

## New Year brings new ideas—

### *Ten goals set for Fort Worth Group to accomplish in 2008*

The executive committee and other club leaders of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club had a planning retreat on Feb. 2 to brainstorm ideas for 2008. The result was a number of creative ideas for an exceptional year. Ten goals stand out:

1. We need to reach out to members throughout our area, not just the Fort Worth area. We will continue the Mid-Suburban meetings while planning meetings for Arlington and one more potential area.

2. Our members need a choice of meeting times. We will start meeting during the day as well as at night.

3. We need to show our appre-

ciation for such wonderful members with three socials, each in different areas of our club's territory: a spring social in Fort Worth, summer in Arlington, and fall in Weatherford.

4. Seven new outings leaders have stepped forth to join our longtime leaders in guiding us in everything from dayhikes to service projects to car camping to wilderness trips.

5. We will reach out to members and non-members alike with education about global warming and sustainable living.

6. A sustainable planet begins at home with our Cool Cities Campaign that is suitable for every town

in our territory, no matter how large or how small.

7. We will partner with like-minded groups to increase our outreach.

8. We will help elect earth-friendly politicians to office which means setting up a political committee for this important election year.

9. We will ask every member to volunteer a few hours of time in 2008. The simplest earth-friendly action spirals out like dropping a pebble in a pond.

10. We will raise the funds needed to accomplish all of the above and more with your generous donations and volunteer spirit.

## *Environmental education opportunities abound*

From home energy to food to urban gas drilling, the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club leaders have planned two months of practical environmental education for members and their guests – meeting at three different locations to save your fuel.

Wednesday, March 19 – John Pippin, M.D., speaks on “Food and the Environment: The Real Inconvenient Truth” at the Sierra Club's Fort Worth meeting at 7 p.m. What we eat and the ways we raise our food not only affect the environment but they also contribute vast amounts of greenhouse gases that cause an “inconvenient” climate change. In short, some foods are sustainable; some foods can not be sustained.

Dr. Pippin is retired director of the Cardiovascular Medicine Department at Cooper Clinic in Dallas. His professional background includes leadership positions in medical research, education, and administration. This is a joint event with the

Fort Worth Vegetarian Society. Its catering team is supplying complimentary food for the meeting so come early to snack well at Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

Thursday, March 20 – This is the organizational gathering for Sierra Club daytime meetings in Arlington. Please attend and let us know what you want to happen in Arlington. Maybe a discussion group, speakers, videos, or all of the above. Meet at 2 p.m. at Tin Cup, 1025 W Abram St, Arlington.

Tuesday, March 25 – Gary Hogan speaks on “Gas Drilling: Making an Informed Decision” at the Sierra Club's Mid-Suburban meeting in Colleyville. The gas companies are coming to Northeast Tarrant County, Irving, and Grand Prairie. They are full of promises of instant riches and few-to-no-problems.

Tuesday, March 25 – Gas drilling

came to Gary Hogan's community in 2004. A gas well drilled there in 2005 catapulted his association into the realities of that world and caused them to demand changes to the Fort Worth ordinances for Urban Gas Drilling. Hogan, president of The Chapel Creek Neighborhood Association on the west side of Fort Worth, served on the Fort Worth Gas Drilling Task Force from October, 2005, through September, 2006, and will be reappointed to the task force when it reconvenes. He not only talks to us of the environmental issues associated with gas drilling, he also speaks about the life quality problems that are just beginning when you sign on the dotted line. In short, he has been there; done that. Bring your questions for him to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, between Glade and Hall-Johnson Roads from 7-8:15 p.m.

*Please see EDUCATIONAL, Page 2*

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## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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## -Educational opportunities *Continued from Page 1*

Wednesday, April 16 – Ken Hagerich and Josh Santillan will speak on “Enhancing Home Energy Solutions” at the Sierra Club’s Fort Worth meeting at 7 p.m. With the soon-to-arrive hot weather, you’re sure to learn a lot on how to reduce your environmental impact, and save money.

Energy solutions are not always simple or obvious but Hagerich has been working on these solutions since 1995. He started Go Green Energy Solutions in 2006 with the assistance of Santillan. They will be able to help answer questions about where you can make your biggest impact on utility savings for the least amount of cost. Botanic Garden, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

Thursday, April 17 – The agenda for this meeting will be determined by the organizational plan on March 20. If you could not attend the meeting in March, please come today and let us know what’s important to you in an Arlington Sierra Club group. 2

p.m. at Tin Cup, 1025 W Abram St, Arlington.

Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22 – Elizabeth Samudio of Elizabeth Anna’s Old World (Organic) Garden will speak to the Mid-Suburban Sierra Club on “Living More Earth Conscious at Home and Simple ways to Do This.”

Samudio communicates the importance of caring for the earth from the home garden to the food we eat, even starting an organic farmers’ market at her 8th Avenue center. As a cancer survivor she is committed to nontoxic environments and supporting the earth. As a teacher and author, she is a dedicated organic garden instructor. Learn ways to care for your home and lawn with nontoxic products, how to start a worm garden for compost, and how to start an organic garden, even in containers. Bring your questions for her to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, between Glade and Hall-Johnson Roads from 7-8:15 p.m.

## Conservation Report

### Regional State Park Update

When the Texas General Land Office sold the land owned by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department at Eagle Mountain Lake recently, TPWD promised to put the money towards purchasing a regional state park near Fort Worth. The reasoning given for the sale was that TPWD would prefer to establish a large regional state park of 2000-5000 acres within a couple hours drive of Fort Worth rather than develop a small state park with the 400 acres at Eagle Mountain.

At the time of the sale, they were looking at a ranch near Mineral Wells, but that ranch has since been bought by a private owner. They are currently looking at two other potential properties, but are too early in the process to discuss precise locations. TPWD has given the Fort Worth Sierra Club assurances that the money will be used to help purchase a regional state park even if it takes years

to find a suitable property. We will pass on any additional information to our members as it becomes available.

### Is Fort Worth greener than you think?

The magazine Popular Science recently listed America’s 50 Greenest Cities and Fort Worth came in at #15.

Other Texas cities on the list were #10 Austin, #34 Amarillo and Laredo at #39.

### Service Projects

Service projects are a Sierra Club tradition and something the Fort Worth group wants to emphasize this year. We are looking at projects ranging from picking up trash in local green spaces to helping build and maintain trails at parks. We will pass on information about any service projects we take part in. If you would like to take part in a service project send an email to [fw.sierra.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:fw.sierra.volunteer@gmail.com).

# Upcoming Sierra Club Events

## March 8, Saturday

Dayhike on the north shore of Grapevine Lake. Meet at 9 a.m. at Rutledge Park in Grapevine in the parking lot near the restrooms on the northern part of the park. This is at the end of Park Rd. Three. We'll hike about 5 miles on a dirt trail along the north shore of Grapevine Lake. Directions: From Hwy 121, exit at Bass Pro Road and go west. Turn left (southwest) on Hwy 26 toward Grapevine. Drive to Fairway Drive and turn right (north). Continue to drive across the dam and past the spillway. Turn on the first driveway after the spillway to Rutledge Park. At the park, veer right to Park Rd. Three, and drive to the north parking lot. No reservations required, just show up. No pets allowed. Take spare shoes for after the hike in case the trail is muddy. Take snacks and water. Hike is cancelled if it's raining in Grapevine. Leaders: Marcos Jorge, 214-682-6555 and Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 or 817-307-4808

## March 16, Sunday

Dayhike at Village Creek Historical Park, 2605 Dottie Lynn Expressway, Arlington. Hike two-miles on concrete trail with two rest breaks. Difficulty level is easy. Dogs welcome on 6-foot leash or shorter. Meet at 2 p.m. in the picnic area near the parking lot. Hike cancelled if raining at park. No reservations needed, just show up. Bring water and pick-up bags. Directions: From I-20, exit Green Oaks or Little Road and go north about 5 miles. Park will be shortly after the merge from Hwy 80. From I-30 take the Eastchase exit and go south 1.5 miles. Park entrance will be on the left. Leaders: Bonnie Bowman 817-265-0008(H) or bfbg@tx.rr.com and Claudia Blalock.

## March 16, Sunday

Sierra Club Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Garden, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizer: James Bisby 469-371-1938

## March 19, Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Join outings leaders and trip participants to discuss and plan upcoming trips and to enjoy a quick meal at Spiral Diner, Magnolia and 6th, Fort

*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 pre-registration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.*

Worth. Order your food early at 5:30 p.m., and meeting will finish by 6:30 p.m. in time to attend the Sierra Club general meeting at 7 p.m. at the Botanic Gardens. For more info, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

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John Pippin, M.D., speaks on "Food and the Environment: The Real Inconvenient Truth" at the Sierra Club's general meeting at 7 pm. What we eat and the ways we raise our food not only affect the environment but they also contribute vast amounts of greenhouse gases that cause an inconvenient climate change. In short, some foods are sustainable; some foods can not be sustained. Dr. Pippin is retired director of the Cardiovascular Medicine Department at Cooper Clinic in Dallas. His professional background includes leadership positions in medical research, education, and administration. Come early for complimentary food at Botanic Garden, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

## March 20, Thursday

Organizational meeting for Sierra Club meetings in Arlington. Attend and let us know if you want a discussion group, speakers, videos, or all of the above in this daytime group for the Sierra Club. 2 p.m. at Tin Cup 817 303-5518, 1025 W Abram St, Arlington 76013

## March 25, Tuesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 p.m. Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth. Have a few minutes to donate your time to the club to label newsletters? No skill required, just a willingness to help

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no-problems. Mr. Hogan not only talks to us of the environmental issues associated with gas drilling, he also speaks to us about the life quality problems that are just beginning when you sign on the dotted line. Gas drilling came to Gary Hogan's community in West Fort Worth in 2004. In short, he has been there; done that. Bring your questions for Hogan to the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 817 399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, between Glade and Hall-Johnson Roads from 7 pm to 8:15 pm on the 25th. Contact Terry Jensen at 817 545-0140.

## March 29, Saturday

Day hike at Clark Gardens near Mineral Wells. Join us for a leisurely stroll through the gardens to enjoy the spring bloom; gardens are located west of Weatherford on Hwy. 180, near Mineral Wells. Walking opportunities from short walks to five miles. Meet at the Gardens at 10 a.m. at entrance. Well-behaved dogs on a leash are welcome and this facility is handicap accessible. Bring your family and a friend. Contact Nancy McVean 817-596 5209 or mcvean@cowtown.net if you plan to come so Clark Gardens can plan for a large group. Clark Gardens website: www.clarkgardens.com, 940-682 4856 Directions to gardens: Take I-20 west from Fort Worth to the Mineral Wells exit (Hwy 180), just east of Weatherford. Head west on Hwy 180 for about 13 miles just before the entrance to Lake Mineral Wells State Park, just east of Mineral Wells. Turn right (north) at the bicycle overpass. Look for large sign on right side of Hwy for the gardens. Entrance fee: \$7 adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 12; children under 5 are free. Leaders: Nancy McVean and Marilyn Turnage.

## April 5, Saturday

Day Hike at Lake Brownwood State Park, which is about 2.5 hrs driving time from Fort Worth (125 miles apx). Hike 1.25 miles (each way) on an easy shore line trail. An additional 1.25 miles (each way) on shore line trail is available and may be hiked if time permits. Meet at the Beach Lodge parking lot at 10 a.m. inside state park. Bring water, lunch and snacks. No dogs without a leash or strollers allowed, but children are welcome. Hike cancelled if raining at the

*Please see MORE, Page 4*

# More Sierra Club outings, events *Continued from Page 3*

State Park. No reservations needed but an entrance fee (\$3) will be charged by the state park. Directions: Lake Brownwood State Park is located about 104 miles west of Fort Worth on I-20W, take hwy 183 about 33 miles south to Ranch Road 2273, then Ranch Road 2559 for 13 miles to State Hwy Park Road 15 for two miles. Please contact Don Young at 817-437-0175 or (email ydonl@hotmail.com) to confirm that you will be enjoying this beautiful old park with us. Coleader: Claudia Blalock

## **April 6, (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

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Ken Hagerich and Josh Santillan will speak on "Enhancing Home Energy Solutions" at the Sierra Club's general meeting at 7 p.m. With the soon-to-arrive hot weather, you're sure to learn a lot on how to reduce your environmental impact, and save money. Ken has been doing this since 1995 and started of Go Green Energy Solutions in 2006. They will be able to help answer questions about where you can make your biggest impact on utility savings for the least amount of cost. Botanic Garden, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

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## **April 19, Saturday**

Dayhike and service project, Arlington native prairie. We'll cruise this 10-acre native prairie remnant in southeast Arlington to admire spring wildflowers and talk about rare blackland prairies, restoration efforts and why this place is important. Then, if you wish, we'll trim trees and brush as part of on-going

volunteer efforts. Lunch afterward at nearby restaurant or fast-food location of the group's choosing. Please wear boots or sturdy-soled shoes; long sleeves and pants are recommended. You might also want to consider a hat, sunscreen or bug repellent. Water refills will be provided, but please bring your own refillable container. Note: This is a city park but has no improvements; the nearest restrooms, water fountains, etc. are south on Green Oaks Blvd or northwest at Collins & I-20. Contact jgmiller5594@sbcglobal.net to RSVP or for more information. Please RSVP, so I'll be sure to contact you in case of a last minute change due to weather, etc. Directions: Exit I-20 at Collins St. Take the access road east and turn right (going south) onto New York Avenue. The prairie will be on your left, about 1/2 mile; it's marked by a city of Arlington Parks sign. Continue past the park, take the next U-turn at Highbank Dr. and park along the south boundary on L-shaped "Old New York Ave". Sierra Club contact: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

## **April 20, Sunday**

Member picnic at Forest Park Pavilion #6 next to the Fort Worth Zoo, 1500 Colonial Pkwy, Fort Worth, 4-8 p.m. Families welcome. Celebrate the 37th anniversary of Earth Day and John Muir's birthday one day early. This is a great opportunity to socialize on this special environmental day. Due to a current burn ban, no grills or open fires will be allowed, but please bring one or more dishes to share along with plates and utensils for yourself so we can avoid using paper products. Drinks will be provided. Optional hike may occur if there is sufficient interest and daylight after meal. Please bring folding chairs if desired. Directions: Take I-30 west from downtown Fort Worth. Take Exit, 12A, University Dr (TCU and City Zoo) heading south on University. Go about 1.5 miles, crossing the Trinity River with Hoffbrau Steak House on your right. At next light (Colonial Pkwy), turn left heading east, passing the zoo parking. Park/shelter is on right (south) just opposite the entrance to the Forest Park miniature train parking and near the soccer fields. There is a covered shelter with swings at this park area. If raining at park, cookout will be resched-

uled. Organizer: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

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## **April 26-27, Saturday-Sunday**

Car camp and bicycle ride at Caprock Canyon State Park. Camping will be Friday and/or Sat night in the Little Red Campground of the state park. Bike ride begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and we will complete a 20-25 mile section of the Caprock Canyon Trailway, which is the gem of Texas' rail-trails. The ride will be from the west end of the trailway at South Plains, back to Quitaque and the state park. This is the most scenic section of trail, and includes several nice railway bridges and the Clarity Tunnel. Sunday morning we will take an optional 5 1/2 mile day hike up and along Haynes Ridge Overlook Trail of the park, which provides excellent views of the canyon territory. Caprock Canyon is at the "other" end of Palo Duro Canyon,

*Please see AND, Page 5*

# And still more outings for the spring

Continued from Page 4

and is one of the prettiest parks in the state. This ride is considered moderate to strenuous due to the length of the ride. Mountain bikes or fat tired hybrids are necessary due to the road bed. Leader approval is required for bicycle participation. Helmets are required; front suspension is recommended! Trail is flat, but is rough in a few spots. Bike ride limited to 10 riders. For questions or to reserve your place contact Dan Smith, email riverdogdan@charter.net. Phone: 817-361-8131

## April 25-27, Friday-Sunday

29th Annual Texas Wilderness POW WOW in the Big Thicket National Preserve, Village Creek State Park, Lumberton, Texas approximately five hours from Fort Worth near Beaumont. Beautiful location, great facilities, wonderful nature walks, and riverside campsites. Accommodations available for non-campers. Special events are planned and there is an exciting Saturday evening group dinner. Bring the kids since there is an adjacent playground. There will be a great bonfire with Bill

Oliver and others. There will be canoe trips on the Neches River and Village Creek. Reservations for camping and canoe outings are required. Details and registration forms are available at [www.bigthicket.org](http://www.bigthicket.org). Also, see [www.tcatexas.org](http://www.tcatexas.org) or call Big Thicket Association at 936-274-1181 for questions about reservations.

## April 26, Saturday

Third Annual Prairie Fest at Tandy Hills Park, Fort Worth, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is a celebration of this 160 acre piece of undeveloped prairie four miles from downtown Fort Worth. There will be live music including Brave Combo, arts and crafts, environmental speakers, green living exhibits, and wildflower tours. Directions: Tandy Park is at 3400 View Street, Fort Worth. Take I-30 and Oakland Blvd. Go South on Oakland Blvd one mile. Right on Meadowbrook 0.8 mi. Right on Tandy Ave one block to Tandy Hills Park.

## April 29, Tuesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 p.m.

Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth. Have a few minutes to donate your time to the club to label newsletters? No skill required, just a willingness to help.

## May 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

## May 15-18, Thursday-Sunday

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

Please see STILL, Page 6

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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

**Mission statement**

The purposes of the Sierra 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.

***Our annual appeal to members for donations***

**It's not March Madness, it's the March Window**

Although it is a little known fact, the local Sierra groups get less than \$1 from our renewing members to operate the grassroots groups. The national Sierra Club retains the remainder of the membership dues to operate the club at the national or state level.

This means that the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club officers, all of whom are volunteers, spend a great part of each year raising enough funds to operate.

We raise money for such things as renting a place for the general meeting, printing and mailing you six newsletters each year, or just the general expenses of a grassroots group.

We could do so much more of our important work with increased funds.

Each year, the month of March is set aside as an opportunity for local Sierra Club Groups to send direct mail fund appeals to their members. This is known as "The March Window."

The national office does not send out fund appeals and does not solicit

donations by telephone during March to avoid competition and to maximize income for the Chapters. It is know as the "March Window."

Take a moment or two to look over the insert included with this newsletter. It makes it easier than ever for our members to support our local group

and its activities.

Please mail a generous donation in support of the local group today to Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, Texas 76097. The planet and all the Sierra Club officers and volunteers thank you for your encouragement.

**Still more outings**

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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](http://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](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com)).

**October 11-13, Friday-Sunday**

The Sierra Celebration for the whole state of Texas, sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, will be at Caddo Lake State Park, near Marshall, Oct. 11-13. Save this date. Details to follow. Organizer: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-8698 or [tol@greentol.com](mailto:tol@greentol.com).