

New asbestos removal due a test

By Neil Carman, Ph.D.
*Clean air program director
Lone Star Chapter*

The EPA is seeking comments at a Fort Worth Public Meeting Nov. 15 on proposed use of an Alternative Transite Asbestos Removal Method by EPA Dallas Region 6 and EPA's ORD at a Fort Worth site in need of demolition.

The Alternative Asbestos Removal Method is still experimental and is an effort to develop a cheaper, faster, safer way to demolish old buildings with certain transite asbestos where there is no "friable" (crumbly into small flying fragments) type asbestos. Transite-asbestos is a tile material and does not crumble into small light fragments that would present an airborne hazard to people who might be exposed.

EPA 6 Dallas Regional Administrator Richard Greene (former mayor of Arlington) notes that there many old abandoned, asbestos-containing buildings in the DFW area and hundreds of buildings sit without being cleaned up because it's too expensive to remove the asbestos using the more costly NESHAPs method of room-by-room encapsulation, wetting and removal.

Greene is strongly advocating EPA 6 and EPA ORD staff to develop a safe alternative asbestos cleanup method. But this alternative method could only be used if there is no "friable" asbestos involved. The City of Fort Worth has about 150 old buildings waiting asbestos cleanup and demolition, but only about 50% are suitable for the Alternative Method. One public safety problem is that if old dilapidated buildings are allowed to deteriorate until they are unsafe, then the EPA's more costly NESHAPs method can be circumvented using an exception to the federal asbestos regulations. Currently, a building owner is not required to demolish an old building and can allow it to sit and deteriorate over time.

The east Fort Worth site undergoing demolition with the alternative method is the administration offices at the old Oak Hollow apartments, 5901 Boca Raton St.

The office building has transite asbestos in the ceiling made of 3-4% Chrysotile Asbestos, but this type of Asbestos is not "friable" and therefore more suitable for applying the experimental alternative method.

This method involves more spraying with water and a special wetting agent before and during the demolition. Wind conditions must be low.

1. EPA has conducted extensive asbestos sampling and analysis to confirm that only transite asbestos is present in the building.

2. The transite asbestos will be wetted down thoroughly the night before demolition begins.

3. The transite will be sprayed with water during demolition.

4. EPA will conduct extensive air monitoring around the Fort Worth site to confirm if any asbestos fibers have escaped into the air.

5. All demolished building materials will be placed in a dumpster lined with heavy plastic and encapsulated.

6. All sprayed water will be kept onsite and tested for transite asbestos fibers.

7. Soil samples will be collected and tested for asbestos fibers.

The alternative method has already been tested at Fort Chaffee, Ark. and results show lower airborne asbestos fibers than using the older method. Two nearly identical old Army barracks

Please see ALTERNATE, Page 2

Three seek spots on Fort Worth Executive Committee

A ballot for the Executive Committee election is on Page 5. Please mark it and mail it to arrive no later than Dec. 19 or bring it to the Christmas party. Candidates have submitted the following statements:

NANCY MCVEAN

I am the director of theatre at Weatherford College. For over 20 years I have been enjoying the interesting, informative, intelligent programs of our Sierra Club.

Some of the highlights of my life have been on local, national and international outings. But the best thing about the Sierra Club is the people who deeply care about our earth and its environment. Their resources, time

and commitment have protected that environment for our generation and future generations.

It is time for me to give back of my time and energy to an organization that has done so much for me. So I throw in my hat for consideration to be a working asset to our local Sierra club.

SCOTT CARPENTER

My family and I live in Fort Worth. I am the Manager for Digital Access at the UT Southwestern Medical Center Library in Dallas.

My wife, Cheri, is a Literacy Coach with FWISD. In our free time we enjoy the challenges of mountain hiking and snow skiing. Our favorite evening activity is walking along the Trinity

Trail. I have only been a Sierra Club member for the past two years. But, I have always tried to be a good steward of the Earth. The Sierra Club is many things to many people.

For me, as a Day Hike Outings Leader, it allows me to promote a connection back to nature. People today, especially children, do not spend enough time exploring their natural surroundings.

Environmental protection begins with appreciation.

LINDA BERANEK

I have spent 30 years at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad managing the Relocation Dept. After an early retirement, I started a consulting firm

Please see EXECUTIVE, Page 2

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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.

-Alternate plan promising CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were demolished to compare the two methods. The EPA has conducted an external scientific peer review of the alternative method. Additional peer review will be performed of the Fort Worth project site because EPA will be conducting extensive air monitoring before, during and after building demolition.

Over the last two months, I have talked and met with EPA staff about this method and it appears to be better than the current one.

Glenn Ford and I previously participated in EPA meetings on a different EPA alternative project at the old Cowtown Inn in Fort Worth. This new EPA method is better than that one.

-Executive Committee candidate statements CONTINUED FROM PG.1

and was lead consultant on the Exxon/Mobil merger. She re-established her consulting company, Milgros Consulting--"small miracles in real estate and relocation" in 07. She is very interested in micro-housing and her company works with green builders and real estate companies. She is involved with the US Green Building Council and is attempting to put together a project in northern Tarrant County involving micro-housing for natural gas employees working on the Barnett Shale. She recently assisted in a program at Heather's Home, a "green" home in Weatherford. Linda is now doing an evaluation of her own home to determine how to make it more environmentally friendly.

Fort Worth Group Conservation Report

Recently some confusion has been fostered about just who and what the Sierra Club supports regarding the Trinity Trees issue. Put succinctly, the Fort Worth Sierra Club supports the preservation of the Trinity Trees area, not the destruction of the area for gas drilling.

At the recent Labor Day picnic at the Trinity Trees site, Chesapeake Energy repeatedly stated that they "had the support of the Sierra Club." At best this assertion is naïve and disingenuous. The Club supports the use of natural gas over coal or petroleum – if we are going to use a fossil fuel it should be the one that pollutes the least.

However, just because the club supports the use of natural gas over coal and petroleum does not mean we support the indiscriminate drilling of gas wells, especially in parks and neighborhoods. This is a obvious distinction and one Chesapeake should not have tried to blur for its own benefit.

When the issue of gas drilling within the city limits of Fort Worth first came up, both the local Fort Worth group and the national organization put a lot of effort into the issue. We spoke out for strict regulations and lobbied against the drilling of wells on city park land, several of which were proposed at that time including one in the Fort Worth Nature Center.

After garnering some local and national media attention, we managed to get the buffer zone of wells from houses

increased, although not nearly enough, and a voluntary pledge that the wells for gas leases of city park land would not be drilled on park land. So from the start of gas drilling in Fort Worth, the Sierra Club has been against the drilling of a site like Trinity Trees.

Trinity Trees

The city granted a permit to Chesapeake Energy for a gas well pad site on the "Trinity Trees" site just west of University Drive near the Trinity River.

Chesapeake announced that it is reducing the site footprint from 2.3 acres to 1.4 acres and donating \$500,000 to the city tree farm. Although the campaign to prevent the drilling from happening did not succeed, it did help lessen the impact on the area. The campaign also increased awareness of the negative effects gas drilling has on our parks and accompanying quality of life.

Proposition 4

On Nov. 6, a statewide bond election known as Proposition 4 will earmark \$52.1 million for Texas State Parks. \$27.1 million would go to major repairs at various state parks and the rest to Battleship Texas repairs. For more information visit: <http://www.proposition4.org/>

Sierra Club Water Conference

Learn more about the various water issues in or region and the state at large: Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Richland College, Dallas

<http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/water/waterconf.asp>

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Upcoming Sierra Club Events

November 3, Saturday

Step It Up 2007. Information, tabling, speakers, and rallies. This festival is part of a national rally designed to help persuade our leaders to Step It Up against global warming for 2007. The event is sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Tarrant County Coalition for Environmental Awareness with several other environmental groups participating. Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034. 12 noon until 3 p.m. West side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads.

November 4, Sunday

Sierra Club 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. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen.

November 6, Tuesday

Sierra Club Excom Meeting, 6 p.m., Spiral Diner & Bakery, 1314 W. Magnolia Ave. at 6th, Fort Worth. All Sierra Club members and interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

November 7-11, 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 a.m. and arriving before sunset. We will return before midnight on Sun, Nov. 11. Detailed trip descriptions will be provided in future announcements. The cost remains at \$175 per person – a real bargain with the price of gas. Mail checks prior to Oct. 31, payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club, to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington 76018. For more information contact Todd at 817-937-5217.

November 10, Saturday

Day Hike at Lake Mineral Wells State Park Hike 2.5 miles (each way) on a natural surface trail leading to the primitive camping area. Enjoy sights and sounds of the Western Cross-Timbers. There are steep grades initially. Difficulty level is moderate. Please no dogs or strollers, but children welcome. Meet in the Cross-Timbers

This is an all-inclusive list of activities of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club. Check the group website for updates. Most activities are free and open to all. 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.

parking lot inside the park at 9 a.m. Look for gold Toyota Corolla. Hike cancelled if raining at the State Park. No reservations needed, just show up. State park entrance fee required. Bring water and snacks. Directions: Lake Mineral Wells State Park is located four miles east of Mineral Wells on US Highway 180 or 14 miles west of Weatherford on US Highway 180. Phone calls before 8 p.m. please. Leader: Scott Carpenter 817-253-0158(H) or adventureman1@hotmail.com

November 14, Wednesday

Sierra Club Dinner at Spiral Diner, Magnolia and 6th, Fort Worth. We arrive between 5 and 5:30, then leave around 6:30 for Sierra Club general meeting. Look for Sierra Club sign on table (probably handwritten)

November 14, Wednesday

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting at 7 p.m. See website for meeting details to be announced. Botanic Garden, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

November 18, Sunday

Sierra Club Sustainable Sun. Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Garden, 972-243-0507, 2330 Royal Lane, Ste. 900, Dallas. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen 972 -251-1532 and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H)

November 27, Wednesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 p.m. Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth.

December 2, Sunday

Sierra Club 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. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen.

December 4, Tuesday

Sierra Club Excom Meeting, 6 p.m. Spiral Diner & Bakery, 1314 W. Magnolia Ave. at 6th, Fort Worth. All Sierra Club members and interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

December 16, Sunday

Sierra Club Sustainable Sun. Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Garden, 972-243-0507, 2330 Royal Lane, Ste. 900, Dallas. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen 972 -251-1532 and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H).

December 19, Wednesday

Christmas Party at Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting at 7 p.m. Bring a snack or dessert to share as we enjoy this festive season with other Sierra Club members and friends. There is no scheduled speaker for this night, just a party. Botanic Garden, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

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Call 921-3670 for information on pricing, pick-up, and delivery.

It's a Christmas Party!!!

Don't miss this year's Christmas Party at the regularly scheduled meeting time and place.

Bring a favorite holiday disk but, most importantly, bring yourself. See you on Dec. 19.



Gore's commitment should challenge our leaders

Statement of Carl Pope,
Sierra Club Executive Director

"The Sierra Club congratulates Vice President Al Gore and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for winning this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Their victory underscores the need for more of our leaders to take a stand and meet the challenge of global warming head-on. The IPCC has shown there is global consensus on the causes and impacts of global warming – Vice President Gore has brought the issue home for millions of people.

"Vice President Gore is, quite simply, the indispensable player in the drama of mankind's encounter with the possibility of destroying the climactic balance within which our civilization emerged and developed.

Once, when I was particularly frustrated by challenges I faced in my job, Gore heard me out and replied, 'Never, ever give up.' That would seem to be his motto, as reflected in the thousands of speeches he has delivered, the Live Earth concert he built from scratch, the nay-saying he has endured, the movement he inspired.

"In the Nobel committee's words upon awarding the 2004 Peace prize to Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai: 'Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment.' The committee clearly sees the work of Gore and the IPCC in a similar light, as those who work staving off the conflicts by uniting strange bedfellows behind the common cause of protecting humanity's only home.

"Between his earliest political career in 1976 as a representative of Tennessee's Fourth District, and his two-term vice presidency beginning in 1993, Gore helped set the political and popular stages for prime-time environmentalism. He was one of the first politicians to grasp the seriousness of climate change and to call for a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. He held the first congressional hearings on the subject in the late 1970s.

"Since then, he has presented the science behind global warming and its predicted catastrophic effects more than 1,000 times. His message finally reached the broad public consciousness with the 2006 documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The film has won numerous awards, including two Academy Awards. His paperback book of the same name also reached number one on the New York Times Best Seller list.

"Last month the Vice President accepted the Sierra Club's top honor, the John Muir Award. Sierra Club President, Robert Cox said at the ceremony,

'Al Gore is the embodiment of the principles for which John Muir passionately devoted his life: to protect a place for its own sake, for our sake, and even in spite of us; a place we call Earth.'

"The Sierra Club has also long praised the work of the IPCC, whose work lays to rest the notion that the alarming and increasingly rapid increase in the earth's temperature is due to anything other than human activity.

Today we can already understand the effects of global warming all around us because of their efforts. Their reports point to the extremely troubling and dire consequences on the horizon if we don't act soon and begin to dramatically lower our carbon emissions.

"The vast majority of the American people understand that global warming is real, is serious, and needs to be addressed. Mayors, governors, and state legislatures are taking the lead and implementing policies that protect our environment, create jobs, and fight global warming and our dangerous dependence on oil. Even major corporations are calling for action. The market stands poised to provide the solutions. The time has come for our national leaders to listen to the IPCC and follow Al Gore's lead."

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Hail to the red, white, blue - and green?

by Terry Jensen

Thomas Friedman wrote for the *New York Times*, "Green is the new red, white and blue, pal."

Local consumption is a deep shade of "green," making it one of the most patriotic choices we can make. Food is a good example as it is also an important personal choice for the environment. Buying food from local farmers, local restaurants, and local food stores has two obvious advantages:

1. Less fossil fuel is used to transport food.
2. Food security increases when food is grown nearby.

Not so obvious, though, is that supporting local food vendors keeps the monies spent in North Texas, providing other environmental and economical advantages to our area.

Example: A North Texas resident buys fruits and vegetables from a supermarket or discount store. At the end of the day the money, minus a few salaries, heads straight to the corporate home office. After suppliers from around the world are paid, profit scatters to worldwide stockholders.

What if that resident buys fruits and vegetables from a farmers market?

The farmer uses that money to have his truck repaired by a local mechanic. The mechanic stops by a local restaurant for a sandwich. The restaurant owner buys bread from a local bakery and tomatoes from the local farmer. This money circulates within the local economy, supporting community endeavors at least twice before leaving for a larger financial system. In some cases, it remains in the community indefinitely.

Local truly is the new red, white, and blue.

November program by GM a week early

Can't wait for the November meeting? Well, you won't have to wait as long, but don't miss out on it altogether by coming a week late.

The November 21 meeting would have fallen the day before Thanksgiving had we followed the usual schedule of the third Thursday of the month.

To avoid that potential conflict, that meeting will be held a week earlier, on

Nov. 14. At that time, we will have as our speaker Bob Babik, General Motors Director of Vehicle Emissions, to discuss GM's green initiatives.

Topics are likely to include the progress of the Chevrolet Volt (up to 40 miles without gas), E85, hybrid models, upcoming clean diesel models, and other "green" initiatives. There will be a question and answer session as well.

BALLOT

2007 Executive Committee
(Vote for up to 4)

- Nancy McVean**
- Scott Carpenter**
- Linda Beranek**

Individual members, check one set of boxes only. For joint memberships, each member is entitled to vote for up to four candidates. Use both sets of boxes for joint memberships. Mail ballot for delivery by Dec. 19, or bring to the December meeting/Christmas party at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, Azalea Room, on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

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'Privatizing' genetic resources is another form of theft

By **Laurel Hopwood**
*Sierra Club Genetic Engineering
Committee Chair.*

The genetic diversity of our planet and the genetic resources which are the fruit of 100 centuries of human agriculture are a shared common treasure of mankind.

Transgenic agriculture – using modern genetic engineering techniques to splice genes from one species into another – involves many risks which are yet to be fully evaluated. But one danger in clear sight is the use of patent protections to shift equity from the global genetic commons into private hands.

This is theft in broad daylight.

The principle argument in favor of life patents is that they spur innovation. Yet genetic engineering in plants has so far consisted only in the splicing of genes from one species into another with no significant increases in yields or benefits to consumers.

What has happened is that this rewriting of the genetic code has sufficed to win patents. This is not technological progress but the veneer of technology

being used for theft. The patents allow seed companies to impose new conditions in contracts with farmers.

The actual “innovation” is a loss of farmers’ rights. In the United States and Canada, farmers are being sued for planting their own seeds (saving seeds) without paying a fee.

It’s the U.S. which has pushed life patents and genetic patents on the world. We believe that, just as the nations of the world have agreed that there should be no slavery and that a contract which calls for slavery would be unenforceable, that there should be no patents on the genetic machinery of life, and that all contracts based on such an idea should be null and void.

That would be to the advantage of every man, woman, and child on this planet – we are the heirs to this planet’s genetic diversity and shouldn’t let that heritage be claimed by corporate greed.

One way to put the brakes on GMO agriculture that will soon be available is the Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena Protocol) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Although the U.S. hasn’t ratified either the Convention or its Protocol, the Biosafety Protocol has obtained ratifications from over 50 nations and has entered into force. As part of international treaty law, it allows nations to invoke the Precautionary Principle in order to stop imports of GMOs.

We urge farmers in the U.S., and likewise the farmers and nations of the world, to defend their rights to save seeds. We urge them to work for the abolition of patents on the molecular machinery of life.

While changes in U.S. patent laws may be slow in coming, our position is that if farmers use their own seed or sell seed crops intended as food that they shouldn’t have to pay licensing fees twice.

**2008 Sierra Club Calendars
make great Christmas gifts**

**Pick up several at the
November meeting or the
Christmas Party!**

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club