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Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
SEPTEMBER
2006

CAFE standards stuck in reverse

Oil addiction not much better for U.S. automakers than it is for consumers or the environment

By Dan Becker, Director, Sierra Club Global Warming Program

"Today's 'Fuel Economy Trends' report from the EPA shows both why America is addicted to oil and why the Big 3 are in such deep financial trouble. The best news the report could muster is that despite our vehicles being 'the fastest and heaviest since 1975,' the automakers somehow managed to keep them from the slipping below the paltry average of 21 miles per gallon – the same as last year.* Though their ingenuity may have allowed the automakers to remain in neutral on fuel economy compared to last year, they have nevertheless been steadily going in reverse on fuel economy for the past two decades. The automakers can claim

the dubious distinction of turning out a fleet this year that is less efficient than the one they sold in 1987-88.

"Indeed, perhaps the worst news in the report is that the Japanese automakers – the industry leaders on fuel economy – have seen significant decreases in the efficiency of their fleets over the past twenty years. Toyota has gone from approximately 26 miles per gallon in 1987 to around 24 miles per gallon today; Honda saw an even larger decrease – going from an average of around 28 miles per gallon in 1987 to 24 today.

Troubled Ford can be somewhat heartened that DaimlerChrysler has usurped its position as the manufacturer of the least fuel efficient fleet of the Big 6. The report documents that rather than devoting the last 25 years to using their significant resources and technological know-how to improving

fuel efficiency, the automakers have instead chosen to add 1,000 pounds of weight and double the horsepower of the average vehicle.

"This report makes it crystal clear that the automakers, if left to their own devices, will not use existing technologies to improve the fuel economy of the vehicles American families depend on each and every day. Raising fuel economy (CAFE) standards is the biggest single step we can take toward saving consumers money at the pump, curbing global warming, and reducing our dangerous dependence on oil. Using existing technology, our vehicles could average 40 miles per gallon within ten years – a move that would save us more oil than we currently import from the Persian Gulf or could ever get from the Arctic Refuge, combined. This report underscores that it is essential

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Conservation Notes

New Conservation email address

Effective immediately, fw.sierra.conservation@gmail.com is the new conservation email address for the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club group. Please use this email address to bring conservation information, issues, and concerns to our attention.

Get Involved

If you are interested in being involved in or just informed of the conservation efforts of the Fort Worth Sierra Club group, please send an email to the above address to be placed on our upcoming conservation email list.

Please note if you have any special area(s) of interest or potential availability and willingness to take part in our conservation efforts (attending public hearings, taking part in volunteer efforts, writing letters, etc.).

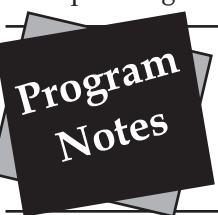
This email list will not flood your inbox with daily, or even weekly, emails. The intention is to send out occasional emails about issues and public hearings that may pop up and need to be brought to the attention of our conservation minded members quicker than can be done through the newsletter or monthly meetings. Additionally, a monthly email regarding current con-

servation issues may be sent out.

Trans-Texas Corridor

Gov. Perry has written a letter to TxDOT in support of the plan put forward by Metroplex leaders to change the proposed alignment of Trans-Texas Corridor-35. Originally it was supposed to bypass DFW proper by going to the east of Dallas. The alignment supported by Metroplex leaders would involve TTC-35 connecting with SH 360 and a new outside loop around Fort Worth and Dallas. If we end up getting stuck with TTC-35, the new alignment will at least work with

Please see CONSERVATION, Page 2



Learn About Biodiesel and Its Effect On You And The Environment: The September program of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will be presented by Alice Derbyshire with DFW Biodiesel. She will do a primer on what biodiesel is and why it's an important alternative fuel. Meeting location and other details inside.

Conservation Report of the GFW Group CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and perhaps even improve the existing DFW traffic system. The public comment period on the draft environmental impact statement for TTC-35 ended on Aug. 21 and the final EIS should be issued this fall.

Trinity Uptown

There has been a proposal to inte-

grate the Riverside Oxbow Ecosystem Restoration project and the major improvements planned for Gateway Park into the Trinity Uptown project (the proposed 800-acre flood control and economic development project located just north of downtown Fort Worth along the Trinity River). The Riverside Oxbow area comprises 600-acres mainly between Riverside Dr. and Beach St. east of downtown and is currently dry due to a bypass channel. The project would redirect the river back into the oxbow to help with flood control and restore riparian habitat.

There are a series of upcoming public hearings regarding the development standards and guidelines for Trinity Uptown:

-September 13 at 10 a.m. - City of Fort Worth Zoning Commission meeting at the City Council Chambers (this very important meeting will finalize the Zoning Commission recommendations for the development standards and guidelines)

-September 27 at 1:30 p.m. - Planning Commission meeting at the City Council Chambers (will vote whether to adopt the Zoning Commission's recommendation)

-October 3 at 7:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting at the City Council Chambers (will vote whether to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation)

Overall, the development standards

and guidelines encourage the type of sustainable development and buildings we need to see more of. They even specifically provide for exemptions from the standards and guidelines if the building in question is built to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, which is the gold standard for green and sustainable buildings.

Speaking of LEED certification, we would like to see the Trinity Uptown development become one of the first LEED-ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Neighborhood Development) certified projects. The requirements for this certification are currently being developed and will set the standard for sustainable and environmentally friendly neighborhood development.

CAFE report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for President Bush and Congress take meaningful action to significantly raise CAFE standards as soon as possible.

*The numbers in the report refer to the official CAFE numbers, which differ from the numbers reported on the EPA window stickers found on new vehicles.

The EPA report can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm>

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Museum: Regarding the Land: Robert Glenn Ketchum and the Legacy of Eliot Porter Experience the breathtaking beauty of landscape photography through the lenses of two of the art form's most important color artists: Eliot Porter (1901-90) and Robert Glenn Ketchum (b. 1947). Eliot Porter was a Sierra Club member, author of many Sierra Club books, and an advocate of many of our conservation campaigns including opposition to the flooding of Glen Canyon in 1964. Meet at 9:45 AM on the steps to the entrance of the Carter Museum which faces east toward downtown Fort Worth. Tour begins promptly at 10 a.m. Organizer: Charge for exhibit: \$6.00 per person. Organizer: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Please contact Claudia if you plan to attend by Monday, Nov. 13.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

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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.

More club outings

the National Park. James Moody will lead a variety of day hikes throughout the park, including the rarely visited Apache Canyon. Other possibilities, depending on the preferences of the group, could include Dog Canyon, Devil's Den, The Chimneys, Red Rock Canyon, Top of Burro Mesa Pouroff, Pine Canyon, and other beautiful areas within the park. For details on this trip contact him-817-295-1623 or (cell) 817-688-3656. 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.

November 19, Saturday

Join Sierrans for a docent led tour of a special exhibition at the Amon Carter

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.

October 1, 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

October 19 Thursday

Join Sierrans for a docent led tour of a special exhibition at the Amon Carter Museum: Regarding the Land: Robert Glenn Ketchum and the Legacy of Eliot Porter Experience the breathtaking beauty of landscape photography through the lenses of two of the art form's most important color artists: Eliot Porter (1901-1990) and Robert Glenn Ketchum (b. 1947). Eliot Porter was a Sierra Club member, author of many Sierra Club books, and an advocate of many of our conservation campaigns including opposition to the flooding of Glen Canyon, Ariz. in

Club Outings

1964. Meet at 6:20 p.m. at the gift shop inside the museum so we can be ready for our tour at 6:30 p.m.. Organizer: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Please contact Claudia if you plan to attend by Monday, Oct. 15.

November 1-3 Friday-Sunday

Canoe and camp at Caddo Lake's Goat Island Wildlife Management Area. On Friday if you arrive before dark, you can canoe over to the island where some of us will be camping. If you arrive after dark, car camping is available at Caddo Lake State Park, with advance reservations. The drive from Fort Worth to the State Park is 3-4 hours. Goat Island is about one mile from the put-in at Pine Needle Lodge (see their web page).† There is a parking fee and canoe launch fee at Pine Needle, which also has a limited number of canoes for rent. Camping on the island provides seclusion and a beautiful setting on Texas' only natural lake. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night, and everyone should plan to bring a dish to share. We will have a group breakfast on Sunday morning. This trip is suitable for families, and

the canoeing is considered easy. Trip will end Sunday mid-morning and you can either get together for a catfish lunch or go to Jefferson to explore the town. Leader approval required. Make reservations with leaders: Tolbert Greenwood at 817-737-8698 or email tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com or Marilyn Turnage at 214-533-2481 or email marilynturnage@msn.com. Call Texas Parks and Wildlife for camp site reservations at the State Park: telephone 512-389-8900. You will have to purchase a \$12 Wildlife Management permit to camp on the island, or access any of Texas WMA. Call Pine Needle Lodge to reserve a canoe at 903-665-2911. If Pine Needle canoes are booked up call Cindy at Old Port Caddo Rentals 903-679-3073 or 903-930-0075.

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 hiking trails in the Big Bend Ranch State Park and various trails in the western part of

Please see MORE, Page 2

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

Mountain Sports

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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>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

September 20, 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, Burlison, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

September 29, 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

September 27, Wednesday

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

October 3, 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.

Voluntary Simplicity Course begins Sept. 25

Join this book discussion group beginning on Sept. 25. Purpose of the course is to:

1. Acknowledge the connection between our lifestyle choices and the condition of the earth.
2. Explore the material and psychological distractions that prevent us from caring for the earth.

3. Understand the meaning of voluntary simplicity.

Accumulating material possessions is part of the American Dream. Our country's current guiding economic principles push growth, consumption, and technological advance as desirable, regardless of the consequences to individuals, families, and our planet. For some, then, the dream has become a nightmare. Learning the alternatives to our mainstream culture is the focus of this discussion group.

The group meets on Monday nights at Thai Jasmine, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121 in Bedford for eight weeks. Read a chapter each week and discuss it from 7-8:30 pm. Come early for dinner.

Book cost is \$18 and group is limited to 10 participants. Please RSVP (first come, first serve) to Terry Jensen at ss@dfwnetmall.com or metro 972 988-8687, ext 3101.

<h3>General Meeting</h3> <h4>Wednesday, September 20</h4> <p>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.</p>
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October 3, 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 Dwayne Quertermous 214-558-1407, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Visit our web site

The newsletter is on-line prior to its mail delivery and there's an updated outings listing and other features at <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/>.

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