

Proposition 9 would strengthen Texas open beaches protection

Lone Star Chapter takes no position on other items in the state constitutional amendment election Nov. 3

Most Texas voters probably think that 2009 is an off-year in which there are no elections scheduled for the fall. A few municipalities such as the City of Houston will hold elections on November 3, however, and all registered Texas voters have the opportunity to go to the polls that day (or in early voting) to express their opinions on eleven proposed amendments to the state constitution.

Of those eleven propositions, the most important from an environmental perspective is Proposition 9, the open beaches amendment.

OPEN BEACHES PROTECTION

Protection of public access to Texas beaches is already in law in the Open Beaches Act, enacted by the Texas Legislature five decades ago in 1959. Proposition 9 is important, however, because it would put that protection into the Texas Constitution, giving public access to Texas beaches more certainty. While a simple majority of legislators in both houses of the Texas Legislature could revise or repeal the Texas Open Beaches Act, the revision or repeal of a provision of the state constitution requires a vote by 2/3 of the members of both houses of the Legislature as well as subsequent approval by the voters of the state — a more difficult road to travel.

Moreover, while Texas state courts have the authority to strike down a state law such as the Open Beaches Act, they would not have the same authority to eliminate a provision of the Texas Constitution (although the interpretation of a provision might affect its application). Indeed on November 19 the Texas Supreme Court will hear a case challenging the Open Beaches Act — the first time such a challenge has

reached the state's highest court. The case was brought by a Galveston County property owner whose houses wound up being in the public beach easement after Hurricane Rita changed the vegetation line that demarcates private and public property boundaries under the Open Beaches Act.

PROPOSITION 9

The actual language of Proposition 9 on the ballot reads as follows: The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico. Passage of the proposed amendment has been endorsed by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and is supported by numerous other groups such as the Surfrider Foundation, which has four chapters in Texas.

Supporters of the proposed state constitutional amendment have set up a website with more information about Proposition 9. That website is www.votefortexas-beaches.org.

We are the leaders and saviors of earth

By **TERRY JENSEN**

At the Rio Earth Summit in 1990, the international community agreed to a goal of holding further global warming to no more than 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above 1990 levels. This led to the perceived need to stabilize CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere at below 450 ppm. So for many years, 450 has been the number.

Then the scientists came back with such documents as the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change—a 700-page report released by economist Nicholas Stern for the British government, which discusses the effect of global

warming on the world economy.

According to the Stern Review, even if we achieve 450 ppm CO2, we still face a 70 percent chance that the globe will heat up more than 2.4 degrees C. The last time the earth was that hot sea levels were 75 feet higher.

On top of this, increasing evidence suggests that the initial warming appears more and more likely to trigger processes that will lead to additional warming in the form of methane released from thawing tundra and drying arctic wetlands. Also prevalent will be carbon emitted from

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Look for the Executive Committee ballot in the next issue

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'Call to action' on global warming

We are at a historic crossroads in the fight against climate change. The Sierra Club is asking its activists and chapters to help in this critically important fight by committing to daily, weekly or monthly actions as a Sierra Club Climate Leader. Please go to: www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders and sign up.

Our first priority is an education campaign to encourage people to support the Obama Administration's use of rules and regulations by the EPA and other agencies to address climate change. We call this campaign "the Big Picture." Using a very successful online petition and massive phone call outreach, activists are asking Senators to urge President Obama to create rules as quickly as possible that will regulate coal ash, mercury, mining, soot, smog, and carbon pollution more effectively.

Visit the Big Picture Campaign to learn more: www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture.

Our other campaign, also dependent on your hard work, focuses on

-Leaders *Continued from Page 1*

burning forests and drying soils.

Given this new evidence, NASA's James Hansen and others argue that to avoid the eventual flooding of the great coastal cities of the world, we have to hold warming to less than 2 degrees C. Now the new number is 350 ppm CO₂.

How will this happen?

Even though I had high hopes for our newly elected officials, much of what I have seen this year reinforces what I have always thought:

Positive change and forward moves in the evolution of man never have, and never will, start with governments or large groups of people. They start with individuals.

If we are to counteract global warming, people will have to step up to the plate again. We as environmental activists are the saviors.

We, as individuals--not as members of a political party, not as members of an environmental group--will have to make some changes in our own lifestyles. We will not only have to be the leaders we are looking for, we will have to lead by example.

Government is not the savior. Groups like the Sierra Club and Greenpeace are not the saviors.

We are the saviors (or lack of same) by the lifestyles we lead.

passing strong comprehensive climate and energy legislation in Congress. Earlier this year, the U.S. House of Representatives took the first step toward unleashing a true clean energy revolution by passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES or Waxman/Markey). Our attention is now on the Senate, where our Senators have started discussing their version of the bill and will begin voting in early fall.

We urge Senators to strengthen his bill and ensure that it: creates good, clean energy jobs; makes polluters pay for the carbon pollution that causes global warming; and provides assistance for energy costs.

We need your help to get people to say to their Senators, "Support a strong clean energy and climate bill." This will not only clean up pollution domestically, but help the United States lead the world at the international climate treaty talks in Copenhagen. Visit the ACES homepage: www.action.sierraclub.org/aces

It is time to commit to create a groundswell of support for clean energy and global warming priorities. Sign up to become a Climate Leader and invite 10 friends to do the same: www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders.

Holiday shop 'til you drop and help support the Fort Worth Sierra Club Group

Come to one of our general meetings any third Wednesday and buy a variety of Sierra Club merchandise. If you can not make it to a meeting, the Fort Worth Sierra Club is sponsoring the 18th Annual Alternative Holiday Bazaar 2009 on December 5 & 6. You can find many socially responsible holiday gifts at the bazaar, including a variety of Sierra Club merchandise, so come by and visit us:

18th Annual Alternative Holiday Bazaar 2009: Saturday, December 5, 9am-5p.m.; Sunday, December 6 - 10a.m.-3p.m. at the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth.

Too busy to make it to the bazaar or a meeting and need to buy something online? You can help support the Fort Worth Sierra Club by accessing Amazon via the links on our website (<http://texas.sierraclub.org/fortworth>). The club will get a percentage of anything you buy on Amazon when you go through our site.

Upcoming Sierra Club Events

October 30-November 1, Friday-Sunday

Halloween campout and canoeing at Caddo Lake. We will canoe approximately 1 mile to Goat Island at Caddo Lake to camp for the weekend. This lake is near Marshall, about 3-4 hours from Fort Worth and is the only natural lake in our state. It is a beautiful cypress covered lake which adds to the spooky feeling for Halloween. Canoe rentals are available but contact trip leader for more details. Potluck dinner on Sat. night complete with witch's brew. State park is nearby for showers. This lake requires no canoe experience and is a great adventure for families and new campers. Leader: Marilyn Turnage, 214-533-2481 (leave message) or marilyn-turnage@att.net.

October 31, Saturday

Roll Beyond Coal Bike Rally at White Rock Lake. Join us for a fun-filled event supporting renewable energy, green jobs, and clean air with a brighter energy future beyond coal! Bike the 9.4-mile route around White Rock Lake, starting at The Bath House on 521 E. Lawther Drive in Dallas. Prizes to be given for the best Halloween and Clean Air costumes! Free Basic Bike Tune-up on site. Registration 8:30 a.m., Ride begins 10:30 a.m. Cost: Adults- \$10; Students/Children 12/over-\$5; Children under 12 - Free. Sponsored by the Dallas Sierra Club. Pre-registration info and more details available at www.dallassierraclub.org or call organizer Lori at (972)980-7176.

November 1, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday: Vegan Buffet every first Sunday, Papaya Garden, 1201 W. Airport Frwy #100, 817-684-9378, Euless on the corner of Airport Fwy (Hwy 183) and Industrial (FM157 also known as Collins in Arlington). Thai, plant-based, and all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Larger restaurant means more room for families and other groups. Ask for Terry at the door to meet/converse with an interesting group of people. Or sit with your friends and family. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817-545-0140 or 972-251-1532.

November 3, Tuesday

Sierra Club Executive Committee (Ex-com) Meeting, 6 p.m. Luby's Cafeteria, 2800 8th Ave, Fort Worth, just north of 8th Ave. and Berry St. All Sierra Club members and interested parties are invited

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.

to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

November 11, Wednesday

Training to Become Outings Leader. Have you ever thought about becoming an outings leader for the Sierra Club? Come to this introductory seminar and we'll tell you how to get started. Although organized by the Dallas Sierra Club, requirements are the same for all. We'll go over the types of outings the Club does, what we expect from our leaders, what training is required, and what services the Club provides. We'll look at the schedule of additional training for those of you who want to start leading outings. The seminar will be held at REI (Cross Timbers Room), 4515 LBJ Freeway, Farmers Branch (north side of LBJ between Midway and Welch) from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Organizer: Arthur Kuehne 214-902-9260(H)

November 11-15, Wednesday-Sunday

Join your friends and other Sierra Club members again this fall for our annual trip to Big Bend National Park. Participants have their choice of two exciting trips. We will have a base camp option located in the Chisos Basin with a variety of day hikes throughout the park and a backpacking option on the Marufo Vega trail (one of the most beautiful trails in the park). We will be traveling by 15-passenger van leaving early Wednesday morning and returning late Sunday evening. The cost of the trip will be \$175. For more information contact Todd Nichols (817-937-5217) or James Moody (817-688-3656).

November 12-15, Thursday-Sunday

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (Harlingen, TX) If you aren't going to Big Bend, you might want to check out this great opportunity to observe migrating birds (over 200 species!) from all areas of North America as they travel south for the winter. This event attracts nationally-known birding experts, and lectures and seminars abound (most for a fee). Harlingen is about 2 hours south of Corpus

Christi. To register for the event (\$20.00 per person), field trips and seminars (fees vary) and scope out the trade show and free events, go to www.rgvbirdfest.com. Accommodations are going quickly, so do make plans early. And remember to bring more than one camera!

November 14, Saturday

Dayhike at Fort Worth Nature Center. Work off your stress by hiking 3-5 miles on trails in the Nature Center. Meet at Hardwick Interpretative Center at 8 a.m. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Bring water and appropriate clothing for weather including rain gear. No dogs please. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. .

November 18, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, the third Wednesday of every month in the Azalea Room of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 6:30 p.m. We share conservation news, outings info, and enjoy a presentation by a guest speaker. Brief business meeting followed by speaker. Frank Moreland, architect, former UTA professor, author, concrete contractor, and pioneer in earth-covered building design, will present a most enlightening program. View a slide show of human habitats that make great use of the earth. Current use of earth-covered buildings is emphasized. Moreland is a member of our Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club Group and you will not want to miss this leading-edge presentation. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, (817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth

December 1, Tuesday

Sierra Club Executive Committee (Ex-com) Meeting, 6 p.m.

Pappa Chang's 1526 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, just south of I-30 at the corner of Pennsylvania and 8th Ave. 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 5, Saturday

Dayhike at Fort Worth Nature Center. Work off your stress by hiking 3-5 miles on trails in the Nature Center. Meet at Hardwick Interpretative Center at 8 a.m.

Please see MORE, Page 4

-More events and outings of the GFWSC

Continued from Page 3

In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Bring water and appropriate clothing for weather including rain gear. No dogs please. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

December 6, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday: Vegan Buffet every first Sunday from Mid-Suburban Sierra Club at Papaya Garden, 1201 W. Airport Frwy #100, 817 684-9378, Euless on the corner of Airport Fwy (Hwy 183) and Industrial (FM 157 also known as Collins in Arlington). Thai, plant-based, and all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Ask for Terry at the door to meet/converse with an interesting group of earth-minded people. Or sit with your friends and family in this spacious restaurant. Organizer: Terry Jensen (817) 545-0140 or (972) 251-1532.

December 12, Saturday

Day Hike on North Shore of Grapevine Lake. Hike 5 to 6 miles on a dirt trail along the north shore of Grapevine Lake. No reservations required, just show up. Please, no pets. Bring water and snacks, and spare shoes for after the hike in case the trail is muddy. Meet at 9 a.m. at Rockledge Park in Grapevine at the parking lot near the restrooms (northern part of the park). Note that the City of Grapevine now charges \$5 per car to enter the park. After the hike, you may join us for lunch. Directions: From Hwy 121, exit at Bass Pro Road and go west. Turn left (southwest) on Hwy 26 toward Grapevine. Drive about 1/4 mile to Fairway Drive and turn right (north). Continue to drive across the dam and past the spillway. Turn left on the first driveway after the spillway to Rockledge Park. At the park, veer right to Park Rd. Three, and drive to the north parking lot. Leader: Marcos Jorge 972-394-2546(H)

December 16, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 6:30PM *** Christmas Party!!! *** We will NOT have regular meeting with a speaker, but we will socialize with members and guests. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth

December 20, Sunday

Dayhike at Fort Worth Nature Center.

Work off your holiday stress and extra pounds by hiking 3-5 miles on trails in the Nature Center. Meet at Hardwick Interpretative Center at 2 p.m. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Bring water and appropriate clothing for weather including rain gear. No dogs please. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

December 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.

January 2, Saturday

FIRST OUTING OF 2010: Dayhike at Fort Worth Nature Center. Start your new year right by hiking 3-5 miles on trails in the Nature Center. Meet at Hardwick Interpretative Center at 9 a.m. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Bring water and appropriate clothing for weather including rain gear. No dogs please. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

New report: Clean energy would bring more jobs and economic sustainability

The Sierra Club has released a groundbreaking new report that reaffirms the economic benefits of ending mountaintop removal coal mining and transitioning to clean energy sources in Appalachia. Conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., the report comes on the heels of the Obama administration's praiseworthy decision to review 79 permits for new mountaintop removal coal mining permits citing water quality concerns.

The report -- along with other recent studies of this most destructive form of coal mining -- shows that America can have affordable electricity without mountaintop removal because many factors contribute to the cost of electricity, with coal prices playing just one small part. There are an abundance of cost-effective alternatives to mountaintop removal coal including natural gas, energy efficiency and renewable sources such as wind power and low-impact hydroelectric.

"This new report highlights the benefits for Appalachia that would result

January 3, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday: Vegan Buffet every first Sunday from Mid-Suburban Sierra Club at Papaya Garden, 1201 W. Airport Frwy #100, 817 684-9378, Euless on the corner of Airport Fwy (Hwy 183) and Industrial (FM 157 also known as Collins in Arlington). Thai, plant-based, and all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2: p.m. Ask for Terry at the door to meet/converse with an interesting group of earth-minded people. Or sit with your friends and family in this spacious restaurant. Organizer: Terry Jensen (817) 545-0140 or (972) 251-1532.

January 5, Tuesday

Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting, 6 p.m.

Pappa Chang's 1526 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, just south of I-30 at the corner of Pennsylvania and 8th Ave. 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.

from ending mountaintop removal mining and transitioning to clean energy jobs," said Mary Anne Hiitt, Deputy Director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. "We can have affordable electricity without mountaintop removal, and we can protect our communities, streams, forests and mountains at the same time."

According to the report, mountaintop removal is not the economic savior for Appalachia that some have claimed. In fact, the studies show that other types of mining in Appalachia actually employ more workers, and that mountaintop removal coal mining costs state budgets more than it generates.

This week the Army Corps of Engineers is holding public hearings across Appalachia where hundreds of residents are calling for an end to a "one-size-fits-all" nationwide permit that has been used for years to allow this destructive type of coal mining. At the hearings, the coal industry will likely argue that radical strip mining benefits

Please see CLEAN Page 5

The right to clean water is violated

The House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing recently to investigate Clean Water Act enforcement failures of federal and state agencies responsible for protecting our nation's waters.

RESPONSES FROM THE SIERRA CLUB

"Water pollution laws are repeatedly violated, communities suffer, and polluters have been let off the hook. Lax oversight in the past and inadequate enforcement funding are certainly a major problem, but the issue is deeper than that. As the law stands right now it is unclear which waters are protected and which are not.

"By the EPA's own reports, this confusion has adversely affected about 40 percent of the agency's annual docket. We applaud EPA's commitment to step up enforcement, but Congress needs to pass legislation to restore clear protections for waters soon, before more damage is done," said Ed Hopkins Direc-

tor of the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Program.

"Playa lakes, prairie potholes, wetlands and small streams provide essential nesting and resting grounds for ducks, geese, spawning salmon and other fish and wildlife.

"Stripping protections from our waters not only jeopardizes hunting and fishing opportunities, but also the jobs supported by our \$122 billion outdoor recreation economy," said Bart Semcer Director of Sierra Club's Sierra Sportsmen program.

Don't forget the new GFW Sierra Club meeting time

So you got through the change to Daylight Savings Time without a hitch. There's still another time change you need to remember. And if you're always late to meetings, you're really going to be late to the November and future meetings of the Fort Worth Sierra Club. The meeting time has changed by 30 minutes, from 7 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. until further notice. The change went into effect with the October meeting.

-Clean energy transition *Continued from Page 4*

Appalachia's economy, but this new report reaffirms the value of clean energy.

The Synapse report demonstrates the importance of supporting clean energy sources instead of leveling areas for mountaintop removal coal mining. This radical form of blasting destroys clean energy sources. Appalachia can only tap the power of clean energy if the mountains, valleys and waterways that support these resources remain intact.

Find a full copy of the report, including an executive summary and a white paper on other recent mountaintop removal coal mining studies, at www.sierraclub.org/coal/factsheets.aspx

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ExCom candidates statements—

Ballot, instructions for voting in this election can be found on Page 8

NANCY McVEAN

Nancy is running for her second consecutive term on the ExCom. She says, "As outings chair, it is a fun adventure to seek out interesting places to go and experience what the mission of the Sierra club actually is - "to explore, enjoy and protect the planet." We have a beautiful world to experience and much of that beauty is right here in Texas. Let's explore together."

BARRY O'NEAL

Barry is running for a second consec-

utive term, and he says, "Hola Sierrans, I have again the opportunity to serve as Ex Com Member, perhaps with some enhancements this time. I offer: (1) long periods of competency; (2) habitually ethical behavior (references on request); (3) low carbon footprint (despite rather large feet); (4) I show up. Thank You — and take care of Planet A!"

OPEN EXCOM POSITION

There is one open spot on the GFW Sierra Club Executive Committee. The ExCom needs you! We are ac-

tively seeking and accepting new ideas, new hands and hearts to give a bit of their time for all. Do you have great ideas and a few hours twice a month to help make your Sierra Club function well? Do you like meeting other conservation-minded folks, and making contacts with organizations in our community working toward the same environmental goals? Call one of the ExCom members TODAY to be considered for an appointment to the ExCom.

A different type of climate 'change' — this one for green building

All green building is not the same.

Proper building techniques vary for different climates.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) assigns specific locations to climate zones based on the area of the country in which a building site is located. Dallas-Fort Worth is on the cusp of the DOE's warm, humid climate.

Many people read an article about green building in Boston or Los Angeles, then follow those instructions when building or remodeling a Dallas-Fort Worth home. Unfortunately, many of the green building techniques suitable for Massachusetts or California are wrong or the wrong priority for the North Central Texas area.

What a disappointment to find you

have spent money for the wrong improvement or one that is not particularly important to Dallas-Fort Worth! Or your first utility bill arrives and you realize your new, green-built home is not all that energy efficient.

Know what is paramount for energy-efficiency and green building in Dallas Fort Worth before you build a new home or remodel your present home.

Lowering home utility bills can be as easy as one-two-three (and it's so simple to do that even your husband can do it!)

By Terry Jensen

If we want to be more comfortable for less money this winter, let's start by understanding basic physics — heat moves from warm to cold and it moves in three ways.

Although all three forms of heat movement are important, our winter comfort depends, in order of importance, on:

1. Radiation
2. Convection
3. Conduction

Radiation is heat carried on electromagnetic waves. During the winter, heat often radiates from our bodies.

When our bodies are exposed to a cold surface, such as 40 degree window glass, heat radiates (leaves) our body and moves to the cooler surface. Since radiation is always line of sight, staying covered in winter keeps our bodies

from "seeing" any cold surfaces. .

Convection is heat being carried by air or water.

The air in a house is much like the water in a bathtub. When the cold water finally begins to heat up, the water under the faucet is warmer than the rest of the tub.

By swirling the water, we spread the heat throughout the tub. When the drain is opened, the heat leaves the tub with the water.

The same thing happens in our home. We send warm air through the supply vents via our central heating system. We want to keep that warm air in the house.

Since most of our homes leak, though, warm air leaves the house through tiny holes, much like the drain in the tub.

Cold air replaces the warm air. Our heater keeps running. Our utility bills

keep climbing.

Conduction is the passage of heat through an object such as a wall. Anytime we talk about R-value and insulation, we are referring to conduction.

Conduction is far more of an issue in regions that have extreme outside temperatures than DFW.

In fact, a very small leak (convection) will transfer far more heat from a house than a poorly insulated wall in our climate.

How do we lower our winter utility bills?

We caulk. The most important energy improvement we can make to our homes for the winter months is to weatherize.

This very inexpensive retrofit (easily do it yourself) will decrease our utility bills (related to heating) by 40 percent or more.

BALLOT

2010 Executive Committee
(Vote for up to 2)

- Nancy McVean
- Barry O'Neal

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 by Dec. 12, or bring in person to the December meeting/Christmas party at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, Azalea Room, on Wednesday, December 16.

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Ready or not (and we almost weren't), it's time to cast ballots for the Excom election

Jim Hightower once said something to the effect of "If God had intended us to have elections, he would have given us candidates." In fact, that was the title of one of the Austin-based writer's books.

That was almost the case with the current election to fill three vacancies on the Executive Committee of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

Not because we don't have good candidates — we do. But because in one of the places we don't have a candidate at all!

Because of that, we almost didn't have an election at all, which might have given Hightower the raw material for a sequel to his book.

But a search of the Group's bylaws revealed that we're required to have an election at this time of year, candidates or not, so the ExCom made the 11th hour decision to hold the election and

fill the remaining vacancy in their ranks at a later time.

Among other things, that meant an 11th-and-a-half hour revision of this newsletter, complete with two additional pages in order to hold the election that almost wasn't.

So please make it all worthwhile by voting. It's as easy as marking the boxes above, clipping out that half page of the newsletter (leaving the address label on the reverse side), affixing a stamp to it, and dropping it in the mail.

And you thought that in order to be interesting, an election had to have debates, charges and counter-charges, negative ads, fabrications, deceit, and outright lies, and, maybe just for good measure, a little voter fraud thrown in to the mix as well.

Not so, as this election clearly illustrates.

Three members are going off the Fort Worth Group's ruling board; two of these current members — Vice-Chair Nancy McVean and Barry O'Neal, are seeking re-election to a second term; and a third board member, Scott Carpenter, who presently serves as the board secretary, is not seeking another term.

Please mark your ballot and drop it in the mail no later than December 12 or bring your completed ballot in person to the Christmas party on December 16. Individual members are entitled to one vote for up to four candidates. Those with a joint membership may each mark one of the two boxes beside each name.

You'll find statements from the two candidates seeking re-election on the previous page plus an invitation to get more involved in club leadership by volunteering to serve on the board.



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

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Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Phone (optional) _____

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

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

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

F94QT19002
F94Q W99901

Entity Code .1

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.

Citizens 100,000 strong joined the Sierra Club in standing up as champions of the national parks

More than 100,000 citizens from around the country joined the Sierra Club in standing up as champions for America's National Parks in October.

As Ken Burns' series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* aired on PBS, the Sierra Club called on Americans to show their commitment to our national parks by signing on as a National Park Champion, and urged the Obama administration to protect our parks from global warming.

"The attention this series brought to our national parks is unprecedented," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope.

"It's clear that 100,000 Americans have spoken up to be champions of our parks because they want these beautiful areas protected for future generations," he said.

Prior to the series airing, Sierra Club activists organized over 700 parties around the country, where people gath-

Global warming believed to pose the biggest threat to national park system

ered with family and friends to watch sneak previews of the documentary and wrote letters to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar asking him to protect America's national parks from global warming.

"The biggest threat facing our parks today is global warming," Pope said. "In Yellowstone, grizzlies are watching their food source decline as a result of warmer temperatures.

"The glaciers in Glacier National Park are receding at an alarming rate, and scientists say Joshua trees could disappear from Joshua Tree National Park.

"Americans everywhere understand the beauty and majesty of our national park system," said Pope. "These parks belong to all of us, and it's up to us

to protect them for our children and grandchildren."

Through its Resilient Habitats campaign, the Sierra Club has been working to ensure that federal agencies like the National Park Service make it a priority to protect America's public lands and wildlife from global warming. For more about the Sierra Club Resilient Habitats campaign, go to: www.sierraclub.org/resilienthabitat

The Sierra Club also collaborated with local PBS outlets across the country in raising awareness about local parks and the need to ensure that diverse communities have access to wild places.

Founded in 1892 and with a long history of protecting public lands, Sierra Club is featured prominently in the Ken Burns series.

For more about the documentary and National Parks, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/parks/>.