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Enjoy,  
and  
Protect the  
Planet

# Sierra Sentinel

The Greater  
Fort Worth  
Group of the  
Sierra Club  
May-June  
2008

## Strange bedfellows (or maybe not)

### *Environmentalists, sportsmen find some common ground*

It's all about protecting habitat. That's the common ground and common cause of conservationists and sportsmen.

As mining, drilling, development and global warming increasingly threaten quality hunting and fishing opportunities, more and more sportsmen are joining forces with other conservationists to protect wildlife and wild places.

Now the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization has launched a campaign to connect the 20 percent of its members (118,000 people) who hunt and fish with other sportsmen across the country who care about conservation.

"Sportsmen were some of the first conservationists, and have always been an important part of the Sierra Club. Our founder, John Muir, worked closely with Teddy Roosevelt to protect America's wild legacy,"

Sierra Sportsmen organizer Jon Schwedler said. "Now it's crucial that sportsmen and environmentalists work together more closely so we can help save the forests, plains, lakes, rivers and streams we all enjoy. Working together we can ensure that our nation's outdoor legacy lives on for future generations of sportsmen."

The Sierra Club's new Sierra Sportsmen organizing site, <http://www.sierrasportsmen.org/> will serve as a hub for hunters and anglers, allowing them to connect with each other beyond state lines, find out about conservation issues that affect them, help pass on outdoor traditions to the next generation, restore local streams, protect game habitat, and fight global warming.

The Sierra Sportsmen site includes interviews with prominent figures in the outdoor movement such as President Lowell Baier of the Boone & Crockett Club, as well as conservation updates, and opportunities for sportsmen to take action on issues that affect us all.

Members of the Sierra Sportsmen Network can stay abreast of the latest in outdoor news through Schwedler's "Greenneck" blog.

Schwedler is a life-long sportsman who has lived on the Chesapeake Bay, in the Big Sky of Montana, and now in New Mexico's Land of Enchantment.

Sportsmen visiting the site can also share their own stories and find updates on the Sierra Club's work in the field, including:

- Restoring streams in Idaho
- Keeping a coal plant from polluting fishing streams in Arkansas
- Removing fence in Montana elk range

-Protecting key habitat from oil drilling in places like Alaska's Teshekpuk Lake, the Wyoming Range, and Colorado's Roan Plateau

-Teaching fly fishing clinics in Portland, Oregon

"Hunters and anglers are some of the best stewards of America's public lands and wildlife," Schwedler said. "By working together, whether it's to keep streams healthy for trout or keep oil drills out of elk range, we can ensure that our children and grandchildren are able to enjoy the same outdoor traditions we do today."

In celebration of its official launch, the Sierra Sportsmen Network is holding a fishing and hunting photo contest. Winners will receive a \$500 gift certificate either from Patagonia or Bass Pro Shops.

The contest will be judged by Lowell Baier of the Boone & Club, Anthony Licata of Field & Stream Magazine, Ben Long of Backcountry

*Please see SPORTSMEN, Page 2*

## *Program notes for May, June*

Susan Haney, past chair of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, will show slides from her recent trip to Kruger National Park in South Africa on Wednesday, May 21, at the Fort Worth general meeting.

This is the real Africa with nearly two million hectares of space containing an incredible number of species: 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.

Jarid Manos, author of "Ghetto Plainsman" will speak to Fort Worth Sierra Club on Wednesday, June 18. He is founder and CEO of Great

Plains Restoration Council, based in Fort Worth, Denver, Col., and Wounded Knee, SD. A vegan athlete, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Black Vegetarian Society of Texas.

Manos writes, "We can still create a future swooning in health, vitality, equality and beauty that will last thousands of years. Practical implementation of visionary ideas begins today."

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at Botanic Garden, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

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## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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# To idle or not to idle — no longer an idle question as 3 myths debunked

As we enter the heat of late spring and summer, Texans would do well to remember that idling in an air-conditioned car gets exactly ZERO miles per gallon.

According to the California Energy Commission, "For every two minutes a car is idling, it uses about the same amount of fuel it takes to go about one mile. Research indicates that the average person idles their car five to ten minutes a day."

Idling for more than 10 seconds burns gas almost twice as fast as driving and produces almost double the amount of toxic emissions per second than a vehicle moving at average speed.

Three myths about car idling:

1. Idling is good for your engine.

Reality: Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because an engine does not operate at its peak temperature. This leads to the build up of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.

2. Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

Reality: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling. The bottom line is that more than ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

3. The engine should be warmed up before driving.

Reality: Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

The Commission recommends, "If you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. And when you start your engine, don't step down on the accelerator, just simply turn the key to start."

If for some reason you must idle, it is better to put your car in neutral. This rests the engine and produces fewer emissions.

## Problems, etc.

"The problems are worse than we feared," said Adam Werbach, past president of the Sierra Club, in a recent speech citing these statistics:

—Half the world's tropical and temperate forests are gone.

—90% of large predator fish are gone.

—75% of marine fisheries are overfished or fished to capacity.

—Species are disappearing about a thousand times faster than normal.

—A recently study found that there are 287 chemicals in the cord blood from babies in the US.

—America has 2 million people in prison and about 960,000 farmers.

—An estimated 35% of cancer deaths are directly attributable to diet.

—CDC estimates that 50% of today's health care costs are attributable to health risks that can be modified by lifestyle behaviors.

—The UN says 826 million people are hungry; however, a much larger number, roughly 1.6 billion, are over-nourished and overweight.

## -Sportsmen *Continued from Page 1*

Hunters & Anglers, Bob Poole of National Geographic, Carl Pope of the Sierra Club, Jim Posewitz of the Orion Institute, Kent Salazar of the National Wildlife Federation, Samantha Mace of Save our Wild Salmon, and R.P. Van Gytenbeek of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

For more information, visit <http://www.sierrasportsmen.org/>

# Upcoming Sierra Club Events

## 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, Thursday

Sierra Club Daytime Discussion meeting in Arlington. We will focus this year's meetings on discovering a sense of place. These meetings will be a combination of discussion based on the Northwest Institute course "Discovering a Sense of Place," visits with local experts, and occasional visits to special places in Arlington. Join us at 3 p.m. at Tim Cup, 1025 W Abram St., Arlington. For more information call 817-266-8569 or bfbg@tx.rr.com.

## 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 less than 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 Tyler Bend Park 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)).

## May 18, Sunday

Day Hike at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Hike 2.5-miles (each way) on the natural surface Cross Timbers Back Country Trail. The trail head has steep grades the first 1/2-mile. Difficulty level is moderate. Please no dogs or stroll-

*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.*

ers, but children welcome. Meet in the Cross Timbers parking lot inside the park at 9 a.m. Hike cancelled if raining at the state park. 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 Hwy 180 or 14 miles west of Weatherford on US Hwy 180. Contact Scott Carpenter at [adventureman1@hotmail.com](mailto:adventureman1@hotmail.com) or 817-253-0158(H) to confirm that you will be joining us. Phone calls before 8 p.m.

## May 21, Wednesday

Outings meeting, 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 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.

## May 21, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker, Susan Haney, who will discuss her recent travels to Africa. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30.

## May 27, Tuesday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club shows "The True Cost of Food" followed by a discussion of food production (including genetically-modified foods) and food consumption from an environmental perspective. Food issues are heavy and often emotional. This animated video takes a light approach to explaining the hidden costs of mass-produced food and about alternatives that are kinder to the planet. Join us at 7 p.m. in the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville.

On the west side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade. Terry Jensen, 817-545-0140

## May 27, 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.

## June 1, Sunday

Sierra Club's 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. Organizer: Terry Jensen, 817-545-0140

## June 7, Saturday

River Legacy Dayhike, Arlington. We'll hike 4-5 miles on a paved trail to observe the Trinity River bottom forest, wildlife, and open areas east of River Legacy Park. Bring water and sunscreen. Optional restaurant lunch afterwards. Directions: From I-30 in Arlington, exit Collins and take Collins north past Green Oaks Blvd. After crossing Green Oaks approx. 400 feet, turn left into the new River Legacy Park east entrance and park at the south section. Meet on the bridge near the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Early meeting time is preferred due to heat. Please no dogs. Hike cancelled if raining in Arlington. No reservations, just show up for hike. Leaders: Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242(H) and Judy Cato 972-238-5738(H)

## June 15, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday 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 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizer: James Bisby 469-371-1938.

## June 19, Thursday

Sierra Club Daytime Discussion meeting in Arlington. We will focus this year's meetings on discovering a sense of place. These meetings will be a combination of discussion based on the

*Please see MORE, Page 4*

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

Northwest Institute course “Discovering a Sense of Place”, visits with local experts, and occasional visits to special places in Arlington. Join us at 3 p.m. at Tin Cup, 1025 W Abram St, Arlington 76013. For more information call 817-266-8569 or [bfbg@tx.rr.com](mailto:bfbg@tx.rr.com).

## **June 18, Wednesday**

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker, Jarid Manos, author of the Ghetto Plainsman. Jarid has almost singlehandedly worked to protect remnants of our native prairie in the Metroplex through his work with Great Plains Restoration Council. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30.

## **June 20-21, Saturday-Sunday**

Birds, Bats, and a beautiful river. Car Camp at the South Llano River State Park near Junction, Texas. The South Llano River is spring-fed, flowing over limestone rocks, with great scenery. The river is great for swimming or tubing, or for just keeping cool. We will camp in the walk-in area, and reservations should be made well in advance for

this heavily used park. The park is 250 miles from Fort Worth, down Hwy 377, and should take about 4-5 hours of driving. We will tube the river on Saturday morning, and go to Mason for the Bat flight at the Nature Conservancy's Eckert James River Preserve in the evening. The scenic drive to bat caves does require high clearance for fording the rivers, but we can car pool as needed. More tubing on Sunday morning or hiking the great trails. There are some of the finest bird blinds in Texas (or the country) at South Llano. Website: [www.tpwd.state.tx](http://www.tpwd.state.tx) to access the South Llano River SP site and Contact Marilyn Turnage at 214-533-2481 or [marilynturnage@msn.com](mailto:marilynturnage@msn.com) to sign up for trip or for more info.

## **June 24, Tuesday**

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club shows “Fighting Goliath – Texas Coal Wars” followed by a discussion of where Texas is today. Narrated by Robert Redford and produced by Alpheus Media, the film follows the story of Texans fighting a high-stakes battle for clean air and centers around the unlikely partners – mayors, ranchers, lawyers, cities, citizens, green groups, and CEO's – that came together to oppose the construc-

tion of 18 coal-fired power plants that were slated to be built in Eastern and Central Texas and being fast-tracked by the Texas governor. Join us at 7 p.m. in the community room of Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, on west side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade. Terry Jensen, 817 545-0140.

## **June 24, 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.

## **July 6, Sunday**

Sierra Club's 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. Organizer: Terry Jensen, 817-545-0140

## **July 27, Sunday**

Dayhike in the shade at Gateway Park in Fort Worth. Hike about 2.5 miles on concrete trail. Difficulty level is easy. Dogs welcome on 6-foot leash or shorter. Meet at 2 p.m. No reservations needed, just show up. Bring mosquito repellent, water for you and your dog, and pick-up bags. Directions: From I-30, exit Beach Street and go north to 1st Street. Turn east on 1st Street and go to park entrance on right. Turn right into park and go to the end of the road. We will gather in the pavilion. Hike cancelled if raining at park. Leader: Bonnie Bowman 817-265-0008(H) or [bfbg@tx.rr.com](mailto:bfbg@tx.rr.com)

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

Sierra Celebration for whole state of Texas sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club will be at Caddo Lake State Park, near Marshall. Join other Sierrans from across the state as we meet to hike, camp, and canoe at the loveliest state park in east Texas on our state's only natural lake. Call immediately to reserve your cabin or campsite by contacting the Texas State Park reservations office: [www.tpwd.state.tx](http://www.tpwd.state.tx) or 512-389-8900. Organizer: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-8698 or [tol@greentol.com](mailto:tol@greentol.com).

## **Polar bears put on the waiting list**

The U.S. Interior Department announced in mid-April that it would further delay making an endangered species listing decision for the polar bear. The decision was originally due on Jan. 9, 2008, but the Interior Department has failed to act, citing no good reason for its delay. Now the agency says it will wait an additional 10 weeks before announcing a decision.

The Sierra Club and other environmental groups have called for an investigation into the delay, which allowed just enough time for the Interior Department to open polar bear habitat to oil drilling. In February, Shell Oil placed a record bid for rights to drill the Chukchi Sea, where an estimated one-tenth of America's polar bears live.

Oil and gas activities, including seismic testing, are due to begin in the Chukchi Sea this summer.

### **Statement of Sierra Club Representative Trish Rolfe**

“This delay allows oil and gas activities to begin in the Arctic this summer without the added worry of caring for a federally-listed species.”

“America has been presented with the urgent problem of saving one of our most iconic species from global warming. Instead of taking quick, decisive action to save polar bears, our leaders have responded with denial, delay, and soon, drilling.”

“Arctic sea ice is melting so quickly now that every second counts. Even a ten-week delay further stacks the odds against this animal. We can't wait until the last bear drowns before we deal with global warming. Polar bears would already be listed if it weren't for a small handful of special interests fighting the decision at every step.”

# Senate legislation OKs energy tax incentives

The Senate during April voted by a margin of 88 to 8 to attach the Cantwell-Ensign Clean Energy Tax Stimulus Act (S.2821) to the housing legislation that was currently being considered by the Senate.

The Cantwell-Ensign legislation would put into place short-term extensions of key renewable energy tax incentives currently in danger of expiring at the end of 2008, including the Production Tax Credit and Investment Tax Credit.

After final passage by the Senate the housing legislation will move to House for consideration.

## Statement of Melinda Pierce, Assoc. Director of National Campaigns, Sierra Club

"The Senate's action recognizes the urgency of the situation and underscores the strong, bipartisan support for extending these crucial tax incentives.

"It is essential that Congress final-

izes an extension of these critically important incentives for the wind and solar industries immediately. Failing to extend them immediately will deal a crippling blow to the rapidly growing clean energy economy.

"Failing to extend these incentives would not only dim a bright clean energy future, it would snuff out one of the few bright spots in these grim economic times. As news broke the very same week that the economy has shed nearly 250,000 jobs in the first quarter alone, it is clear that we cannot afford to stifle the renewable energy industry.

"Projects are already in danger of being canceled and over 100,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone could be thrown out of work if Congress doesn't act soon.

"We already know that making a serious commitment to clean, renewable energy could fuel tens of billions of dollars in economic growth and

create over 820,000 new manufacturing jobs across the country.

"We also know that achieving these goals will be impossible unless we extend the current incentives without delay in order to avoid turning today's green energy boom into tomorrow's clean energy bust, as has happened each and every time Congress has let these tax incentives expire in years past.

"It would be difficult for taxpayers to find an investment that offers a better return. This package of incentives will pay us environmental and economic dividends for years to come.

"We are extremely pleased that the Senate acted so decisively.

"The House has approved similar packages of clean energy incentives on numerous occasions over the past few months and we will continue to work with our allies on that side of the Capitol to bring this important measure across the finish line as soon as possible."

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### 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.

# More stuff or more time? That's the question

*By Charles Siegel  
 Member, National Sierra Club  
 Sustainable Consumption Committee*

There is a question that is critical to determining what sort of lives we live and whether our economy is environmentally sustainable, but that no mainstream American politician has talked about for six decades. That question is: should we take advantage of our increased productivity to give ourselves more free time or to consume more stuff?

Ever since the beginning of the industrial revolution, improved technology has allowed the average worker to produce more in an hour of work. During the twentieth century, productivity (the term that economists use for output per worker hour) grew by an average of about 2.3 percent a year – which means that the average American worker in 2000 produced about eight times as much in one hour as the average worker in 1900.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth century, workers took advantage of

higher productivity and higher hourly wages both to earn more income and to work shorter hours: average earnings rose and the average work week declined consistently.

Workers got both more time and more stuff.

But in post-war America, the trend toward shorter hours suddenly stopped. Since 1945, in a dramatic break with the historical trend, we have used the entire gain in productivity to produce and consume more stuff, and we have not increased the average worker's free time at all.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 set the standard work week at 40 hours. After World War II, the nation adopted policies to stimulate economic growth rapid enough to give Americans those standard 40-hour jobs.

Many people might prefer to downshift economically by working less and earning less – choosing more free time instead of more stuff – but most Americans today have no choice of work hours. In general, the good jobs are

full-time jobs. Most part-time jobs have low wages, no benefits, no seniority, and no opportunity for promotion.

A survey by the Center for the New American Dream found that half of American full-time workers would prefer to work four days a week at 80% of their current earnings – but they do not have this choice.

This choice between more free time and more income could help deal with our most pressing environmental problems.

For example, a recent study by Harvard economics professor Mark Weisbrot found that, if Americans worked as few hours as western Europeans, it would lower our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 20%.

A movement toward simpler living could help to reduce all our environmental problems, but that movement can spread only if people are allowed to choose their work hours and to make a deliberate decision about whether they want more time or more stuff.