

Governor Rick Perry has issued an executive order that will expedite the permitting process for these plants? Are you alarmed by the fact that many of these plants will impact the already dirty DFW air? And finally, are you ashamed that TXU is planning to build its Twin Oaks plant near the central Texas town of Franklin, and that if the application is approved as written this plant will be the largest source of mercury contamination in the entire country?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, let Governor Perry and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality know that you are tired of business as usual and that you are taking a stand for clean air and the health of all Texans. Please contact the Citizen's Clean Air Network at [dfwairplan.org](http://dfwairplan.org) or call (817) 731-8382.

**Program  
Notes**

**Camping Lite:** The March program will be presented by Tim Martin, general manager of Backwoods in Fort Worth. He will talk about innovations in camping equipment, with an emphasis on "Camping Light." If you haven't attended a meeting in our new home, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, make it a point to be there for this interesting and informative presentation by Martin.

## 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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## 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)

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### Outings Contacts

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Canoeing Marilyn Turnage

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

Backpacking Open

### Administrative Contacts

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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.

## 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.*

### **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 18-19, 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. Make camping reser-

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# Club Outings

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tions with Caprock State Park early, as the trip is during Spring Break. The ride will depart from the Little Red Camping Area. Leader: Dan Smith, fwsieran@aol.com or (817) 410-2955.

### **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. 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 76123 by March 20. For further information, contact Todd Nichols at 817-937-5217. Email: todd.c.nichols@lmco.com or Jenny at avidhiker@killerfrogs.com.

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## National parks at risk

Despite months of objections from conservation organizations and even a group of six Republican Senators, the Department of Interior is proceeding with proposed revisions to the management policies that have successfully guided America's national parks for almost 90 years.

"We see no need for this total rewrite on National Park Service management policies," said Ron Tipton of the non-partisan National Parks Conservation Association. "The result would be more off-road vehicles, more jet skis, more noise and less protection for the natural and cultural resources in our magnificent parks."

The motivation for the proposed changes, according to Bluewater Network, a division of Friends of the Earth (FOE), can be traced to "a handful of political appointees at the Interior Department." The groups say the impetus comes from Paul Hoffman, a former aide to Dick Cheney and a longtime promoter of snowmobiles and jet skis in national parks.

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

# Mountain Sports

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

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club  
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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

### March 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 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](mailto:jmoody166@mac.com).

### March 31, 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.

### April 3, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's,

## General Meeting Wednesday, March 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.

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

### April 4, 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.

### April 4, 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

enues to be realized through the sale of oil leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Bush's budget also sets aside additional money to pave the way for more oil and gas development on our public lands and off our coasts.

The budget includes funds to facilitate and accelerate permitting for increased drilling on Bureau of Land Management lands, and pumps more money to study expanding oil and gas development in deepwater areas off the outer continental shelf.

Congress and the Administration must stop wasting energy on these dead-end drilling schemes and chart a course to a cleaner energy future.

### Visit our web site

You'll find the newsletter on-line a week or more before you receive it via mail delivery. We're at <http://www.sierra-club.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/>.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club