

Flags fly on Perry's fast-track plan

Perry goes out of bounds on end sweep of regulatory process

District judge rules that governor overstepped his authority in his attempt to rush coal plant permits

Hundreds of concerned citizens, including many from the Fort Worth and Dallas Groups of the Sierra Club, gathered in Austin in February to protest "fast-tracking" the permit process for proposed coal-fired power plants in Texas and to lobby legislators to support a moratorium on the applications.

Protestors included people from all walks of life and from all over the state, including far West Texas as well as areas closer to the proposed coal-fired plants.

Governor Rick Perry had issued an Executive Order to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to reduce the normal 18 month review process to only 6 months, which meant that the permits could have been approved as soon as May of this year.

The governor was dealt a set back in district court as well as in the court of public opinion in mid-February, however. On Feb. 20, 345th District Judge Stephen Yelenosky ruled that Perry had overstepped his authority by attempting to speed up the permitting process by limiting public input.

Opponents had noted that the office of governor was made intentionally weak in Texas.

Perhaps inspired by the success of a fellow Texan to increase the power of the executive branch of government in Washington, Perry has made two bold executive orders recently (mandatory schoolgirl vaccinations for cervical cancer was the other) – both of which came under fire both from the public and other branches of government.

In the case of the coal plants, representatives for Perry called the ruling

the efforts of a "liberal judge" trying to block increased energy capacity in the state.

Industry spokesmen expressed disappointment as well. TXU, based in Dallas, plans to build six such plants in the state, claiming current technology is an improvement over existing coal-fired plants and that air standards would not be adversely affected while energy capacity would be expanded.

Leaders of environmental organizations, governmental coalitions, and business groups, however, contended that the shortened review time frame would not allow proper expert witness preparation and legal analysis of the 18 permits.

They were also concerned that inadequate time would be allotted to study each individual case, noting that seven plants were scheduled to be reviewed in a single 10-day period.

Opposition to Perry's fast track permitting policy also spread all the way from city hall to the state legislature.

Dallas Mayor Laura Miller is per-

haps the most prominent of a group of mayors opposing Perry's plan. Many of the areas in which the mayor is against the fast tracking of the coal plants are cities in EPA non-attainment or near non-attainment counties.

At the state capital, Representative Charles (Doc) Anderson, R-Waco, introduced House Concurrent Resolution #43 calling for a 6 month moratorium requiring the TCEQ to delay moving forward on the permits.

The delay would allow the legislature to consider pending bills providing alternatives to additional coal plants, including increased efficiency measures and expansion of renewable resources such as wind and solar power.

The moratorium would also force state regulators to consider new federal requirements expected this summer concerning emissions contributing to global warming.

Fast-track opponents were concerned that the new coal plants would be "grandfathered" to avoid compliance with new regulations.

Beginning with this issue, The Sentinel will switch from a monthly to a semi-monthly

Citing environmental as well as financial considerations, the Executive Committee of the Fort Worth Group has voted to change the frequency of publication of The Sentinel to once every two months.

Newsletter costs (printing and mailing) are the biggest expenditure made and as postal costs have continued to increase, ExCom members have often discussed ways to curtail those expenses.

Typically, the newsletter will be expanded to six pages from its usual four pages. Net result of the ExCom's action will be to save the equivalent of

three issues a year worth of paper. Most significant cost savings, however, will be the the half dozen mailings a year that will be eliminated.

While the Group's web page will now be utilized more than ever for disseminating information to members, the ExCom was unwilling to eliminate the newsletter as a primary means of communication.

Group leaders do urge all members to make frequent use of the information found on the web site however: <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth/in->

Please see WEBSITE, Page 2

The *Sierra Sentinel* is published monthly by the

Greater Fort Worth 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.

Global warming may be caused by humans, but wildlife are among the first to suffer

Statement of Bart Semcer, Washington, DC Representative, Fish and Wildlife Policy On the Environment and Public Works Hearing on "Global Warming and Wildlife"

Global warming is the most significant threat to America's fish and wildlife since the unrestrained market hunting and rampant destruction of habitat a century ago. The threats to the natural world faced by earlier generations gave rise to leaders in the halls of government, people like Theodore Roosevelt, who had the will to take bold and thoughtful action to secure our wild places and the benefits they provide the people of this nation. Addressing the challenge of global warming requires that our leaders follow in the footsteps of Roosevelt and take the same kind of determined action to protect our wild heritage. Today's hearing is a step in that direction.

We can secure the conservation achievements of the past and the outdoor traditions they support. We can ensure that wildlife is still found in the precious, wild reaches of our nation. We can prevent hundreds of thousands of acres of existing national wildlife refuges from being lost to rising seas and we can maintain America's over \$100 billion sport hunting and fishing economy we must confront the threat of global warming by working our way towards a new energy future.

The certain and drastic impacts of global warming make it even more imperative that we take immediate action to protect important fish and wildlife habitat from other degradation. For example, since it is estimated that global warming has the capacity to eliminate as much as 90% of the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region we must create incentives and implement protections that keep these vital wetlands from further destruction by development. These remaining wetlands have become even more precious and the area known as "America's Duck Factory" will cease to produce the abundance of wildlife we enjoy unless we better address all of the impacts.

Likewise, with the expected changes in precipitation patterns in inland regions and the predicted rise in sea level along coastal areas all bird, land and aquatic species will be affected. Drought, flooding, changing river pat-

terns and decreased snow pack will affect all wildlife in North America. Public land managers must incorporate the effects of global warming into their planning.

A new energy future that ends our dependence on the dirty oil and coal technologies of yesterday can be built around the recommendations of leading scientists who last week issued a report showing that we can use the smart energy solutions we have today - solar, wind and efficiency technologies - to achieve a large share of the 60% - 80% reduction in U.S. global warming emissions that we need to realize by mid-century if we are to stave off the worst effects of global warming. Building this future means securing jobs: keeping jobs to boost the outdoor industry and creating jobs for those who will manufacture America's new energy infrastructure and put it in place.

The technology is here. The workers are ready. The polar bear, the musk ox, the walrus, and the caribou are counting on us. What we need now is leadership in Washington and a willingness to follow in the footsteps of Roosevelt and take decisive action to protect the wild legacy we leave our children.

-Website improved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dex.html. You'll find a new look and easier access to the information you want and need.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

At 17,500 acres, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport is not only the greatest economic engine in North Texas, but also has a greater effect on our local environment than possibly any other entity, public or private. At our March general meeting Dan Bergman, VP of Environmental Affairs for DFW, will show how the airport meets and exceeds its many environmental challenges.

Our April program will be a celebration of Earth Day, with a panel of experts discussing many current local, state, and national issues. This will be a great way for our long-time members to be brought up to date, and we especially encourage newcomers to attend for a primer on environmental activism.

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.

March 4, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687-3101(W).

March 14, Wednesday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Singles. Mingle in the bar at 6:30; order dinner at 7 p.m. with singles at i Fratelli Italian-Restaurant, 7701 N MacArthur, Irving/Valley Ranch, on west side of MacArthur just south of LBJ. From LBJ, exit MacArthur. Turn right from Fort Worth, left from Dallas. Restaurant will be on your right. No reservation necessary. Organizer: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687-3101(W).

March 24, Sunday

Dayhike in Woods of River Legacy Park. Hike wooded trails along the Trinity at River Legacy Park, Arlington, for about 1.5 hours. Observe the river bottom forest, wildlife, and ponds. Meet by the kids playground at 10 a.m. Please no dogs. Dirt trails not suitable for strollers. Hike cancelled if raining in Arlington. No reservations needed, just show up for hike. Optional restaurant lunch/brunch afterwards. Directions: From I-30 in Arlington, exit Cooper and drive north to Green Oaks Blvd. and turn left. Stone gates to River Legacy Park will be on your right. From Euless, exit from Airport Fwy (Hwy 183) on Industrial (Hwy 157) and drive south to Arlington. Turn right on Green Oaks, pass Cooper, then turn right into park at stone gates. Once you are into park, take your first left to find children's play area and parking. Leaders: Don Callaway don.callaway@tx.rr.com or 817-312-4657(H) and Terry Jensenss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W).

March 27, Tuesday

Green Drinks for Environmentalists. From 6:30 on, network and enjoy green conversation with other environmentalists at Don Pablo's, 817-421-2981, 1709 Crossroads Dr, Grapevine 76051. From Hwy 114 in Irving, exit Wm D. Tate and turn left on Tate, left

Club Outings

on Cross Roads. From Hwy 121 in Bedford, exit Wm D Tate (you veer to right off freeway) and turn right on Cross Roads. No reservation necessary. Organizer: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687-3101(W) Unless specified, contact ss@dfwnetmall.com or metro 972 988-8687, ext 3101.

March 31-April 1, Saturday-Sunday

Car camp at Copper Breaks State Park near Quanah, Texas (about 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. We will eat out on Saturday night in Quanah. Hike again Sunday morning before heading home Sunday afternoon. Must contact leader to preregister. Prepayment of campsite fee of approximately \$10 required per person to cover campground reservation. Leader: Claudia Blalock; 817-924-6242. Co-leader: Martha Ohlson; phone: 972-727-5778.

April 1, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687-3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

April 11, Wednesday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Singles dinner. Mingle at 6:30; order dinner at 7 p.m. with singles at Birraporetti's Italian Bistro, 817-265-0555, 668 Lincoln Sq (Collins/Hwy 157), Arlington. No reservation necessary but bring a light jacket. Weather permitting, we will sit outside. From I-30, exit Hwy 157 (Collins) and go south on Collins. Lincoln Square (a large strip center just south of I-30) will be on your right and Birraporetti's actually faces Road to Six Flags. Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687-3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

April 18, Wednesday

Fort Worth Sierra Singles dinner and meeting. Dinner from 5:30-6:30 at Spiral Diner, 817 332-8834, 1314 W. Magnolia Ave. at 6th, Fort Worth, followed by Sierra Club meeting at Botanic Garden, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, 7 p.m. Socializing after meeting. Leader:

Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W).

April 24, Tuesday

Green Drinks for Environmentalists. From 6:30 on, network and enjoy green conversation with other environmentalists at Rio Mambo, 817-354-3124, 5150 Hwy 121 Colleyville. From Hwy 121, exit Hall-Johnson Rd. From Dallas, stay on access road going south. From Fort Worth, turn left and stay on access road going south again. Restaurant is on your right. No reservation necessary. Organizer: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687-3101(W).

April 29, Sunday

Urban Dayhike on an area of Campion Trails at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the parking lot, 1698 Riverside Drive, Irving. From Highway 114, exit Riverside Dr. From Dallas, turn right; from Fort Worth, turn left. Park will be on your right. No reservation necessary. No dogs please. Optional lunch following hike. Leaders: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) and Don Callaway don.callaway@tx.rr.com or 817-312-4657(H).

May 6, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen ss@dfwnetmall.com or 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W).

May 9, Wednesday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Singles dinner. Mingle at 6:30; order dinner at 7 p.m. Hunan Dynasty, 972 444-9760, 8150 North MacArthur Blvd, Suite 190, Irving/Valley Ranch. Please bring a jacket as we will sit outside, weather permitting. The view of Dallas is awesome. No reservation necessary. Exit MacArthur from LBJ. From Dallas, turn right on MacArthur; from Fort Worth; turn left on MacArthur. Restaurant is one block north on your right on the NE corner of MacArthur and Ranchview. Organizer: Terry Jensen 972-988-8687 ext 3101(W) or ss@dfwnetmall.com.

May 10-13, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe a section of the Buffalo National River in central Arkansas on Friday and Saturday for a total distance of under 20 miles over two days on this national wild and scenic river where no motorized boats are allowed. A celebratory dinner at the Riverside

Please see MORE OUTINGS, Page 5

Coming Events

March 21, Wednesday

April 18, 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, Burseson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the general meeting, or email fw.sierra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com or call James Moody, 817-688-3656.

March 30, Friday; April 27, 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.

March 27 & April 24, Wednesdays

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

March 6 & April 3, Tuesdays

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

General Meetings

Wednesday, March 21

Wednesday, April 18

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. See program notes in story beginning on Page 1.

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.

March 6 & April 3, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6 p.m., at Spiral Diner, 1314 W. Magnolia. For more information, contact Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee meets on an as-needed basis. Contact: Chair Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Prairie Fest April 28

Join the Sierra Club and other exhibitors for the Second Annual Fort Worth Prairie Fest on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at 3400 View St, Fort Worth 76103.

Take a guided wildflower hike and be further entertained by music, art, and dance.

Hear speakers on Prairie & Park Preservation, Environmental Education & Stewardship Sustainable Living Services & Products Green Building and Ecovillages, Clean Energy, Wildlife Protection, and Organics.

It's a free family day from the Friends of Tandy Hill Nature Area.

Tandy Hills Nature Area is a 160 acre indigenous remnant of Fort Worth

Please see JUST, Page 6

Sustainable Consumption Sierra Style

Spring into organic for yourself and Planet Earth

By **TERRY JENSEN**

A new age is dawning in Texas, America, and around the world. It is an age of environmental awareness, the knowledge that we must act now – not tomorrow, not next week, not spring of 2008 – to protect our environment.

One of the most effect contributions homeowners can make to our planet is their choice to garden organically. It only takes a few minutes at this pesticide information website, www.pesticideinfo.org/, to realize the damage we do to our water, our air, and our family, particularly our children, when we garden with chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

How do you switch to organic?

1. Start your change to by browsing our local DFW Dirt Doctor's website at www.dirtdoctor.com

2. Attend a meeting of an organic gardening club. Tarrant County has

two clubs where seasoned gardeners can put you on the fast track to organic success.

The Arlington Organic Garden Club meets at 7 p.m., Bob Duncan Community Center Garden Room, 2800 S. Center St, Arlington, each fourth Thursday.

The Fort Worth Organic Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. at 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth, each fourth Tuesday.

3. Now you are ready to check out our local organic garden centers. These centers are not only a spot to buy sustainable products, they are also another good place to get your organic questions answered.

Many have gardening classes and most of the classes are free. Tarrant County centers that can help you make the switch to organic are:

–Arlington: Redenta's Garden, 5111

West Arkansas Lane, 817 451-2149.

–Colleyville: Tinker Grove Gardens, 6230 Colleyville Boulevard, 817-488-3525.

–Fort Worth: Designs in Nature 5501 East 1-20, 817-561-9248

–Fort Worth: Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden. 2825 8th Av, 817-922-0930.

–Fort Worth: Marshall Grain Company, 2224 E Lancaster, 817-536-5636.

–North Richland Hills: Green Mama's, 5324 Davis, 817 514-7336.

4. And if you still quest for organic knowledge, Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening edited by Anna Kruger, is an excellent book to purchase.

Check your next *Sierra Sentinel* for more information about organic gardening, sustainable consumption, and your choice for a greener tomorrow.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Evolving new 21st Century subsidies

By TERRY JENSEN

Terry Tamminen writes in the book *Lives Per Gallon: The True Cost of Our Oil Addiction* that we subsidize many industries at the cost of our health, our environment, our economy, and our national security.

An Earth Council study, *Subsidizing Unsustainable Development*, defines a subsidy as “any measure that keeps prices for consumers below the market level or for producers above the market level.” The study states “there is something unbelievable about the world spending hundreds of billions of dollars annually to subsidize its own destruction.”

And earthlings do just that—we spend an estimated \$700 billion annually to overpump our aquifers, burn and clear cut our forests, pollute our fresh waters with pesticides, chemicals, and animal excretions, overfish our oceans, and burn an ever-increasing quantity of fossil fuels each year to further strangle our planet.

Subsidies exist in all countries; yet some are more outrageous than others. A few of the most ridiculous world

subsidies include:

1. A coal subsidy Germany started to project the jobs of miners which grew to over \$85,000 per year per worker.

2. Automobile subsidies in the U.S. which total \$257 billion a year, or approximately \$2,000 per taxpayer. That’s close to \$200 a month we pay to drive before car payments or fuel and insurance costs raid our wallets.

3. Airline subsidies in the U.K. which result in air fares that are 42% less expensive today than they were ten years

ago.

4. Subsidizing the depletion of oil and gas resources in the United States which costs \$26 billion per year, even though we desperately need to conserve those resources for future generations.

Once in place, subsidies grow special interest lobbies that fight to retain them. From 1990 to 2004 oil and gas companies alone spent over \$18,000,000 in campaign contributions

Please see COMPANIES, Page 6

More Fort Worth Club spring outings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Inn is planned for Saturday night and a potluck for Friday evening. Camp each night at Tyler Bend Park located at the midpoint of the canoe trail. You must leave on Thursday by noon due to the 7-hour drive to the campsite. Shuttle service and canoe rental must be arranged in advance by contacting the outfitter at 870-439-2888 or 870-439-2386. The number of canoes

available is very limited. The website is www.gilbertstore.com. Shuttles for personal canoes may be provided by the contacting the canoe outfitter to arrange this. This trip is open to experienced canoeists and requires approval of trip leader. This is not a technical river, but there is a current and prior canoeing skills are needed. Leader: Marilyn Turnage, 214-533-2481 (marilynturnage@msn.com).

Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

Mountain
 **Sports**

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 **F94QT19002** -1
Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications **F94Q W99901** Entity Code
(\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

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

The Sustainable Mouth

Veggie dining at its best

Spiral Diner owner Amy McNutt and her husband James are quite serious about being kind to Mother Earth while serving food that attracts both vegetarians and omnivores.

Spiral Diner certainly fits the criteria for a sustainable eatery. It is locally owned and operated. It serves predominantly organic food. And be assured the only animals in Spiral are the pictures on the wall.

The atmosphere is casual and relaxed with diner decor. Plant-based fare ranges from salads to burgers to wraps to blue-plate specials. Exceptional cookies, cakes, and other fresh-baked sweets top off your meal.

My favorites include the sweet potato-hummus wrap and broccoli with tofu--actually it is the ranch dipping sauce I crave. Of course, I end it all with a big, chewy brownie.

Sustainable has certainly come to Cowtown in spades at Spiral Diner, 1314 W. Magnolia Ave. at 6th, Fort Worth, 76104. 817-332-8834.

-Just in time for wildflowers CONTINUED FROM PG. 4

prairie. Noted for its unusually complete collection of prairie flora, it contains a multitude of species on a piece of untouched prairie that demonstrates how the Great Plains once appeared. This area has been deemed a Conservation District by the City of Fort Worth, and is the second largest such conservation area in Texas. The show of wildflowers in the park is unsurpassed anywhere else in the Metroplex each Spring.

-Companies addicted to subsidies CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

to protect their special tax deductions in the United States.

Outdated subsidies can be shifted with time and effort, though, even when these shifts encounter many of the following obstacles:

- Addiction to entitlements.
- Fear of and uncertainty about results.
- Opposition from vested interests and stakeholders.
- Concern over international competition.
- Lack of resources for transition and support.
- Administrative, institutional, skill and/or knowledge barriers.
- Corrupt systems that allow manipulation such as the U.S. political sys-

tem.

It is past time to shift from the more ridiculous, out-dated, and/or destructive subsidies to earth-friendly and renewable sources of power. Subsidizing wind, solar, and geothermal energy will reduce carbon emissions while actually creating jobs and bolstering our economy: a true win-win situation for constricted taxpayers and for a wheezing planet.

Fossil fuel, air travel, and automobile subsidies belong to another age. It is time subsidies evolved to meet the global needs of the 21st century.

Sources: *Earth Policy Institute; Aviation's Economic Downside; Earth Council; Redefining Progress; Lives Per Gallon: The True Cost of Our Oil Addiction.*

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club