

Explore,
Enjoy,
and
Protect the
Planet

Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
FEBRUARY
2007

Pulling a fast one on your lungs-

Join concerned citizens in protesting fast-track coal permits

Bus will travel to Austin for lobby training session and a 3 p.m. rally at the State Capital on Feb. 11

By Executive Order, Governor Rick Perry has fast-tracked the permitting process for 18 coal-fired power plants. This unprecedented rush to approve old-style coal plants without adequate review places every citizen of Texas in danger, especially residents of North Texas who are already struggling to find ways to meet the mandates of the Federal Clean Air Act.

The 80th Texas State Legislature has the power to stop this hurried process, allowing thoughtful consideration of cleaner, safer, and less expensive energy solutions.

A broad coalition of Texas doctors, business leaders, city officials and environmentalists will take action this month to convince our legislators that the health and safety of their constituents should be their top priority.

Join us in asking the Texas State Legislators to intervene in the unfair permitting process of 19 dirty coal-fired power plants proposed for Texas. Lawmakers should stop the "fast-track" process so Texans can have a real voice in the crucial decisions about how we will power our state for generations to come. Your participation is vital!

A rally will be held on the south steps of the State Capitol in Austin on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. For those able to stay overnight there will be a lobby training session Sunday night, followed by a Citizen Lobby Day and Legislative

Forum Monday morning.

Learn more about the issue and register online for events at: www.stopthecoalrush.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

-Capitol Rally, Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m.

Join individuals and organizations representing thousands of Texans at a Capitol Rally asking the Legislature to request a time out on the rush to permit new coal plants in Texas. Rally on the South Steps of the Capitol 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.

-Lobby Day Training, Sunday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.

Leaders will train citizens for effective communication with their legislators.

-Interfaith Breakfast Monday morning

Stewardship, Justice and Respect for Life: Faith Perspectives on the Fast-Track Debate Sponsored by Texas IMPACT, Monday morning, Location TBA. The fast-track process raises a host of issues for people of faith - from concern for the creation and justice for God's children to questions about the proper use of authority. This special breakfast session will give you a scrip-

tural and theological framework for the energy debate that will strengthen your conversations with lawmakers and members of your faith community.

-Lobby Day at the Capitol Monday, Feb. 12

Join us to educate legislators and their staffs about the coal plant fast tracking and the alternatives for our energy future in Texas.

-Legislative Forum, Monday Afternoon

Presentations by experts to educate legislators and their staffs about the topic.

Join other North Texans and go down by bus! Some of us are going down and back Sunday, others are staying overnight for Lobby Day. Either way, your presence is needed to make a forceful statement to Gov. Perry and the Texas Legislature.

Register ASAP to help us make sure we have enough bus seats! Register online at: www.stopthecoalrush.com.

Further information on transportation, housing, and registration can be found at www.stopthecoalrush.com or contact Glenn Ford, (817) 675-3467, gfordfortworth@hotmail.com.

Sierra Club eager to work with new House Select Committee on Energy Independence

*By David Willett, Sierra Club
National Press Secretary*

"Sierra Club looks forward to working with the new House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to help educate the American people about the problems

posed by global warming and the cost effective technology solutions to curb the heat-trapping gases that cause it."

"Because 2006 was the warmest year on record in the US, millions of Americans want to learn more about

Please see ENERGY, Page 2

**Program
Notes**

February Program: The February program will be presented by staff members of the Trinity River Vision Authority, updating us on plans for the Trinity Uptown project. Trinity Uptown is the largest public works project in the history of Fort Worth, and, if completed, will transform the Trinity River north of downtown Fort Worth into a lake, with economic redevelopment along its shores as the major goal. See meeting time and location inside.

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

Executive Committee

Chair Bryon Haney 254-582-8228
fw.sierra.chair@gmail.com

Vice-chair Terry Jensen 817-545-0140
fw.sierra.vice.chair@gmail.com

Treasurer Todd Nichols 937-5217
fw.sierra.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Glenn Ford 817-731-8382
fw.sierra.secretary@gmail.com

Bonnie Bowman 817-266-8569
fw.sierra.discussion@gmail.com

Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407
fw.sierra.conservation@gmail.com

Mark Peters 817-937-1407
fw.sierra.program@gmail.com

Conservation Contacts

Chair Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407
Glenn Ford 817-731-8382

fw.sierra.air@gmail.com
Bob Scott 282-1372

fw.sierra.water@gmail.com

Outings Contacts

Acting Chair Claudia Blalock 924-6242 fw.sierra.outings@gmail.com

Canoeing Marilyn Turnage
fw.sierra.canoe@gmail.com

Bicycling Dan Smith 410-2955
fw.sierra.bicycle@gmail.com

Administrative Contacts

Membership Dan Smith 817-410-2955
fw.sierra.membership@gmail.com

Programs Mark Peters See information above
Lone Star Chapter Delegate Tolbert Greenwood

Newsletter Contacts

Editor James Moody 817-295-1623
fw.sierra.newsletter.editor@gmail.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.

Socks still on after Bush address

Statement of Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

Our socks are still on. Despite the warning from the President's economic advisor that the State of the Union would "knock your socks off in terms of our commitment to energy independence," so far we have heard no new evidence that this administration understands what it will really take to break our oil addiction or curb global warming. In fact, the President's proposals are more likely to make the problems worse.

The policies that follow these speeches continue to reflect the interests of the giant oil, coal and nuclear industries – not real-world solutions that would benefit the environment and the American consumer. Americans are still facing higher energy costs, more pollution and less national security while oil companies like Exxon-Mobil are posting record-high profits.

In regard to this year's specific proposals, the president is misleading the American people on what will solve oil dependence and global warming. The President is focusing on the wrong solutions when the right ones are easily done and are a better deal for America.

For example, the President assumes that fuel economy will increase but fails to order an increase when a 40 mile per gallon standard is the single biggest step we could take to curb global warming and end oil dependence. We would be less dubious of the president's intentions if he had promised to raise the standards instead of assuming that they will rise 4 percent a year.

The President also continues to call for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when it will do nothing to decrease our oil dependence. And the President does little to address the fact that we can't solve global warming without making and using electricity more efficiently.

The policies accompanying the President's address are a retreat of the same, tired package of drilling, weakened clean air protections and increased use of coal and nuclear power. And when it comes to better solutions, the President talks about a destination without providing a map to get us there.

If done correctly, alternative fuels such as cellulosic ethanol may be part

of the solution to oil addiction and global warming. But despite the President's proposal at last year's State of the Union Address, we have seen little progress in the right direction.

And there is little reason to believe this year's proposals will result in any more progress than last years'. Alternative fuels must be part of a package which focuses primarily on a real increase in fuel economy for cars and trucks, a real commitment to renewable energy like wind and solar and increased efficiency.

Such a mix of solutions provides the best deal for Americans by creating jobs, boosting the economy, fighting global warming and protecting the world our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Because 2006 was the United States' warmest year, and global warming received unprecedented attention, Americans want to learn more about what they can do, what business can do, and what the government can do. For too long President Bush and former Congressional leadership fed Americans misrepresentations manufactured by polluters.

In contrast, the new House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming which Speaker Nancy Pelosi has created, and the Senate Committee on the Environment chaired by Senator Barbara Boxer, bring the government of the United States into this dialogue for the first time in six years in a positive, constructive and visionary way.

-Energy committee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the problem and what they can do about it.

For too long the Bush Administration and former Congressional leadership fed Americans misrepresentations manufactured by industrial polluters. In contrast, Chairman Ed Markey (D-MA) has championed visionary solutions that cut global warming pollution and our oil addiction while creating good jobs for America's workers.

Sierra Club applauds Speaker Pelosi and the new Congressional leadership for having the insight to want to inform Americans, the vision to lay out what tackling global warming will take and the guts to see it through."

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

House vote repeals giveaways to Big Oil

The Sierra Club praised members of Congress on both sides of the aisle for taking America on the path toward a cleaner, more secure energy future. By a vote of 264 to 163, the House voted to repeal giveaways to Big Oil and instead invest money in the smart energy solutions that will benefit the American people.

“On Election Day 2006, Americans rejected the dirty politics wrought by Big Oil’s deep pockets and the dirty outdated technologies,” said Melinda Pierce, Sierra Club director of National Campaigns.

“By supporting this part of the 100 Hours Agenda, the new Congress upholds the pledge made during the election to end corruption, bring about change and bring America closer to a cleaner, safer energy future,” she added.

While American families have had to cope with skyrocketing energy costs, ExxonMobil and other oil companies raked in record profits – due in no small measure to the generous giveaways engineered by President Bush and his allies in Congress. These

included provisions that allowed oil companies to deduct oil and gas exploration costs, deductions that make oil and gas activities eligible for manufacturing tax breaks, and a loophole that allowed oil and gas companies to escape paying some royalties in deep water Gulf of Mexico.

“The new Congress took an important first step by repealing the billions of dollars in unnecessary subsidies given to outdated energy industries and redirecting the money to programs that benefit American jobs and families, help end our dangerous oil dependence, and put us on the path toward real energy security,” said Dave Hamilton, director of Sierra Club’s Global Warming and Energy Program.

Congress should now enact and extend several incentives that directly benefit American families and businesses while reducing our global warming emissions, and help break our addiction to oil. Increasing incentives for hybrid cars, efficient appliances and green buildings will reduce energy consumption-eliminating the need for new, costly and potentially

dirty power plants-reduce emissions, and save businesses money on their energy bills.

Many similar incentives exist or could be created to encourage investments in renewable energy. Businesses and consumers understand that these

Please see GIVEAWAYS, Page 4

Club Outings

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 14, Wednesday

Singles Valentine’s Dinner Celebrate a Green Valentine’s evening at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. Come at 6:30 to mingle over wine. We order at 7 p.m. Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

**Mountain
Sports**



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

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

Return Service requested

Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Phone (optional) _____

Individual (\$39) Joint (\$49) Senior/Student (\$25)

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

F94QT19002 F94Q W99901	-1 Entity Code
----------------------------------	-------------------

Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St.
2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441

Coming Events

February 21, Wednesday

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 fw.sierra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com or call James Moody, 817-688-3656.

February 23, Friday

Afternoon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at The Tin Cup, 1025 W. Abram, Arlington, Arlington. Contact Bonnie Bowman, bfbg@tx.rr.com.

February 28, Wednesday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's, 6770 Bridge St. at 6:30 p.m. Call Glenn Ford, 817-731-8382.

March 6, Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6 p.m., at Spiral Diner, 1314 W.

General Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

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.

Magnolia. For more information, con-

-Giveaways *Continued from Page 3*

investments are economically advantageous and environmentally beneficial in the long-term; however, higher initial costs often act as a barrier. By using incentives to lower the initial costs, Congress can help develop markets and a regulatory environment that dramatically increase investments in efficiency, renewables, and other technologies that directly benefit American families and consumers while protecting our environment and climate.

As part of the Change America Now coalition, Sierra Club activists have been working to support the 100 Hours Agenda in districts across the country.

tact Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

March 6, 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 Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Wine Tasting Fun-Raiser

Want to know more about reds, whites, champagnes?

Then come to Tony's Wine Warehouse in Dallas (2904 Oak Lawn) on Saturday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m for a private wine tasting class with other Sierrans and friends.

We will sample 12-15 wines, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and learn from the wine experts.

This event is always a blast so come join us! The fee for the wine tasting is \$20 per person. For further information, contact Todd Nichols (817) 937-5217 or todd.c.nichols@lmco.com or Jenny Lehman (817) 926-7686 or avidhiker@killerfrogs.com.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club