

LONE STAR SIERRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, LONE STAR CHAPTER
Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, Summer 2008



Beat the Heat - Work for a Cool Texas!! see pages 3 - 6



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Cover: The Big Bend Country. Photo by Cyrus Reed. A sun-drenched Texas desert landscape is a thing of beauty, but Texans need to beat the heat of global warming by working for a "Cool Texas" - one that is energy efficient and emphasizes more use of renewable energy such as solar power. This issue's feature section describes a 12-Step Plan for building a Cool Texas.

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The *Lone Star Sierran* will be published quarterly in 2008. Tentative publication dates are March 15, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Submission deadlines are four weeks prior to publication.

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Lone Star Chapter Unveils “12-Step Plan” for a Cool Texas

Calls for Greater Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

In April of this year the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club unveiled a preliminary “12-Step Plan” for a “Cool Texas” with the goal of meeting the electric power generation needs of the state while reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The 12-Step Plan was authored primarily by Chapter Conservation Director Cyrus Reed, with input from the Chapter Energy Committee and other Chapter staff and volunteer leaders. The Plan is a joint production of the Chapter and the Texas Center for Policy Studies, of which Reed was formerly the Executive Director.

The document has been refined over the past three months, and an updated version of the full report and plan, *Cool Texas: A 12-Step Plan for Meeting Our Electricity Needs that is Good for Texas... and the Climate*, is available on the Lone Star Chapter website at www.texas.sierraclub.org.



Background

In the last few years, scientists, policy makers, and major energy companies have come to the conclusion that:

- **The climate is changing rapidly; and**
- **Part of that change is inextricably linked to the human-induced presence of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.**

It is often cited that **if Texas were a country, it would rank some where between sixth and eighth in the world in the production of those carbon dioxide emissions.** While quantifying carbon dioxide emissions without required full reporting of those emissions is difficult, recent estimates say that roughly a third of all emissions are from transportation, a third from power plant emissions, and a third from industrial production.

Most of these emissions obviously involve the use and combustion of fossil fuels. At the same time both the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the state Public Utility Commission (PUC) are predicting that energy demand for electricity will continue to rise in Texas, although it is important to note that forecasting energy demand is difficult. For example, in December of last year ERCOT noted that the actual peak demand for electricity in Texas in 2007 was 2.5 percent *less* than previously forecast.

In 2005-2007 much controversy was generated over attempts by electric power utilities to push a new generation of dirty coal-fired power plants to meet projected energy needs for Texas, with tremendous negative

implications for air quality in many Texas cities and for efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. The story is not on the front pages any more because plans for some of those plants were dropped, but there are **still 10-12 new coal plants being pursued for Texas, and now there is also a push from some quarters to promote new nuclear reactors for the state** – claiming they are a way to address both energy demands and global warming concerns but conveniently ignoring all the detrimental environmental implications of a push for nuclear power.

The Thrust of the 12-Step Plan

The Sierra Club 12-Step Plan does not focus solely on global warming and its impacts but more broadly on statewide policies that would help us meet our energy needs while also reducing carbon dioxide emissions and avoiding the negative consequences of nuclear power. At the same time the Plan recognizes that with federal level policy on energy and climate change already being implemented, and with greater regulations likely, Texas needs to be prepared and to gain recognition for policies that reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The recommendations in the 12-Step Plan in part promote energy sources – **“smart energy solutions,”** as we say in the Sierra Club – that will have better long-term benefits for Texas and will be reliable and affordable and will create jobs, economic development, and wealth. **The Sierra Club believes that the future of**

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Feature

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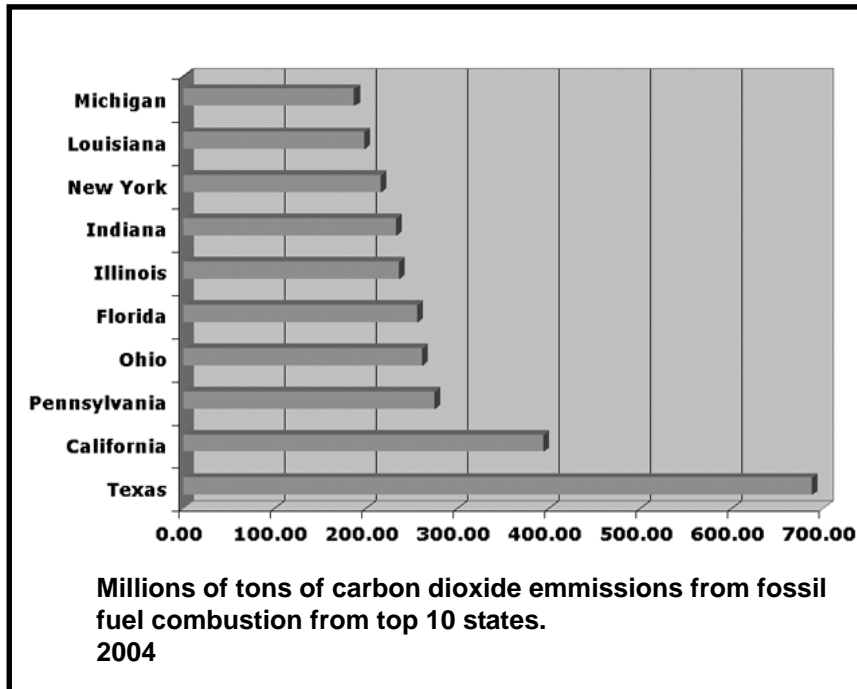
energy is wedded to a combination of solar, wind, certain kinds of biomass, vehicle-to-grid power, Combined Heat and Power, energy efficiency, and the use of natural gas as a kind of “bridge” fuel during the transition to a different energy mix.

Thus the 12-Step Plan is centered on how to meet energy needs from renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and demand response programs, while tightening up regulations on the emissions of existing dirtier fuel sources.

The First Step

The first step in the 12-Step Plan is either to create a Texas **carbon emissions reporting system** or to join what is known as **The Climate Registry**. Texas does not currently have a state system to report, estimate, or inventory carbon dioxide emissions from any source (although data on power plant emissions in Texas is available through a national reporting requirement for those particular sources). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) did create a global warming inventory in 2000. That inventory, however, was incomplete, was based on limited data, and is now outdated.

The Climate Registry at the national level is a system through which entities voluntarily report their greenhouse gas emissions. **Thus far 39 states have signed on as charter members of the Registry and pledged to encourage entities in their states to report their greenhouse gas emissions through the Registry.** By beginning to account for such emissions, Texas could look at the opportunities to reduce emissions, and business operations in Texas could gain carbon credits for taking action sooner rather than later in anticipation of new federal regulations.



Second Step: A Flexible Action Plan

A second simple step toward a Cool Texas would be for the state to do what many other states have done: develop an “**action plan**” on climate change. Some states, such as Florida, have pursued individual climate action plans. Others, such as most of the western states that belong to the Western Governor’s Alliance have formed regional alliances like the Western Climate Initiative that are working – albeit slowly – toward a

regional action plan. The extent and types of plans differ.

The action plan does not replace actual policies that can be taken now to reduce global warming gases, but it does complement those policies and help identify other cost-effective opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are

relevant to the state. Any action plan should **set reduction targets** and then **provide incentives and timelines** for different sectors to reach those targets.

One approach might be a kind of “no-regrets” plan that sets out policies that would be implemented if they made economic and environmental sense. Thus, such a plan would require the various state agencies to assess strategies that cut emissions and cost nothing over a certain time period, and then the agencies would implement those strategies with stakeholder input.

Other Sierra Club Recommendations

In addition to the recommendations noted, the Sierra Club 12-Step Plan suggests:

- **Updating the State of Texas air permitting process for power plants and other sources** to require *true* “Best Available [Pollution] Control

Technology” (BACT) and “Maximum Available Control Technology” (MACT) for controlling hazardous air pollutants and to begin to address carbon dioxide emissions as part of the permitting process.

- **Increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for utilities in Texas to 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 or its equivalent in megawatts** (an estimated 16,000 MW), and **creating a separate “carve-out” of 5% for solar energy** (in other words a percentage requirement just for solar power as part of the renewable energy requirements).
- Increasing the requirements on investor-owned utilities to meet, in stages, 100 percent of their anticipated growth in demand from energy efficiency and demand response programs by 2020 (up from the current requirement of 20 percent), – which would likely include home energy audits and improvements.
- Creating incentives or requirements for energy efficient housing for low-income individuals and families, fully funding and changing the formula of the **“System Benefit Fund” weatherization program** for low-income residential utility customers to make the program effective, and creating a low-income tax break for the purchase of energy efficient appliances.
- Updating and establishing **state energy efficiency standards for appliances**.
- Adopting **more energy efficient building standards**, including an Advanced Energy

Building Program for public buildings.

- **Expanding the Texas LoanSTAR Program** (which monitors energy use and recommends energy-saving retrofits in public buildings) from \$100 to \$200 million, requiring energy audits of all large publicly-owned buildings, and initiating a state funded bond loan program for electric cooperatives and municipality-owned utilities to meet energy efficiency, renewable energy, and demand management goals.
- **Evaluating other incentives and economic development tools for solar and other renewable energy sources.**
- Supporting further incentives to increase use of **“Combined Heat and Power”** in public and other buildings (also known as “co-generation,” combined heat and power refers to situations where the waste heat in a commercial building or industrial plant is captured and then reused to generate electricity and provide heat).
- **Adopting “Green Fleet” requirements for public entities**, including plug-in hybrids and **promoting incentives for use of plug-in hybrids**, so Texas can begin to develop a vehicle-to-grid market.

Moving Forward

These recommendations in the 12-Step Plan will form the core of the smart energy solutions and related air quality and global warming initiatives that the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, working in coordination with other state and local entities, will pursue in the next

two years in at the state level and elsewhere in Texas. Closely related to this and intersecting with state policy initiatives will be the local Cool Cities Campaigns that Sierrans throughout the state are rapidly expanding (*see page 6 for an update on Cool Cities*).

There are ample opportunities for Sierrans and other citizens around the state to be a part of the movement for a Cool Texas. Check out the possibilities by going to the Chapter website or calling the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin at 512-477-1729. *Help us beat the heat by working for a Cool Texas!*



Preserve
The
Future.

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in you will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Your Environment

Cool Cities Campaign Expanding Throughout Texas

Sierra Club Program Engages Citizens and Spurs Local Government Action

Cool Cities, the Sierra Club's campaign to address global warming at the local level, is expanding around the state, forming teams all over Texas with funding from a new national Sierra Club grant. *Cool Cities* targets the considerable power of municipal governments to impact global warming by making their city operations more energy efficient. Over 850 U.S. mayors have embraced the challenge by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and working to develop local emissions reduction plans.

Cities are not only reducing emissions from municipal operations, they're saving tax dollars and setting an example for the private sector to follow.

Actions include:

- Performing efficiency retrofits on city buildings
- Raising the efficiency requirements for residential and commercial buildings
- Buying and generating electricity from clean, renewable sources
- Changing traffic signals to efficient LED types
- Buying efficient vehicles for city fleets
- Zoning to promote high-density, transit-friendly developments and expanding mass transit
- Finding efficiencies in wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal practices

launched the campaign in North Texas. Now the Chapter Energy Chair, she and Central Texas

coordinator Terry Moore have already formed teams and conducted volunteer training sessions in Houston suburbs, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Beaumont, greater Austin, Bryan and College Station. The San Antonio, Denton, and Fort Worth metro areas are also on the priority list for team formation. In many areas the Sierra Club is working with Texas Interfaith Power & Light to promote *Cool Cities* goals.

Texas "Cool Cities" to date:

Austin	Garland
Carrollton	Hurst
College Station	Hutto
Coppell	Laredo
Dallas	McKinney
Denton	Plano
El Paso	Richardson
Eules	San Antonio
Fairview	Shavano Park
Fort Worth	Sugar Land
Frisco	Westlake

Local Cool Cities Campaigns are underway or being formed in over 30 other Texas cities. By the end of the year the Cool Cities Campaign in Texas hopes to have at least doubled the number of Cool Cities in the state.

Join the Cool Cities Team!

You don't have to wait for Congress to act on global warming! Join other Texans who are mobilizing local leaders and demonstrating the energy-saving potential of local action. Contact Ann at 214-350-6108 or by e-mail

at anndrumm@swbell.net to join an existing team or form one for your own city.

No experience is necessary – we'll train you and help you form a team. Let's make *every* Texas city – large or small – a *Cool City!* Together we can achieve a *Cool Texas!*

Volunteer Led Effort

The national Sierra Club has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Lone Star Chapter to expand the *Cool Cities* campaign in Texas. The effort is being led by Ann Drumm, former Dallas Group Chair who

Sierra Club and Public Citizen Settle Clean Air Act Lawsuit Against American Electric Power Company

Three-Year Suit Targeted Air Pollution Violations at Welsh Coal Plant in Northeast Texas

A settlement was reached this past spring in a Clean Air Act lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club and Public Citizen against Ohio-based American Electric Power Company (AEP) over air emissions from a Texas coal plant. The consent decree signed by Federal Judge David Folsom in June officially ended a three-year-long court battle between the environmental groups and AEP, one of the country's largest electric utilities, over alleged air pollution violations at the company's Welsh coal-fired power plant in Titus County, Texas.

The lawsuit alleged thousands of federal Clean Air Act violations at the Welsh Power Plant. Some of the alleged violations were brought to light by a former AEP employee. Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), AEP's subsidiary in the region, was also named as a defendant in the lawsuit.



Forcing Texas coal plants to meet permit requirements is an important part of the fight for clean air in Texas. Photo courtesy of Public Citizen.

Gains from the Litigation

"The new requirements for continuous monitoring of emissions of soot from the coal-burning plant will help assure that those emissions stay within permitted levels, said Ken Kramer, Director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, in commenting about the settlement.

"Compliance with permit limitations on air emissions is critical to protecting public health."

"Our settlement makes a down payment in the fight against global warming, by committing AEP to develop 65 additional megawatts of electricity from renewable sources in the SWEPCO service area by 2012," added Tom "Smitty" Smith, Director of Public Citizen's Texas Office.

Terms of the Settlement

The consent decree reflecting the negotiated settlement requires AEP to:

- **Install continuous electronic monitors for particulate matter on all three of the Welsh plant's coal-fired boilers;**
- **Secure an additional 65 megawatts of renewable energy commitments in the SWEPCO service area;**
- **Spend up to \$2 million in environmental mitigation projects in SWEPCO's service area; and**
- **Install and maintain an ambient particulate**

matter monitor in the area around the Welsh plant.

Austin attorney David Frederick and the nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project represented the environmental groups in the lawsuit.

Other Legal Actions Still in Proce

In February of this year the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a formal notice of violation against the Welsh plant, alleging certain Clean Air Act violations based in part on the claims made in the lawsuit by Sierra Club and Public Citizen. The Consent Decree does not prevent EPA from continuing with its enforcement action.

The consent decree also does not settle claims that the environmental groups and others are making against AEP in Arkansas. Sierra Club, Public Citizen, Environmental Integrity Project, Audubon and others are challenging the proposed new AEP/SWEPCO Turk coal-fired power plant, in Hempstead County, Ark. That planned new coal plant is under fire from local landowners, hunting and fishing clubs, and environmental groups.

For More Information on the AEP Lawsuit and Settlement: **Go to the Lone Star Chapter website at www.texas.sierraclub.org**

YourEnvironment

Border Wall Fight Continues

By Oliver Bernstein
Sierra Club Deputy National Press Secretary

On June 23 the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would not give the Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife a chance to argue that the border wall is unconstitutional. The groups contend that because the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security unilaterally waived 36 federal laws to expedite construction of the wall, this violates the Constitution's separation of powers clauses.

The Supreme Court's decision not to hear our challenge is unfortunate because it leaves one man with the extraordinary power to ignore any and all of the laws designed to protect the American people, our lands, and our natural resources.

The government has paid only lip service to public processes and to integrating environmental protection into border security efforts. We remain hopeful that the Court may yet reach and resolve these important constitutional issues in a pending case brought by El Paso County, Texas.

Congressman Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would secure America's border with Mexico while reducing the negative impact of border security operations on local communities and resources. **The Borderlands Security and Conservation Act of 2007 (H.R. 2593)** would provide the Department of Homeland Security flexibility to choose its border security strategies—rather than mandating an ineffective border wall—while also ensuring protections for wildlife, local communities and federally protected lands.

The Sierra Club supports Congressman Grijalva's legislation and calls on Congress to correct the unconstitutional authority that the Bush Administration has flagrantly abused. In doing so, it would ensure protection of our borderlands, wildlife

and communities at risk from this ineffective and destructive wall. The bill is gaining co-sponsors all the time, and we are hopeful that Congress will address it.

Here in Texas, we know that the border wall fight will be a long one. The construction of the wall has moved from West to East because of the challenges from local residents and property owners that the federal government predicted in the Lone Star State. A vocal coalition including landowners, environmentalists, ecotourism business owners, public officials has made it clear that they oppose the border wall. Individual civil lawsuits against the border wall are pending in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere in the state.

Beyond that, the logistical challenges to the Department of Homeland Security are enormous. While the border wall in Arizona has been built in largely unpopulated desert areas, the proposed Texas sections often go through university campuses, wildlife

refuges and private property. Large waterfront sections of Texas property might end up on the Southern side of the wall under the current map, and Texans are organizing to prevent that from happening.

The Sierra Club has been actively involved for decades in helping to establish the wildlife refuges and protected areas of Texas. The border wall is the worst thing that the federal government could do to the borderlands region. **The Sierra Club takes its obligation to border communities and to border wildlife seriously and will continue in this challenge.** We all have a stake in advancing human rights, fair trade, and environmentally sustainable development around the world.

[Editor's Note: Background information on the potential impacts of the proposed border wall on wildlife and wildlife habitat may be found on the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter website at www.texas.sierraclub.org.]



Harris' Hawk in Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge - an area threatened by the border wall. Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Congressman Brady Introduces Bill to Expand Big Thicket National Preserve

HR 5891 Would Authorize Doubling of the Preserve

U.S. Representative Kevin Brady has introduced HR 5891 in the U.S. Congress to expand the size of Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP) from 97,000 acres to 197,000 acres.

HR 5891 is the product of seven years of effort by environmentalists, including the Sierra Club and other interested persons, to address the massive landscape change that East Texas has experienced. From 2001 to 2007 the biggest landowners in East Texas – timber companies International Paper, Louisiana Pacific, and Temple-Inland – sold off all of their timberlands (about 4 million acres). Concern has risen that reduced landownership size is leading to commercial and residential development of that acreage. The suburbanization of East Texas is advancing quickly.

Major development of lands surrounding the Big Thicket National Preserve – an East Texas natural treasure – could compromise the integrity of the Preserve and the future of the ecosystem. Passage of HR 5891 and subsequent appropriations to acquire land within the expanded boundaries of the Preserve would help maintain the ecological values of the Big Thicket.

What HR 5891 Would Do

HR 5891 would expand existing units of the BTNP; create new units of the BTNP; connect units of the BTNP together; and provide for more “Resilient Habitats” that are better able to combat the effects of climate change.

HR 5891 would also require the construction, operation, and maintenance of canopy walks, elevated boardwalks, and associated interpretation; canoe and kayaking trails guided by GPS waypoints; platforms for docking of kayaks and canoes; and an interpretive center that teaches children and young adults more about the BTNP, wildlife, the environment, and the importance of protecting the BTNP.

your U. S. Representative, and to submit an electronic message to that person, go to <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>.

Send letters urging our two U.S. Senators from Texas to introduce a similar bill in the U.S. Senate. The addresses for the state offices of the U. S. Senators are as follow:

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison

U. S. Senator
1919 Smith, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002

The Honorable John Cornyn

U. S. Senator
5300 Memorial Dr., Suite 980
Houston, Texas 77007

Also, please send letters of thank you to Congressman Brady at his district office:

The Honorable Kevin Brady

U. S. Representative
200 Riverport Drive, Suite 304
Conroe, Texas 77304

Provisions of HR 5891

Section 1 – Sets forth “congressional findings,” including the fact that the Big Thicket is known as the “biological crossroads of North America.”

Section 2 – Authorizes the expansion of the boundaries of the Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP) to cover an additional 100,000 acres.

Section 3 – Directs the Secretary of the Interior to “construct, operate, and maintain a system of canopy walks, elevated boardwalks, and associated interpretation that connect visitors with the ecological diversity of Big Thicket National Preserve. In developing the system, the Secretary may give special consideration to areas in BTNP that are inaccessible to most visitors due to swamp, high vegetation, or fragile ecology”.

Section 4 – Directs the Secretary of the Interior to “construct, operate, and maintain a BTNP interpretive center so that it is easily accessible to a heavily traveled area (such as Beaumont, Texas, near Interstate 10)” and “serves as an educational opportunity for children and young adults to learn more about BTNP, wildlife, and the environment, and the importance of protecting these resources.”

Section 5 – Directs the Secretary of Interior to “construct operate and maintain canoe and kayaking trails in BTNP guided by GPS waypoints” and “include platforms off the water for kayaks and canoes to be docked safely.”

Section 6 – Provides authorization for appropriations to implement the Act.

Show Your Support for the Expansion!

Send a message of support to your member of the U.S. House of Representatives. To find out the name of

For More Information

Contact Lone Star Chapter Big Thicket Chair Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnfbt@juno.com.

Your Environment

Advancing Urban Water Conservation in Texas

State Conference Looks at Turning Policy into Reality

The eighth annual Texas Living Waters Project state water conference was held in Austin on April 18 and focused on “Advancing Urban Water Conservation in Texas” – in other words, on how to turn state policy touting water conservation into real water use reductions and increased water efficiency. The state water conferences are organized by Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), with assistance from National Wildlife Federation and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club – the three partners in the Living Waters Project.

Keynote speaker for the conference was **Mary Ann**

Dickinson, Executive Director of the new Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE). The **Alliance for Water Efficiency** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. The Alliance serves as a North American advocate for water efficient products and programs, and provides information and assistance on water conservation efforts. The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is one of the charter sponsors of AWE. More information about AWE is available at www.a4we.org.

At the conference **Amy Hardberger**, an attorney with EDF, released the findings of a report, *From Policy to Reality: Maximizing Urban Water Conservation in Texas*, that she authored evaluating 18 municipal

water conservation plans on the basis of the quality and scope of those plans. The report concluded that:

“A few of the plans – and their early results – represent some of the most progressive municipal water conservation efforts in the country. Others – in fact the majority of plans reviewed – lack aggressive conservation targets or fail to incorporate the full range

of price and nonprice conservation measures and technologies readily available [emphasis added].”

The report provides important background as a new state law takes effect greatly expanding the number of retail public water utilities required to prepare and submit water conservation plans to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) by May 1, 2009.

Ken Kramer, Director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, participated in a panel on “Advanced Water Conservation,” and highlighted the issue of “water loss.” Water loss refers to that water that is physically lost from a utility’s water distribution system (such as water main breaks

and leaks, customer service line breaks and leaks, and storage breaks). He noted that a 2003 state law required retail public water utilities to perform and file with TWDB a water audit computing the utility’s most recent annual system water loss every five years.

Kramer pointed out, however, that only half of the retail public water utilities in Texas actually filed their first required water loss report in 2006 (although those utilities do serve over 84% of the Texas population). The reporting utilities experienced a total water loss estimated to range from 212,000 to 464,000 acre-feet of water per year. Kramer stressed the need for water customers to hold their utilities accountable for conducting water loss

audits and minimizing water loss as one means of advancing water conservation in the state.

All of the presentations made at the water conference are available on the Living Waters Project website at http://www.texaswatermatters.org/state_water_conference_2008.htm.



Karen Guz, San Antonio Water System, spoke about her city’s successes in water conservation. Photo courtesy of EDF.



The conference was well attended by both water professionals and interested citizens. Photo courtesy of EDF.

Coastal Water Forums a Big Success

Promoting Public Participation in Protecting Environmental Flows

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and cooperating organizations held two successful coastal public forums in May in Bay City and in Victoria as part of the joint Texas Living Waters Project, in which the Lone Star Chapter partners with National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and Environmental Defense Fund. Lone Star Chapter staff members Jennifer Walker and Tyson Broad handled the logistics for the Bay City and Victoria forums, respectively, and opened the events. Jennifer Ellis from NWF provided additional support for the forums.

The forums focused on the new process created by the last state legislative session's Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3 for determining environmental flow standards (instream flow and freshwater inflow needs/requirements) for Texas coastal bays and estuaries and associated river basins. The Bay City forum, co-hosted by The Nature Conservancy (special thanks to Kathy Porter of TNC), highlighted the process as it will apply to the Colorado River Basin and Matagorda Bay. The Victoria forum covered the process as it will apply to the Guadalupe River Basin & San Antonio Bay.



Attendees at the Bay City public forum. Photo courtesy of Haskell Simon.

Speakers and Panelists

Colleagues from NWF, attorney Myron Hess and scientist Norman Johns, explained the importance of environmental flows, the concerns about maintaining adequate flows for a healthy ecosystem and the economy, and the specifics of the new SB 3 process, as it has come to be known. Hess and Johns explained that having a system to protect environmental flows will become critical as the state's population grows and competing demands for water increase.

Additional information at the forums was provided by an invited panel of resource staff from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (Dan Opdyke), Texas Water Development Board (Barney Austin), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Chris Loft and Cory Horan). There were very good questions from the engaged audience at both forums.

The evening forums were well-attended, with coincidentally about 78 people at each. It seemed like most of the elected officials in Victoria, including Victoria Mayor Will Armstrong, who gave a welcome to forum attendees, turned out for the event there.

The hope is that out of these forums come a number

of people who will actively seek membership on the stakeholder committees that will be set up for each respective bay/basin area as part of the SB 3 environmental flows allocation process.

Continued Focus on the SB 3 Process

The Lone Star Chapter held two coastal public forums last September in Houston and Beaumont to highlight the SB 3 process for the first two priority bay/basin areas of the state (Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake, respectively, and their associated river basins). The Sierra Club anticipates continuing these events as the SB 3 process moves to other river basins and estuarine areas. Although the environmental flows allocation process is behind schedule in getting underway in the first bay/basin areas, the stakeholder committees for those initial areas are expected to be appointed this summer. At that point the work on determining environmental flow standards will begin in earnest.

For more information about the SB 3 environmental flows allocation process, go to the following page on the website of the Texas Living Waters Project: <http://www.texaswatermatters.org/environment.htm>.

Your Environment

Sierra Club Appeals TCEQ Decision on Radioactive “Byproducts” License

Commissioners Split on Granting of License

By Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director
Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

In late June the Sierra Club filed litigation in state district court in Travis County to overturn decisions by the governing body of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to deny the public a contested case hearing and to grant a license to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) to dispose of thousands of cubic feet of radioactive “byproduct” material in Andrews County, smack on the border with New Mexico.

The court appeal was preceded a few days earlier by the filing of a “motion for rehearing” with the TCEQ itself asking the TCEQ Commissioners to reconsider the 2-1 decision to (1) deny Sierra Club and 12 residents of Eunice, New Mexico a contested case hearing and (2) issue the license to WCS.

The motion for rehearing was just a necessary formality, however. The Sierra Club was under no illusion that the Commissioners were likely to grant the motion. In order to preserve the right to go to court to overturn the TCEQ decision, the litigation was filed within the necessary 30 days after the Commission order issuing the license.

Problems with the License

TCEQ Commissioner Bryan Shaw and Chairman “Buddy” Garcia voted in favor of granting the license and denying the hearing request, while Commissioner Larry Soward asserted that it would be in TCEQ and the state’s best interest to allow a hearing to proceed to make sure that there were no merits to the argument that the site is unsafe for burial of radioactive materials. **Many residents of Eunice, New Mexico – five miles from the WCS facility in Andrews County, Texas – believe that the license conditions will not protect them from windblown radioactive debris, potential traffic accidents and the possibility of leakage into the underlying aquifer.**

The Sierra Club requested a contested case on behalf of Club members in Eunice. **In that request the Sierra Club noted several problems with the license application, including:**

- **The failure of WCS to adequately characterize the underground geology;**
- **The failure of WCS to model for severe weather events, including high winds;**
- **The failure of WCS to consider the potential for radioactive traffic accidents;**
- **The failure of WCS to look at surface water run-**

off; and

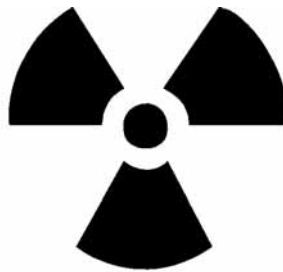
- **The failure of WCS to perform the required one-year pre-operation monitoring at the facility.**

In fact, **Pat Bobeck, a former TCEQ staff geologist who left the agency due to objections to the pending WCS licensing, attests that after years of application review and WCS efforts at improvements in the application, the applicant failed to adequately characterize the site.**

“The application contained inconsistencies and contradictions and a lack of detailed geologic data,” Bobeck noted. “There is water there in that clay and in the siltstone and water is going to move that waste around. It’s going to cause problems and there’s no way

around that.”

Sierra Club member and small business owner Rose Gardner traveled from her home in Eunice in May to attend the TCEQ meeting at which the WCS decision was made. **“This stinks that the TCEQ has denied my right to a hearing about something so close to where my family lives and has been living for the past half a century. We should be able to contest that!”** said Gardner. “I don’t believe this is a safe site. I think that the radioactive waste would filter



RADIOACTIVE

down through the cracks and salt domes in that clay. It'll leach right down into our precious groundwater. I am concerned about what this could mean for the health and well being of my family."

Radioactive "Byproducts"

The license is the first of two being sought by the waste management company. **The "byproduct" license allows the company to bury uranium milling and mining waste, as well as so-called "K-65" waste, leftover highly-contaminated weapons waste that previously was stored in Fernald, Ohio.**

K-65 wastes are the uranium mill tailings resulting from a uniquely concentrated uranium ore discovered before World War II in the former Belgian Congo. This ore had a record uranium content of 65% (as opposed to 0.1 % uranium content of most ore used by the then Atomic Energy Commission). Very high concentrations of thorium and radium (and their decay products, including radon gas) were retained in the tailings (residues).

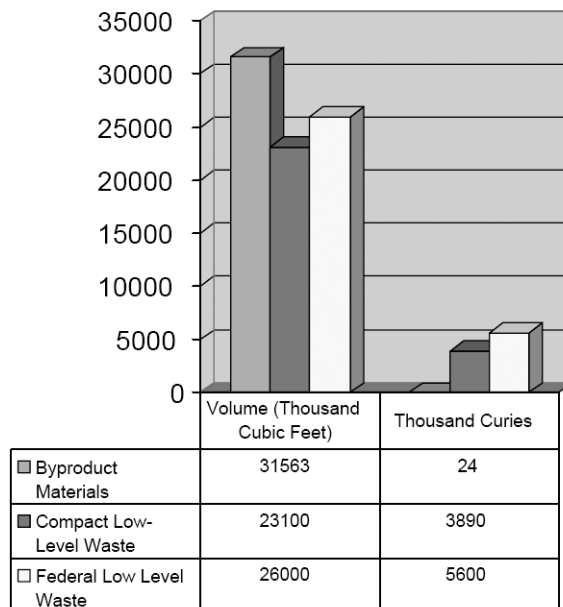
The K-65 ores were refined as a key part of the Manhattan Project during World War II at the Linde Ceramics Plant in New York State and at the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis. The Mallinckrodt K-65 "residues" were later moved to a huge, new, Cold War uranium refinery at Fernald (outside Cincinnati) that commenced operations in 1951. The refining of K-65 ore was continued at Fernald. The Linde K-65 residues were transported to a storage silo built at Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in New York, a short distance from Niagara Falls.

Because of a controversial decision by the U.S. Congress, so-called K-65 wastes were reclassified in 2003 as "11(e)(2)" byproduct materials. The decision allowed the waste being stored at the Fernald site as well as at the similar Niagara Falls Storage Site to be disposed of at sites licensed for disposal of radioactive byproduct materials.

While DOE initially sought to bury the waste at an EnergySolutions facility in Utah, the legislature there was so concerned that it barred some of the waste from being imported. It is important to note that the recommendation from many experts was that the waste should be "vitrified" as opposed to being placed in its present metal containers. In 2005,

WCS was able – over objections from the Sierra Club and others – to get its existing byproduct materials

Volume (Thousand Cubic Feet) and Radioactivity (Thousand Curies) of Proposed Disposal Sites, WCS



WCS Seeks to Make Texas the Dumping Ground for Huge Volumes of Radioactive Waste.

"storage" license amended to be able to import the Fernald waste and "store" it on-site (essentially by placing the containers on a concrete pad), while authorization for disposal was sought. The byproduct material license granted by TCEQ gives the company that disposal authority not only for the Fernald waste but potentially the Niagara Falls waste.

On the Horizon

A second license would allow the company to take low-level radioactive waste from Texas's nuclear power plants, and potentially other states, as well as "federal" low-level radioactive waste from Department of Energy sites. The staff at TCEQ currently is conducting an environmental assessment and review of this second license application, and a draft license for this disposal activity may be released this summer.

There is no timetable yet for court action on the appeal of the TCEQ decision on the byproducts license.

More information about the proposed site and license is on the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter website at <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/conservation/Nuclear.asp>.

Your Environment

Sunset Review Provides Opportunity for Reform of TxDOT

State Transportation Department Undergoing Critical Scrutiny

By Brandt Mannchen, Air Quality Chair
Lone Star Chapter & Houston Regional Group
Sierra Club

This year **the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is undergoing sunset review by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission (TSAC)**. The TSAC was established in 1977 to review each state agency at least every 12 years and recommend whether the agency should be continued or eliminated (in other words, whether the "sun should set" on the agency).

The Commission itself is a 10-member body composed of legislators and public members appointed by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and the Lt. Governor of Texas, who presides over the Texas Senate. Each member of the Commission holds a four-year term, so generally they oversee two sunset review cycles involving a number of agencies during their tenure.

The Sunset Process

During the sunset review process each state agency undergoing review submits a self-report; interviews of persons interested in the agency are conducted by the TSAC staff; a draft report with recommendations for the fate of the agency and any changes in policies, functions, or structure of the agency is prepared by the TSAC staff; a public hearing is held on the report; the TSAC staff prepares a decision document for the Commission with recommendations from the staff report and from the public; the TSAC votes on the various recommendations; and a report on the agency, reflecting the decisions of the Commission, is sent to the Texas Legislature.

During the legislative session next year (2009) a bill will have to be introduced and passed by the Texas Legislature to continue the existence of TxDOT. If the bill is not passed by the Texas Legislature and signed into law by the governor then TxDOT will cease to exist. In essence sunset review is a time for the agency to justify its existence; for citizens and others to recommend changes; and for the Texas Legislature to make changes so the agency operates more efficiently and in a manner that better represents the public interest.

A Rare Opportunity

The sunset review of TxDOT is a rare opportunity for citizens to speak out about the concerns they have about our state transportation agency. TxDOT

has been embroiled in a number of controversies including:

- 1) Using taxpayer dollars to lobby citizens in favor of the I-69/Trans-Texas Corridor;
- 2) Declaring that TxDOT wanted to buy back interstate highways so it could toll them;
- 3) Pushing for funding of the proposed \$5.4 billion Grand Parkway;
- 4) Selling off and privatizing, via comprehensive development agreements with private companies, the operation of our highways as toll roads;
- 5) Pushing to construct toll roads while reducing maintenance of existing roads;
- 6) Conducting inadequate environmental reviews of highway projects;
- 7) Focusing on road building instead of alternatives like mass transit as a way to address congestion where people live;
- 8) Making public participation difficult and ignoring public opinion regarding road projects;
- 9) Acting as a development agency rather than a transportation agency;
- 10) Failing to use legislatively approved funding mechanisms to build transportation projects.



One of the transportation policy goals of the Sierra Club is to promote the use of mass transit (which could also lead to a well-read society). Daniel and Brenda Hotard on the DART. Photo by Ali Hojati.

generates air, noise, and water pollution; habitat and wetland destruction of wildlife and sensitive species; increases water usage and flooding with effects on instream flows and inflows into bays and estuaries; and stretches carrying capacity and population beyond ecosystem limits.

The Lone Star Chapter has as one priority and goal for 2008-2009, "Reform of the TxDOT in the sunset review process to promote a comprehensive and environmentally sound state transportation policy". Other Responsible Transportation Choice goals that the Lone Star Chapter has adopted, which fit in with TxDOT sunset review are:

- 1) Expansion of funding and other support for mass transit and other transportation alternatives to the heavy dependence on vehicles.
- 2) Opposition to the development of the Trans-Texas Corridor and support for alternative means of meeting transportation needs in a manner that better protects rural values, avoids habitat fragmentation, and promote smart energy solutions.

The Sierra Club has submitted comments on the TSAC staff report on TxDOT. A copy of those comments is available on the Lone Star Chapter website at www.texas.sierraclub.org.

Sierrans and others who are interested in participating in the TxDOT sunset review should contact: Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager, TSAC, P.O. Box 13066, Austin, Texas 78711, 512-463-1300, jennifer.jones@sunset.state.tx.us, for further information. You can also review the TSAC website at www.sunset.state.tx.us and get more details about the upcoming Sunset Advisory Commission meetings.

Please also inform the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin (512-477-1729) that you are interested in the TxDOT sunset review.

TxDOT Review Schedule

The TSAC staff completed the staff report on TxDOT in May. A copy of the staff report on TxDOT may be found at <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/81.htm#txdot>.

On **July 15** there will be a **public hearing** in Austin, Texas, held by the TSAC, to take public comments on the staff report. At meetings on **September 23 and 24** the TSAC will vote on recommendations and the final report and then submit that material to the Texas Legislature.

From January through May 2009 a bill or bills will be introduced in the Texas Legislature likely to continue the agency but probably with changes to TxDOT. Subcommittee or committees meetings will be held on the bills; lobbying will occur; changes will be made; and votes will be held in subcommittees, committees, and on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate in an effort to pass a TxDOT bill.

The Sierra Club's Interest in TxDot

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and its regional groups are very interested in the sunset review of TxDOT. Highway projects are often environmentally very destructive and cause sprawl development that

State of the Sierra Club

New National Coal Campaign Organizer for Texas Hired

Laurie Vanhose Joins the Sierra Club Team

The Sierra Club is pleased to announce the hiring of Laurie Vanhose as the new National Coal Campaign organizer for Texas. Laurie started her new position in June and is working with other national, field, and chapter staff out of the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin. Amy Everhart, Senior Regional Representative, is Laurie's supervisor, but Laurie will be working closely also with Lone Star Chapter staff members Cyrus Reed, Donna Hoffman, and Ken Kramer in carrying out the work of the Coal Campaign in Texas.

The Sierra Club launched the National Coal Campaign in 2007 in recognition of the serious threats to the environment and the climate posed by a new generation of coal-fired power plants and expanded coal mining. The primary goals of the Coal Campaign are to prevent the construction of a new fleet of coal-fired power plants in the United States and to divert investments currently slated for new coal plants into clean energy alternatives. For more information about the Club's work on the coal issue, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/>.

The National Coal Campaign is building on the momentum already ignited through Sierra Club organiz-

ing and legal advocacy across the country – including the opposition to new coal plants in Texas. This coordinated national campaign is allowing the Club to expand organizing, technical and legal services to more locations and states, and provide the Club with the overarching framework needed to convey the innumerable problems with relying on coal.

Texas is the latest state to benefit from this expanded effort. Laurie's hiring will allow the Sierra Club in Texas to ramp up the activities in opposition to new coal plants and in support of alternative energy sources.

Laurie comes to the Sierra Club with a wealth of organizing and public policy experience. Originally from Maryland, she has lived in Austin since 2002, and most recently she worked as an independent consultant, coordinating the activities of the Texas Election

Reform Coalition. She spent a number of years working with the disability community, especially on voting rights issues. Laurie got a first hand look at the problems with coal years ago while working as an Appalachia Service Project Volunteer in the Appalachian coal country. She is dedicated to moving the country away from coal toward cleaner energy sources.



Laurie Vanhose

**Make plans to attend the Sierra Celebration at
Caddo Lake State Park, October 10 - 12!**

**For the latest information, see www.texas.sierraclub.org or call
512-477-1729.**

2007 Lone Star Chapter Award Winners Recognized

Manuel's restaurant in downtown Austin was the scene of the luncheon on April 5 honoring the winners of the 2007 Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club Awards. These awards are given annually in recognition of Sierra Club members and others who have made significant contributions to the Club and/or the environment during the previous year or over several years. Following is a brief review of the 2007 Chapter Award winners and their accomplishments. Two of the awardees were not able to attend the event on April 5.

Orrin Bonney Award

– Patricia (Pat) Suter

The Orrin Bonney Award is the Chapter's highest award, given to the person who over a number of years has exemplified the spirit and commitment of the Sierra Club by contributing their time and effort in one or several

positions of authority. The 2007 award was presented to

Patricia (Pat) Suter, long-time chair of the Coastal Bend Regional Group of the Sierra Club, based in Corpus Christi.

Pat has freely given her time and talents to the people of the Coastal Bend for the last 40 years. With no other gain except protecting Mother Nature, she has been a key public figure and spokesperson for numerous environmental issues and causes. As a former chemistry professor, Pat's expertise and professional knowledge have a strong credibility. She has been involved in every major environmental activity in the region from Air Quality Monitoring to the establishment of the Estuary Program. Her name and prestige are gold.

In addition to chairing the Coastal Bend Sierra Club Group, Pat been actively involved with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, U.T. Marine Science Institute, Del Mar College, the Coastal Bend Environmental Coalition, the Beach Access Coalition, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, the Nueces County Beach Committee, and many other organizations.

Chapter Service Award

– Lorraine Gibson

Lorraine has been one of the most active participants of the Houston Group's Inner City Outings Committee



Pat Suter

Photo by Jerome Collins

since she first joined the committee approximately eight years ago. For the past four years, Lorraine has served as the Chair of Houston ICO. During this period she has personally led many outings, trained numerous volunteers, and overseen the organization of a full schedule of ICO outings. She has worked tirelessly to research new destinations and educational opportunities for kids. Due to her efforts hundreds of Houston area students have been able to participate in a variety of educational field trips and experience nature first hand.

In addition to her work with ICO, Lorraine has been an active outings leader with the Houston Group, and has organized and led many adult trips, both in Texas and around the country. She has organized numerous camping skills classes, and camp cooking classes.

She has also organized Outings Leader Trainings for the Houston Group. Lorraine has been one of the Houston

Group's most dedicated, positive, and resourceful members. She has been a linchpin of the Houston Group's outings program for the past eight years.



Lorraine Gibson

Photo by Jerome Collins

Environmental Justice Award

– Mariana Chew-Sánchez

As a single mother of two young girls, Mariana Chew-Sanchez knew she had to do something about the toxic pollution coming from the ASARCO lead and copper smelter in El Paso, Texas. The plant is one of the largest producers of lead contamination on the border, having

continued on next page

State of the Sierra Club

continued from previous page

spewed arsenic, lead, and other contaminants into residential neighborhoods of El Paso—and its Mexican sister-city right across the border, Ciudad Juárez—for more than a hundred years.

Working with Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program, she began making connections throughout El Paso, bringing together other moms, Steelworkers, scientists, and residents to show the seriousness of the lead contamination problem and the need for ASARCO to clean up its act. Mariana's tireless efforts reached a huge victory when a state judge recommended that the ASARCO plant not receive a renewal on their permit to pollute. Although the state environmental agency has subsequently issued the permit renewal, the matter is being contested in court.

Mariana is currently the Sierra Club's environmental justice community organizer for El Paso. She holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from The University of Texas at El Paso and is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation in environmental sciences and engineering. Mariana grew up in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas, and she was always committed to environmental issues. She tells stories of doing community organizing and literacy training work with her grandparents in Ciudad Juárez. Much of her ability to operate in Juárez comes from the relationships she has developed over her lifetime in the border community.

Environmental Reporting Award

(volunteer) – James Moody

James Moody was the recipient of a Lone Star Chapter Environmental Reporting Award in recognition of his volunteer work in communications. James is the consummate example of a local Sierra Club group newsletter editor. He has been the editor of what is now the *Sierra Sentinel* newsletter of the Greater Fort



Award Winner Mariana Chew-Sánchez (second from left) with daughters Ximena Chew (left) and Thelma Priscila Chew (second from right), and niece Noli Chew (right). Photo by Jerome Collins.

Worth Sierra Club Group for over twelve years.

James has always managed to produce a professional newsletter, no matter what the circumstances from month to month. Some months the challenge has been trying to fit in too much information, other months not having enough copy. Through last minute revisions, accommodating holidays and out of town outings, and any number of other exigencies James always gets the job done.

Environmental Reporting Award

(professional) – The Texas Observer:

Jake Bernstein, Editor

While other publications frequently assign reporters to environmental issues, no publication does so with such regularity and integrity and concern for the well-being of the citizens of Texas as does the *Texas Observer*. Their articles are thorough, solid, fact-based and, complete. Their sympathy for the people that suffer the devastation of rapacious anti-environmental activity on the part of individuals and corporations and the public entities that collude with them is without equal in Texas journalism. When Sierrans want the

straight skinny on a Texas environmental issue that will be free from big-media bias and will give them facts they can bank on, they look it up in the *Observer*.

The *Texas Observer* devotes a much greater proportion of its pages to coverage of environmental issues than do even major metropolitan newspapers in the state. This is especially impressive given the fact that the *Observer* is published bi-weekly rather than daily.

The thrust of a publication's coverage of topics is often a reflection of its editorial leadership. That's why, special recognition was given to **Jake Bernstein**, the editor of the *Observer* for the past several years (Jake has since announced his departure from the *Observer*).



Editor Jake Bernstein accepted the Environmental Reporting Award for the Texas Observer. Pictured here with Bernstein (left) is Chuck Byrd, Austin Sierra Club Group leader who nominated the Observer for the award. Photo by Jerome Collins.

State of the Sierra Club

Special Service Award

– Citizens Transportation Coalition

The Citizens' Transportation Coalition, organized in 2004, provides a needed independent voice that concentrates on transportation issues in the Houston area. The Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club has partnered with the CTC on several locally important transportation issues: noise abatement techniques for the construction of the Loop 610 adjacent to Memorial Park, the routing of light rail, and currently the Grand Parkway and sunset review of TxDOT. Their leadership was instrumental in raising the visibility of the light rail issue on Richmond Avenue in the media and galvanizing support for light rail on this important local transportation corridor.

The CTC organizes public information meetings, hosts a website with discussion forums on various transportation issues, and provides on-line fact sheets on an array of transportation questions. These fact sheets include general topics of light rail expansion, commuter rail, and freight rail as well as analyses of specific projects such as Interstate 10 inside Loop 610 and the Interstate 45 Bayou Crossing. All of the fact sheets are clear, well written, and demonstrate an understanding of the deep connection between transportation choices and the environment.

Special Service Award

– Penny Miller

Penny Miller, a retired Lt. Colonel in the U. S. Air Force, in 2007 chaired the committee to organize the Sustainable Living Eco Fair for the Red River Sierra Club Group in Wichita Falls. The Fair, the first of its kind in North Texas, was highly successful, with nearly 30 exhibits and 1000 attendees, and they even showed a net profit, which is providing seed money for the next

fair this fall.

Penny, a biologist by training, has served in a variety of volunteer positions. She was a Board member and then President of Wild Bird Rescue, and she served on the League of Women Voters of Texas water committee. Penny is a certified Texas Maser Naturalist and participated in the Breeding Bird Surveys for the U. S. Geological Survey. She is a member of the North Texas Bird and Wildlife Club and a sporadic blogger on wildlife in the North Texas area.

For all of these activities and for her overall enthusiasm in promoting public education on environmental matters, Penny was awarded one of the two Special Service Awards for 2007.



Representatives of Citizens Transportation Coalition (CTC) attending the Chapter Awards Luncheon were (left to right) Robin Holzer (Chair), Adra Hooks, and Gene Creely II. Photo by Jerome Collins

Virginia Murray Brewer Outings

Award – Marilyn Turnage

The winner of the 2007 Virginia Murray Brewer Award for outings was **Marilyn Turnage**, a retired Continental Airlines employee who joined the Sierra Club almost three decades ago and has been an active outings leader for well over 20 years. She is an avid birder and world traveler. She served on the Greater Fort Worth Group's Executive Committee in the early 1980s, but her primary service to the Club has been in outings and sharing programs of her world travels.

Her outings are characterized by great places, fun filled easy going activities, great camp fire stories, fun and camaraderie, great meals, and Witches Punch from a caldron. Marilyn's adventuresome spirit has led Fort Worth Sierrans to remote places that many would not have experienced otherwise. Her favorite is Caddo Lake. Over the years, Marilyn has led approximately 20 canoe outings to those cypress swamps, where campers

stay on Goat Island, owl watch at night, and talk for hours around the camp fire.

Marilyn truly follows John Muir's footsteps, and that is all that is left on her outings, footprints. She walks the talk in all areas of her life to minimize her carbon footprint on the earth she loves so well and shares so well with all of us.



Marilyn Turnage

Photo by Jerome Collins.

State of the Sierra Club

A Golden Opportunity for You and for Protection of the Environment in Texas!

Because the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, in this “non-legislative” year, is currently engaged in a number of public education and litigation initiatives that may be funded through grants from The Sierra Club Foundation (a charitable organization legally separate from the Sierra Club), we are encouraging our supporters to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation for one of the funds associated with eligible projects of the Lone Star Chapter.

If you are in a position in 2008 to make a tax-deductible contribution to support our public education and litigation activities for clean air protection, proper management of radioactive wastes, protection of the water quality Bosque River watershed from industrial dairies, or general environmental protection, please choose ONE of the funds named in the form below and send your check made payable to “The Sierra Club Foundation” with the appropriate fund designated in your check memo to the address indicated on the form. [Please note: We cannot accept credit card charges for donations to The Sierra Club Foundation.]

If you have questions, please call Ken Kramer, Director, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club at 512-476-6962 or send an e-mail to ken.kramer@sierraclub.org.

The Sierra Club Foundation Donation Form - 2008

Yes! I want to contribute to The Sierra Club Foundation's support for public education and litigation for environmental protection in Texas through a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation for (choose ONE):

_____ *The Lone Star Chapter Fund (all issues)*

_____ *The Texas Clean Air Fund (air quality work)*

_____ *The Texas Radioactive Waste Fund (radioactive waste issues)*

_____ *The Bosque Watershed Protection Fund (protecting water quality in the Bosque watershed)*

Amount Contributed: \$ _____

_____ Please do not publish my name as a donor.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to: **The Sierra Club Foundation. In the memo of your check, please indicate only ONE of the four above-named funds to receive your donation. We cannot accept credit card donations at this time.**

Mail this form with your donation to the following address:

The Sierra Club Foundation

ATTN: Ken Kramer

P.O. Box 1931

Austin, TX 78767

For Office Use: Check # _____ Check Date _____ Amt. _____ Date Rec'd _____ SCR _____ Database _____ Thx _____ AC _____

Regional Group Directory

Regional Group Directory

Alamo: Jerry Morrisey, Chair, 19631 Encino Way, San Antonio, TX 78259-2327, 210-497-3553, Jlmorrisey@aol.com Mtgs: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway, San Antonio.

Austin: Chris Lehman, Chair, PO Box 4581, Austin 78765, (512) 472-3774, lehmanck@aol.com or <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin/index.html>. Mtgs: 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., LCRA Hancock Bldg., 3701 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin.

Big Bend: Don Dowdey, Chair, 50 Sunny Glen, Alpine, TX 79830, (915) 837-3210, ddowdey@wildblue.net Mtgs: 3rd Thursday in February-May, September-December. Time: 7 p.m. Place: Lawrence Hall on the Sul Ross University Campus, Room 309. <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/bigbend/index.html>

Coastal Bend: Pat Suter, Chair, PO Box 3512, Corpus Christi, TX 78404, (361) 852-7938, phsuter@stx.rr.com or <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/coastalbend/index.html>. Mtgs: 3rd Tuesday of the month, please call for time and location.

Cross Timbers: Peggy La Point, Chair, 1900 Highland Park Cir., Denton, TX 76205, tnplapoint@aol.com (940) 891-4984 The Cross Timbers Group does not hold group meetings, they communicate via their website, e-mail, and newsletters. Contact Peggy La Point at the above phone number and /or e-mail.

Dallas: Wendel Withrow, Chair, P. O. Box 800365, Dallas, TX 75380, (214) 369-5543, wendel@dallassierraclub.org – Mtgs: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Center for Spiritual Living, 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115 (near Spring Valley Road and the North Dallas Tollway.)

Galveston: Mark Muhich, Chair, P.O. Box 1392, Galveston, TX 77553, (409) 763-0482, markmuhich@peoplepc.com, Mtgs: 3rd Thursday of every month, 7p.m. at Rosenberg Library.

Golden Triangle: Bruce Walker, Chair, 795 19th St, Beaumont 77706, 409/924-3154 bruce.walker@twcable.com or <http://www.texas.sierraclub.org/triangle/index.html>. Mtgs: 1st Tues. of the month, 5855 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont. (Lodge inside Gander Mtn. Sports Store)

Greater Ft. Worth: Don Young, Chair, P. O. Box 1874, Burleson, TX 76097-1874, 817-437-0175, fw.sierra.chair@gmail.com Mtgs: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Azalea Room, Garden Center, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth

Houston: Evelyn Merz, 7095 Santa Fe, Houston, TX 77061, elmerz@hal-pc.org, 713-694-8228 Mtgs: 1st Thursday of the month, 7.00 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church, 3788 Richmond (Parking lot accessible from Timmons).

Lower Rio Grande Valley: Jim Chapman, Chair, 200 East 11th St, Weslaco, TX 78596. (956) 428-4171, jimcyn@hiline.net. Group website: <http://www.egroups.com/group/valleysierrans> Mtgs: call for time and location.

Pineywoods: Pam Blackledge, Chair, 1512 Virginia Avenue, Nacogdoches, TX 75964-5247, pblackledge@earthlink.net. E-mail the group chair for meeting times and locations.

Red River: Joy Parsons, 4723 Augusta Lane, Wichita Falls, TX 76302-3327, 940-723-2811; Mtgs: 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Midwestern University campus [Call for building location & room number.]

Other Local Sierra Club Contacts

Northeast Texas – Richard LeTourneau (Longview), 903-643-0060, richardoi@aol.com

Permian Basin Conservation Committee – Terry Burns (Midland), 432-689-2712, terryb4@suddenlink.net

Waco – Bruce Allen (Woodway), 254-776-3036, allenbw2@sbcglobal.net



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Chapter Directory

Lone Star Chapter State Conservation Office:

Mailing: P.O. Box 1931, Austin, TX 78767-1931 phone: (512) 477-1729
 Physical: 1202 San Antonio St, Austin 78701-1834 fax: (512) 477-8526
<http://www.texas.sierraclub.org> lonestar.chapter@sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter Executive Committee:

Chair	Andy Balinsky, 6601 Auburndale, Austin, 78723-2703	balinsky@employees.org	(512) 926-7312
Vice Chair	Margot Clarke, 5106 Evergreen Ct., Austin 78731-5420	margotclarke@austin.rr.com	(512) 463-9821
Secretary	Sandra Grimes, 812-D Winflo Dr, Austin 78703	sgrimes@grandecom.net	(512) 472-3774
At-Large	Judy Aronow, 2001 Lancaster St., San Marcos 78666	jaronow@austin.rr.com	(512) 667-6837
	Rita Beving, 14605 Dartmouth Ct, Addison 75001	antiquerita@aol.com	(214) 373-3808
	Teresa Carrillo, 3522 County Road 258, Realitos 78736	teresacarrillo@gmail.com	361-855-9012
	Don Dowdey, 50 Sunny Glen, Alpine 79830	ddowdey@wildblue.net	(432) 837-3210
	David Griggs, 14605 Dartmouth Ct, Addison 75001	texvol@aol.com	(972) 406-9667
	Evelyn Merz, 7095 Santa Fe, Houston 77061	elmerz@hal-pc.org	(713) 644-8228
	Rusty Middleton, P.O. Box 3078, Austin 78764-3078	rustymiddleton@sbcglobal.net	(512) 826-7880
	David Wells, 13318 Vista Bonita, San Antonio 78216	dwells1315@yahoo.com	(210) 271-0640

Regional Group Representatives:

Alamo	Hector Gonzalez, 615 Willow, San Antonio 78202	hgonzalez@aol.com	(210) 226-6069
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Big Bend	John Ehrke, 516 John West Rd, Alpine 79830	jdehrke@yahoo.com	(432) 837-2218
Coastal Bend	Hal Suter, 1002 Chamberlain St., Corpus Christi, 78404	rabblrouser@stx.rr.com	(361) 852-7938
Dallas	John Rath, 1537 Country Forest Ct, Grapevine 76051	jrfree49@yahoo.com	(817) 488-3489
Galveston	Mark Muhich, P.O. Box 1392, Galveston 77553	markmarkmuhich@ev1.net	(409) 763-0482
Golden Triangle	Bill Tetley, 3607 Gary Ave., Nederland 77627-7145	tetley.wr@juno.com	(409) 722-8974
Grt. Fort Worth	Tolbert Greenwood, 6728 Kirkwood, Ft. Worth 76116	greentol10@yahoo.com	(817) 737-8698
Houston	Jim Williams, 4304 Fiesta Lane, Houston 77081	ezz@pdq.net	(713) 748-8133
L. Rio Grande V.	Ed Glaze, P.O. Box 128, Port Mansfield 78598-0128	eglaze@VSTA.com	(956) 944-2823
Pineywoods	Adrian Van Dellen, 48 Campus Cove, Woodville 75979-9643	naturmate@earthlink.net	(409) 429-5893
Red River	Joanna Bonnheim, 2911 Sturdevandt Place, Wichita Falls 76301	hirschikiss@sbcglobal.net	(940) 766-6206

Conservation Issue Chairs:

Conservation Chair	Evelyn Merz, 7095 Santa Fe, Houston 77061	elmerz@hal-pc.org	(713) 644-8228
Conservation Vice-Chair	Rusty Middleton (see above)		
Air Quality	Brandt Mannchen, 5431 Carew, Houston 77096	brandtshnfbt@juno.com	(713) 664-5962
Coastal (Lower Coast)	Mary Lou Campbell, RR#2 Box 88, Mercedes, 78570	marylou@hiline.net	(956) 514-9321
Coastal (Middle Coast)	Pat Suter 1002 Chamberlain St., Corpus Christi, 78404	phsuter@stx.rr.com	(361) 852-7938
Coastal (Upper Coast)	Page Williams, 2234 Ashford Hollow Lane, Houston 77077	page.williams@gmail.com	(281) 679-7221
Corporate Accountability	David Wells (see above)		
Endangered Species	Evelyn Merz (see above)		
	Page Williams (see above)		
Energy	Ann Drumm, 4340 Valley Ridge Rd, Dallas TX 75220-1928	ann@dallassierraclub.org	(214) 350-6108
Forest Management	Brandt Mannchen (see above)		
International Population	Gayle Loeffler, 1472 Latigo Ln, Flower Mound 75022	gloeffler@twu.edu	(817) 430-3035
State Parks	Evelyn Merz (see above)		
Transportation	Dick Kallerman, 2510 Cedarview Dr, Austin 78702	cedartex@aol.com	(512) 444-1326
Water	Sheril Smith, 4875 CR 309, Lexington, 78947-9694	sherilsmith@ev1.net	(979) 773-4405

Chapter Activity Chairs & Leaders:

Awards	Margot Clarke (see above)
Legal Chair	Tolbert Greenwood (see above)
Outings Co-Chairs	Sandra Grimes and Tolbert Greenwood (see above)
Political Chair	David Griggs (see above)
Treasurer	Hector Gonzalez (see above)
Assistant Treasurer	Ken Kramer (see below)

Chapter Staff:

Chapter Director	Ken Kramer	kenwkramer@aol.com	(512) 476-6962
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Conservation Director	Cyrus Reed	cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org	(512) 477-1729

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Chapter Calendar

2008 Lone Star Chapter Calendar



July 19	Chapter Executive Committee Meeting	Port Aransas
Oct. 10-12	Sierra Celebration	Caddo Lake SP
Nov. 4	General Election Day	
Nov. 15	Legislative Workshop	Austin
Nov. 16	Chapter Executive Committee Meeting	Austin

Additional details and any changes or additions will be posted to the Lone Star Chapter website (www.texas.sierraclub.org) as they become available. For more information, check the website or call the Lone Star Chapter office in Austin at 512-477-1729.

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