

# SIERRA CLUB BARRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

AUGUST 2001

## League of Women Voters recognizes Burnam

By BOB SCOTT

Conservation Chair

On Saturday, April 28, 2001, at the Marriot West Loop Hotel in Houston, the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund had their Seventh Annual Excellence in Environmental Awareness Awards Luncheon. They recognized an Individual (our own Earl Burnam), A non-profit Organization, A Government Entity, The Media Nominee, and The Catherine Perrine Award to a League member for Excellence in Environmental Awareness.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to see the write up by Neil Strassman in the Sunday, April 28, 2001 Star Telegram. It was a great write-up on Earl and the award he received.

For those Sierrans that may be unfamiliar with or have forgotten some of the things that Earl has done to date in his efforts toward Environmental Protection, here is a summary of what was started when he became a Sierra Club member in 1973.

Some of his efforts for GFWSC included serving as Conservation Legislation Coordinator for 5 years, then as Conservation Chair and Air Quality Coordinator most recently.

Earl's efforts weren't limited to the Sierra Club. As a member of The Fort Worth Audubon Society, obviously he enjoyed bird watching, but also served as Conservation Chair and co-chair for 9 years. He has also served on the Audubon Council of Texas Board of Directors which included 2 years as president of ACT.

He is a founding member of the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness which began in 1990 and continues as an active member, currently as Vice President of Programs and lead person on issues related to air quality. He served as President of TCEA for 3 years. He was TCEA's representative to the Air Quality Advisory Com-



**BURNAM RECEIVES AWARD:** Long-time Fort Worth Group member Earl Burnam was honored recently in Houston by the League of Women Voters of Texas.

mittee at NCTCOG.

He currently serves as the Environmental Chair for the Senior Citizens Alliance of Tarrant County and the Senior Political Action Committee, a position he has held for several years. The list goes on.

Earl organized an Enlightened Pesticide Use Workshop in 1984 and in 1987, organized A Clean Air Coalition- Tarrant County. Then in 1988 and 1990 he organized two workshops on Environmental Activism. In 1989, he organized a workshop on Clean Air Act Reauthorization.

Upon acquiring electronic communication skills, Earl has been the principal communicator to many who are concerned about the environment. Again the list goes on.

With or without an award, Earl continues to be a tireless worker on environmental matters. We applaud his deserved recognition.

### Talkin' Turkey

Plan to spend Thanksgiving with us in Big Bend. Look for more details and a sign-up form next month.

On the inside

The Navy missed the boat, but no one will miss the planes!



The ill-advised proposal to put a bombing range in South Texas has nose-dived. Story on Page 4

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# Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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817/588-1167

All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

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Vice-chair	Jenny Lehman	263-1357
Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Secretary	Russell Andrew	561-7628
	Paula Thomson	860-4441
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Clean Air	Earl Burnam	244-2328
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## Web Pages

Fort Worth Group <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tw/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

The Planet [www.sierraclub.org/planet](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet)

Political page [www.sierraclub.org/politics](http://www.sierraclub.org/politics)

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# Not just for environmentalists— Organized religion urging President Bush to 'tend the garden,' not ravish the land

The greenhouse has turned into a hothouse for President Bush. His administration comes late to the understanding that we are entrusted by a generous Creator as stewards to "till and tend the Garden," not ravage and plunder it. We applaud the President for seeking scientific advice to guide his policies. The recent report by scholars of the National Academy of Sciences, drafted at Mr. Bush's request, affirmed the reliability of research that shows global warming to be a reality, and human activity a factor in this accelerating climate shift. Mr. Bush said he will take his experts' advice seriously.

But the administration's energy initiatives will likely only make global warming worse. President Bush and Vice President Cheney proposed to increase production of fossil fuels and construct dozens of power plants, moves that would enlarge greenhouse gas emissions.

In response to the administration's initial claim that conservation is merely a "personal virtue," widespread public reaction led them belatedly to add conservation measures to their plan. But conservation should be a centerpiece, not an afterthought; a solemn

vow, not a concession.

Many economists and scientists have shown the values of conservation to both the economy and the environment. We would remind Mr. Bush that there are moral and spiritual imperatives that also pull us in that direction.

—Conservation is grounded biblically in the Judeo-Christian concept of stewardship. We have a moral obligation to choose the safest, cleanest, most sustainable sources of energy to protect and preserve God's gift of creation.

—Conservation is a responsibility to future generations. By depleting energy sources, fouling the air, poisoning the land, and increasing reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power, we jeopardize the health and well-being of our descendents.

—Conservation is an issue of justice. Energy policy must benefit not only the healthy and wealthy, but also "the least among us," the poor, the ill and the vulnerable -- those whom God has called us to protect.

—Conservation is an act of prudence. To assure economic security, it is not

*Please see INVESTMENT, Page 6*

## August-September

## Fort Worth Sierra Club

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13	14	15 General Meeting 7 p.m. Newsletter deadline	16	17	18 Wilderness navigation class	19
20 Sierra Singles dinner	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Conservation Committee meeting	29	30	31	Sept. 1	2
3 Newsletter folding/labeling party 6 p.m.	4	5	6	7 Illinois River canoe trip, September 6-9	8	9
10	11 ExCom meeting 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Beginner backpack seminar	16

# Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

*Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant.*

## August 10, Friday

Join us on a night hike at the Fort Worth Nature Center for a star show and adventure along the trails of the prairie of west Fort Worth. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Hardwicke Interpretative Center inside the Nature Center to begin this hike. We will travel for about 3-4 miles with frequent stops for star gazing and wildlife encounters. Bring water, flashlights, and insect repellent. Wear sturdy shoes and cool clothing. For directions to the Nature Center, call 237-1111. Hike will be led by park naturalist. Sierra Club contact: Claudia Blalock, 626-6063.

## August 18, Saturday

Wilderness Navigation Class. Learn the fundamentals of your way in the wilderness, taught by Arthur Kuehne and Bill Greer of the Dallas Group. Among the subjects covered are: purchasing and reading maps, how not to get lost, what to do if you do get lost, GPS, different kinds of compasses, and how to use your compass. If you have a compass, bring it. If you don't have one, we will show you what to look for when you purchase one. The class will be at the Fort Worth Nature Center, Hwy 199 west of 820 West at the Lake Worth exit. It starts promptly at 9 a.m. The classroom part of the course will end about 3:30 p.m. After that we will head to the trails of the Nature Center to practice our skills. We should be finished by 5 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks are provided. Fee is \$10 for Sierra Club members and \$15 for non-members. Call Wendy Lambert at 251-0016 (before 9 p.m.) or email [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@concrete-pipe.org) to reserve your place or for more info. Class will be held only with minimum of 8 participants.

## September 6-9, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe the Illinois River in SW Oklahoma led by Marilyn Sumner with car

camping. This is flat water paddling suitable for beginners. Leave the Metroplex on Thursday evening for canoeing all day Friday and Saturday. For details, contact Marilyn Sumner, 491-2382.

## September 15, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Class at the Fort Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn how to set up a tent, select the right clothing and equipment, plan a trip, pack, and enjoy the outdoors. Class taught by the Outings Committee whose members have a combined camping experience of over 60 years. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided. To register, contact Claudia Blalock, 626-6063. Cost: \$15 per person.

## October 6-7, Saturday-Sunday

Beginner backpack on Big Brown Creek Trail, in Fairfield State Park near Fairfield. Saturday morning we will hike through 3 miles of wooded and swampy areas. Some bluffs along the trail offer excellent views of the lake. The campsite has water and flush toilets – so it is not very primitive. Sunday we will hike out on the same trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@concrete-pipe.org)

## October 13-14, Saturday-Sunday

Beginner backpack at Buckeye Mountain/Caney Creek. The Caney Creek Wilderness is located in West Central Arkansas. Dense hardwood forests cover the area and wildlife is abundant. Saturday we will hike the Buckeye Mountain Trail 6 miles to camp near a waterfall. Sunday we will hike out 4 miles on the Caney Creek Trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Marcos Jorge. Co-leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@concrete-pipe.org)

## Oct. 27-28, Friday-Saturday

Join us for a repeat trip to Caddo Lake State Park over the Halloween weekend and enjoy canoeing with a full moon. For those able to leave the Metroplex on Friday night, camping is available by reservation at Caddo Lake State Park. Call 512-389-8900 for reservations or contact the Texas State Park website. On Saturday, we will canoe from Pine Needles Lodge near the state park to a remote island and camp there. Canoe rentals are available

through Pine Needles Lodge. Enjoy a potluck dinner on Saturday Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon nearby. Leaders: Marilyn Sumner, 491-2382 or Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

## November 10-11, Saturday-Sunday

Backpack the David Boren Trail. The trail is located in Beavers Bend State Park in Southeastern Oklahoma. The trail will cover about 10 miles with spectacular views on a bluff overlook. Camp will be along a flowing stream. The trail will have some steep hills and stream crossings. If you want a challenging hike, come and join the fun. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@concrete-pipe.org) Co-leader: Marcos Jorge

## Dec. 24-27, Monday-Thursday

Celebrate the Holidays by backpacking in the largest canyon in the world, the Grand Canyon. Experience hiking through an alpine environment to desert in one day. We'll enjoy the magnificent vistas on the way to the bottom on the first day. We'll do a day hike during our rest day at Phantom Ranch then take two days to climb back up to the South Rim. The backpacking mileage will be about 18 miles and will be on steep trails. Some portions of the trail will be exposed. Because of the nature of the trip, it is rated as "strenuous." The trip will be limited to 10 people and only to those who have had multi-day backpack trips on rugged terrain. Participants should not be afraid of heights and not become dizzy when looking into a precipice. Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) charges \$5 per person per night for the permit. There is also a \$10 processing fee. A \$16 check made out to Wendy Lambert will need to be received by July 30 to make the permit deadline. The GCNP has no provisions for refunds. Therefore, no refunds will be available even if we do not get a permit. If we obtain the permit, a refund for the fee will only be given if there is someone on the waiting list willing to take your place. All participants must be approved by a trip leader due to nature of trip. Leaders: Wendy Lambert 251-0016(H) or [wlambert@concrete-pipe.org](mailto:wlambert@concrete-pipe.org) and Marcos Jorge 972-394-2546 (H) or [mkkj@hotmail.com](mailto:mkkj@hotmail.com)

**Fort Worth Group's web site: <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>**

# Coming Events

**August 7, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.**

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

**August 15, Wednesday, 7 p.m.**

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O.

## General Meeting

**Wednesday, August 15**

**7:00** Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

**Program:** A representative from Fossil Rim Wildlife Refuge will be present to give the program.

Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email [jmoody166@aol.com](mailto:jmoody166@aol.com).

**August 17, Friday**

The Sierra Singles have a night hike scheduled at the Dallas Nature Center, 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway. Meet at the visitor center at 8:15. The hike will last 1 - 1 1/2 hours and we will have a guide. Cost is \$5 per person. Please keep in mind that we use the nature center for free all the time. Bring sturdy hiking boots, comfortable

clothes, plenty of water, and a flashlight. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

**August 20, Monday, 7 p.m.**

The monthly dinner and planning meeting for August will take place on Monday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Copeland's of New Orleans restaurant, 5353 Beltline in Addison. (Jenny decided to do something different this month because her birthday is in August and Copeland's is her favorite restaurant). Its specialty is Cajun seafood, but many vegetarian options are available. Contact: Jenny Lehman, 263-1357 or [lehje30@hotmail.com](mailto:lehje30@hotmail.com).

**August 28, Tuesday**

Conservation meeting. Contact Bob Scott, 282-1372.

**September 3, Monday**

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

# Navy's proposal for South Texas island 'bombs'

## Sierra Club welcomes Navy decision to scrap plans for a bombing range

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club welcomed a decision by Secretary of the Navy Gordon England to remove South Texas from the list of areas under consideration as a possible replacement for the Navy's bombing range on the island Vieques, Puerto Rico. Secretary England met with South Texas Congressman Solomon Ortiz yesterday to inform him of the Navy's decision.

"It's a welcome relief to get this news," said Fred Richardson, Communications Director for the Lone Star Chapter. "As bad as the idea was, there might be a silver lining. There seems to be a much greater awareness now about the value of the Padre National Seashore and the Laguna Madre.

The area is one of the great natural treasures of Texas, but it's being hard hit by a number of human activities."

The release of hundreds of Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchlings at Padre Island National Seashore this week underscores the great ecological importance of the island, the longest undeveloped barrier beach in the world, and the tremendous threats

posed by human activities that degrade the seashore.

Vast stretches of otherwise pristine seashore along Padre Island are blighted by trash washed ashore by prevailing western currents in the Gulf.

By some casual estimates the amount of trash that is removed from the seashore could be as high as 300 tons per year. Perhaps as much trash is permanently strewn across the dunes or buried under seaweed and sand. Some of the sources of trash include fishing and shrimp boats, and the major rivers that empty into the Gulf of Mexico.

Another glaring threat to the seashore is the presence of an oil-drilling platform just a few miles off the coast, as well as other drilling rigs farther offshore. An oil spill caused by a hurricane or human accident could devastate the seashore for years.

Yet another emerging problem for the seashore is the blockage of the Rio Grande at the mouth of the river. The Rio Grande plays a significant role in transporting sand from its delta into the ocean, which is then washed to the north and helps replenish beaches along the seashore when sand is eroded by storms.

Other threats to the environment and recreational enjoyment of the national

seashore include depletions of shrimp and speckled sea trout and the possibility of a spaceport being constructed on the mainland in nearby Kenedy County at some point in the future. The Cape Canaveral National Seashore in Florida is closed for four days at a time when the space shuttle is launched.

"Over 800,000 people visit the Seashore every year, and the Laguna Madre is probably the best salt water fishing area in Texas," said Richardson. "The area is home to 15 different endangered or threatened species, and the turtle re-population program there is unique. The threat of the bombing range is past, but it's time we took notice of how special the area is and how easily we could lose it."

## RIO NOT SO GRANDE

Thanks to drought, fast-growing weeds, and overuse of water by agriculture and cities, the Rio Grande is running so low that it doesn't even reach the Gulf of Mexico anymore. Environmentalists, concerned about the loss of the estuary, where saltwater mixes with freshwater to create ideal conditions for young shrimp and other marine life, are calling for changes in international water-use plans to protect the river. *From The Daily Grist*

# Letters to the Editor

## Sierra Club needs involvement more than just opinions

Put up or shut up

Everyone in the world has an opinion with the exception of children under the age of three and the only reason that they don't is because of their inability to speak out, hand write, or type.

The fundamental difference between a child and a supposed adult is gray matter intellectually stimulated at least for a small majority of apparent adults, this is true. For the others, this intellect is questionable.

In order to protect that avenue which is sought, in this case the environment, every aspect of behavior against this protection must be addressed and every individual interested in seeing this protection completed must be enthusiastically involved, and not with just an opinion.

Keep up the good work, Sierra Club  
Ron McCowen

## Newsletter should stick to local issues

The discussion of President Bush's policies have taken up a large amount of space in recent newsletters. I would prefer to see coverage of local envi-

ronmental stories. For example, a story about the proposed power plant just outside of Fort Worth which would directly affect our air quality. If our members were aware of such issues, we might be able to use our strength in numbers to make a difference at the local level. The Sierra Club Crier would better serve its readers by keeping us informed of what's happening in the Fort Worth area.

Kathy Chruscielski

### Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$35)     Joint (\$43)

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

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Backpacking • Kayaking • Climbing

# Mountain Sports



[www.mountainsports.com](http://www.mountainsports.com)

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

## Mission Statement

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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# Investment in renewable energy becomes a 'moral imperative'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

necessary to risk environmental health or future sustainability. Investment in renewable energy and fuel efficiency thus becomes a moral imperative as well as a way to enhance, not diminish, the future.

—Conservation is a commitment to all of God's creation. With less than 5 percent of the world's population, our nation generates more than 22 percent of greenhouse gases. As the world's primary energy consumer and pollution producer, the U.S. has a moral responsibility to lead a transition to a new, sustainable global energy system. We must be a party to binding international agreements that set achievable energy conservation targets and timetables.

The religious community found the scientific evidence clear and compelling enough to mandate their engagement as early as 1988. Their concern has continued to grow. In May, more than 350 local religious leaders from across the nation met in Washington under sponsorship of the National Council of Churches to address the issue, and meet with more than 200 members of Congress.

At the same time, 41 national Jewish and Christian leaders signed "Let There Be Light," an open letter to the President, Congress and American people on conservation and God's creation.

Political leaders addressed global warming as far back as 1992, when President Bush's father signed the international Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified by the Senate in 1993. This laid the foundation for the Kyoto Pro-

ocol, a timetable for action by the developed nations, which produce 85 percent of the world's harmful greenhouse emissions.

Many corporations, including Dupont, IBM, Enron and Maytag, have begun programs of conservation and energy efficiency as sound economic policy.

Thus it is clear that Presidential leadership on climate change would be met with widespread support and expert collaboration.

We invite President Bush to join the expanding ranks of Americans of faith who seek a moral and spiritual pathway through the intertwined issues of energy policy and global warming. Our choices in this matter may be judged by history as one of the fundamental legacies of Mr. Bush's time as our nation's leader. We call on him to set a standard of stewardship as he redirects our national energy policy toward conservation, efficiency, justice and prudence.

*The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Edgar, is General Secretary of the New York-based National Council of Churches (www.nccusa.org).*

*Rabbi David Saperstein is Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, based in Washington, DC.*

**Don't forget to bring your aluminum cans to the general meeting.**